

## WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

### Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ December 9, 2024

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The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on December 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Westside High School, 8701 Pacific St., Omaha, Nebraska.

**Board members present:** Dana Blakely, President  
Adam Yale, Vice President  
Meagan Van Gelder, Treasurer-Elect  
Beth Morrissette, Director

**Board members absent (excused):** Kris Karnes, Treasurer  
Sarah Rider, Secretary

Notice of the meeting was given by placing advance notice on the front page of the District's website no less than 48 hours in advance of the scheduled commencement of the meeting as authorized by Board Policy 1220. Notice for this meeting appeared beginning on November 19, 2024, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on December 6 and 9, 2024, and on their website. Copies of proof of publication are attached to the official minutes. Notice of this meeting and the availability of the agenda was simultaneously given to all members of the Board of Education and available to anyone at the Board of Education office. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

**District Staff in Attendance:** Mike Lucas, Mark Weichel, Andrea Haynes, Brian Gabriel, Nick Lesiak, Molly Hurley, Robert Aranda, Kim De La Cruz, Kelcy Tapp, Kami Jessop, Laura Mann, Kim Eymann, Paul Lindgren, Lance Mosier, Angela Mosier.

**Others in Attendance\*:** Diane Cahill. \*Members of the public are not required to identify themselves to attend. Attendee names appearing in these minutes are those who signed a voluntary sign-in sheet.

Ms. Blakely called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. She welcomed those in attendance and confirmed with Ms. Hurley that public notice had been given of the meeting under the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted at the meeting and on the district website, as required by law. She acknowledged that the meeting had been publicly announced and the agenda was available to any interested parties. Board Meeting attendance is noted above. Ms. Blakely requested a motion to approve excused absences for Ms. Karnes and Ms. Rider. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Blakely requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on November 18, 2024. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Morrissette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Dr. Van Gelder presented the treasurer's report for November 2024 and moved for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$19,306,323; Mr. Yale seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by

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unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the November 2024 financial reports (financial statements, general fund disbursement summary and general fund check register) are included in the board documents folder.

### **Communications**

Ms. Elizabeth Power, Director of Communications and Engagement, and her team are continuing their work on Phase II Bond construction video updates, as well as the District's annual report.

### **Academic Report: WMS American History 8**

Ms. Kim De La Cruz, Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning, introduced Mr. Lance Mosier, Social Studies Teacher at Westside Middle School. Mr. Mosier gave an informational presentation on the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, which is the unit of study that his team identified as the most essential unit for WMS American History 8 - a required course at Westside Middle School. Students learn about the development of the United States from early American History to present day, and the unit on the Constitution and Bill of Rights contains critical concepts that are foundational for success in the course, in future courses, and on key academic assessments. This particular unit was covered in September, and Mr. Mosier reviewed the State Standards for 8th Grade Social Studies that are connected to this unit of study, as well as the classroom lessons that lay the foundation for student understanding of these important concepts. Copies of the Executive Summary and presentation are included in the board meeting documents folder.

### **Phase II Bond Project: Approval of CMR Contract for Westbrook Elementary Addition**

Mr. Herzog requested board approval of the Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) Contract for the Westbrook Elementary renovation project. The renovation of the exterior facade, HVAC system and accessibility upgrades at Westbrook are all part of the District's Phase II Bond work. The Board of Education approved the Construction Manager at Risk construction delivery method for this project at their meeting on October 7, 2024. A Request for Qualifications for Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) was publicly advertised and posted to the District website on October 14, 2024. Seven firms submitted Statements of Qualifications on November 14, 2024. Three firms were selected to interview with the CMR Selection Committee. The selection committee conducted interviews on November 22, 2024, and chose Boyd Jones Construction as the CMR for the project. The final contract is being presented for approval. No modifications were made from the District standard contract. Ms. Morrissette moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and CMR Contract are included in the board documents folder.

### **Phase II Bond Project: Approval of Design Development for Rockbrook Elementary Addition**

Mr. Matt Herzog, Project Advocates, and Cleveland Reeves and Cynthia Ray from BVH Architects, presented the Design Development for Rockbrook Elementary addition project for board approval. BVH Architects was approved by the Board of Education for the Rockbrook Elementary School project on April 22, 2024. The Board of Education approved the Concept Design presented on September 3, 2024. Since that time, BVH has continued to work closely with the Rockbrook Design Advisory Committee and District staff to create the Design Development package for the Rockbrook addition. Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2025. Staff and students will remain in the building during construction.

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Mr. Yale moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and powerpoint presentation are included in the board documents folder.

### **Anti-Bullying Year in Review (Policy 5310)**

Mr. Robert Aranda, Director of Student Services, presented the annual review of the district's anti-bullying efforts (as outlined in policy 5310) that starts in Kindergarten and continues through high school. A number of departments are involved with various components and lessons that are presented in the classroom, through clubs, in small group activities and whole-school assemblies on how to prevent bullying. There are age / grade-appropriate lessons for students on what types of behavior constitute bullying; how to prevent bullying; how to report bullying and how to respond to bullying. At all levels, staff stress the importance of safe, respectful and responsible behavior. Copies of Mr. Aranda's Executive Summary and presentation are included in the board documents folder.

### **Board Policies for Approval (5180; 5450)**

Mr. Nick Lesiak, In-House Legal Counsel, presented revisions to policies 5180 and 5450 for board approval. Previously presented for discussion and consideration at the Board Meeting on November 18, 2024, revisions to both policies are updates to policy language.

Policy #5180 - School Dismissal (*Students*) - Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval of revisions to policy 5180; Ms. Morrissette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Policy #5450 - Freedom of Expression (*Students*) - Ms. Morrissette moved for approval of revisions to policy 5450; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Redline copies of each policy and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

### **Board Policy for Review (#1200)**

Mr. Lesiak presented proposed revisions to existing policy #1220 - Public Meetings: Agenda, Notifications, Weather Delays and Minutes (*Board of Education*) for board discussion and consideration. The proposed changes being presented are a result of revisions to the notice provisions in the Open Meetings Act, which were made during the last legislative session. Most notably, we now have to post notice of our meetings to a statewide website ([nepublicnotices.com](http://nepublicnotices.com)) starting January 1, 2025. Policy 1220 will be presented again for approval at the Board of Education Meeting on January 13, 2025. A copy of the Executive Summary and redline copy of the policy are included in the board documents folder.

### **Personnel Report: Employment Actions Related to the Contracts of Certified Staff Members**

Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and District Operations, presented the personnel report (one certified staff probationary contract; two certified staff retirements; and three certified staff resignations) for board approval. Ms. Morrissette moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the personnel report is included in the board documents folder.

**Written Report: Annual Update on Multicultural Education**

Dr. Mark Weichel, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, prepared a written report regarding Multicultural Curriculum that emphasizes global perspectives, as stated in the District’s multicultural education mission statement:

*The mission of the Westside Community Schools’ multicultural education program is to provide an academic and social environment that promotes an understanding of and a respect for the cultural diversity within our nation and the world.*

Westside Community Schools has maintained a strong multicultural education program. Schools that cultivate global perspectives benefit greatly with enhanced student learning, improved intergroup relations, and fostering a supportive learning environment. Additionally, the development of WE-SIDE in the spring of 2019 has strengthened our efforts in this area. In alignment with Rule 10, the report provides an overview of our current status, adhering to the regulations and procedures outlined in Nebraska Statute 79-719. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

**Public Comment:** There were no requests for Public Comment.

**Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates / Announcements**

The Board was represented at a number of activities and meetings, including: the high school’s production of *Peter Pan*; Westside Middle School Choral Concert; presentation of Oakdale Elementary’s Apple Distinguished School Award; WE-SIDE Steering Committee Meeting; Board of Education Policy Subcommittee Meeting; Rockbrook PBIS Assembly; Munroe Meyer Community Walk; Anne Frank Exhibit at WMS; Taxpayer Symposium; Westbrook Elementary CMR Selection Committee Meeting; Westbrook Community Meeting; and NASB Annual Conference. Ms. Blakely reviewed upcoming activities:

- December 16, 2024    Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - Westside High School - 6:00 p.m.
- December 23, 2024
- through Jan. 3, 2025    Winter Break - No School
- January 13, 2025    Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
- January 20, 2025    MLK Day - No School
- January 21, 2025    Professional Development Day - No School for Students
- January 21, 2025    Bond Oversight Committee - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Ms. Blakely adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

  
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Sarah Rider, Secretary, Board of Education

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
NOTICE OF MEETING**

Notice is hereby given of a Board of Education Meeting for Westside Community Schools, District 66, Douglas County, in the State of Nebraska, to be held **December 9, 2024**, at **6:00 p.m.** at **Westside High School, 8701 Pacific St., Omaha, NE**. The agenda, continually kept current, is available at the District Office. The meeting is open to the public.

12/6, 12/9 ZNEZ



# The Daily Record

## Proof of Publication

**JASON W. HUFF, Publisher**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
The State of Nebraska,  
District of Nebraska,  
County of Douglas,  
City of Omaha } ss.

JASON W. HUFF, being duly sworn, deposes and say that they are the PUBLISHER and/or MANAGING EDITOR of THE DAILY RECORD, of Omaha, a legal newspaper, printed and published daily in the English language, having a bona fide paid circulation in Douglas County in excess of 300 copies, and a general circulation in Sarpy, Lancaster, Cass and Dodge Counties, printed in Omaha, in said County of Douglas, Nebraska for more than fifty-two weeks last past; that the printed notice here-to attached was published in THE DAILY RECORD, of Omaha, for 2 consecutive weeks on:

12/6/24                      12/9/24

That said Newspaper during that time was regularly published and in general circulation in the County of Douglas, and State of Nebraska.

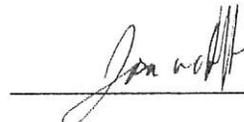
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NICOLE M. PALMER  
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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this DECEMBER 09 2024



Notary Public in and for  
Douglas County, State of Nebraska

