

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ June 16, 2025

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on June 16, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office, 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, Nebraska.

Board members present: Dana Blakely, President
Adam Yale, Vice President
Sarah Rider, Secretary
Kris Karnes, Treasurer
Meagan Van Gelder, Treasurer-Elect

Board member absent (excused): Beth Morrissette, Director

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 May 13, 2025, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on June 13 and 16, 2025, and on their website at omahadailyrecord.com, as well as the NE Press Association website at nepublicnotices.com. 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, Kami Jessop, Jake Ritonya, Robert Aranda, Raydell Cordell III, Paul Lindgren.

Others in Attendance*: Anne Duggins, Marcie Anderson, Deanna Stevens, Ann Christiansen, Carolyn Roeder, Patti Peterson. *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 5:00 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 an excused absence for Ms. Morrissette. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Rider 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 May 12, 2025. Dr. VanGelder moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Ms. Blakely requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on May 20, 2025. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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Treasurer's Report

Ms. Karnes presented the treasurer's report for May 2025 and moved for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$16,020,255; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the May 2025 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, highlighted student and staff accomplishments: WHS student Lucas Noll (2026) was elected Governor at Cornhusker Boys State, a week-long program for Nebraska high school students to engage in and learn about the electoral process; Trevor Gutschewski (2025) competed at the PGA U.S. Open June 12-15, with Jackson Benge (2024) serving as his caddy. Ms. Tonya Gordon, Westgate Elementary 3rd Grade Teacher, was featured in a recent edition of Omaha Magazine about her achievements with the USA Track and Field Masters program and how she translates her commitment to fitness into lessons on self-discipline and focus for her students.

Phase II Bond Project: Approval of Concept Design for Loveland Elementary

Mr. Matt Herzog, Principal, Project Advocates, Mr. Cleve Reeves, Architect / Principal, BVH Architects, and Mr. Matt Wegener, Architect / Associate Principal, BVH Architects, presented the Concept Design for the new Loveland Elementary School. Since being approved by the Board on February 18, 2025, BVH has been working with District leadership, the Loveland Design Advisory Committee, and Project Advocates to develop the Concept Design. Additionally, input from the Loveland Community was gathered through a community survey as well as three community meetings. One of the key design elements that was considered for this project was the feasibility of maintaining the original 1932 structure and incorporating it into the new building, while meeting EdSpec requirements and staying within budget. The concept design being presented for approval retains the original structure, with the upper level becoming the media center and the lower level to be used for mechanical, electrical and storage. This design and site layout also moves the main entry drive away from Pacific Street, which was a key consideration for drop-off / pick-up and pedestrian safety. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and the Concept Design Presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Bond Oversight Committee - Updated to BOC Terms of Service

Mr. Herzog, and Ms. Ann Christiansen, Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) Chair, presented updated terms of service for BOC members. They are recommending that the term of service for a BOC member shall be for the entirety of a bond phase, with reappointment for one additional bond phase. Previously, BOC members were appointed to a two or three term, and eligible for reappointment for an additional 2-year term. This revision allows for continuity throughout the entire bond phase and the carry-over of historical knowledge into the next phase. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and BOC Responsibilities document are included in the board documents folder.

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WHS Life Complex Naming Opportunities (Policy #3175)

Mr. Terry Hanna, President and Chief Development Officer, Westside Community Schools Foundation, presented naming opportunities for the Westside High School Life Complex for board approval. The Foundation's "*Impacting Excellence*" Campaign has been a driving force for fundraising efforts for this initiative, raising over \$33 million towards the campaign's goal. Mr. Hanna shared that through their conversations with prospective donors, they are seeing growing interest in naming opportunities throughout both the new addition and the renovated areas of the high school. In many cases, the Foundation has worked directly with donors to align their contributions with specific areas of personal significance. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary, Life Complex Naming Opportunities spreadsheet and policy 3175 are included in the board documents folder.

Special Services Annual Update

Dr. Kami Jessop, Director of Special Services, presented the annual update on Special Services, focusing on the four core values of the Special Services Department: Evidence Based Practices; Informed and Engaged IEP Teams; Hiring and Developing the Best; and Compliant and High-Quality IEPs. Dr. Jessop shared that there has been ongoing engagement of special education teachers in the general education Curriculum Toolbox cycle, which provides for enhanced accommodations and modifications that are tailored to both the teaching of the content as well as assessments. Copies of the Executive Summary and Dr. Jessop's slide presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Board Policies for Approval (#4230 and #4360)

Mr. Nick Lesiak, In-House Legal Counsel, requested approval of revisions to two existing policies, previously presented for board discussion on May 12, 2025:

- #4230 - Employment Requirements for Certificated Staff
- #4360 - Outside Employment and Business Activities

Mr. Yale moved for approval of policy 4230; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Ms. Karnes moved for approval of policy 4360; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of each policy and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

Board Policies for Review (#4025 and #4105)

Mr. Lesiak presented one proposed new policy and proposed revisions to one existing policy for board consideration and discussion:

- #4025 - Handbooks (Personnel) - proposed new policy
- #4105 - Behavioral and Mental Health Training (Personnel) - revisions

Policies will be presented again for approval at the July 14, 2025, Board of Education Meeting. Copies of each policy and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

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District Transportation Agreement

Mr. Robert Aranda, Director of Student Services, presented a one-year contract extension with Chief School Bus Service for the 2025-2026 school year for board approval. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and 2025-2026 pricing addendum are included in the board documents folder.

Approval of Building Service Negotiated Agreement - 2025-2026; 2026-2027

Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and District Operations, was joined by Mr. Steve Rys, WCS General Systems Engineer and Union Steward with SEIU Local 226, to present the Building Service Negotiated Agreement for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 for board approval. Key revisions include: base salary increase of 4.10% (2025-2026) and 4.15% (2026-2027); flexibility in vacation leave during black-out periods; changes to personal leave payout and accrual; increase in clothing allowance; and changes to call-in procedures for overtime opportunities. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and red-line and final versions of the Negotiated Agreement 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 (two probationary contracts) for board approval. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the personnel report is included in the board documents folder.

Board Officer Elections - June 2025 through May 2026 (Policy #1160)

Ms. Rider moved for approval of the following Board of Education Officer slate for June 2025 through May 2026:

President:	Adam Yale
Vice President:	Kris Karnes
Secretary:	Beth Morrissette
Treasurer:	Meagan Van Gelder
Treasurer Elect:	Sarah Rider
Director:	Dana Blakely

Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

Changes to Bank Authorized Signers at American National Bank and Security National Bank

Mr. Brian Gabriel requested board approval for the following changes to authorized signers on selected school activity accounts at American National Bank and selected district operating accounts at Security National Bank for the 2025-2026 school year. These changes are made annually in June, as needed, for school personnel and Board officer changes and are effective as of today, June 16, 2025.

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Security National Bank (district operating accounts): As Board President: remove Dana Blakely and add Adam Yale; as Board Secretary: remove Sarah Rider and add Beth Morrissette; as Board Treasurer: remove Kris Karnes and add Meagan Van Gelder.

American National Bank (school activity accounts): Hillside Elementary: remove Cynthia Bailey and add Michelle Patterson; Sunset Hills Elementary: remove Michelle Patterson and add Kira Mclean; Westbrook Elementary: remove Kira Mclean and add Diana Williams; Westside High School: remove Andy Wane and Kathryn Johansen and add Sarah Schau and Shawn Fischer.

Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

Board Member Committee Assignments - June 2025 through May 2026 (Policy #1170)

Board members reviewed committee assignments - per policy and by appointment - for the 2025-2026 school year:

Succession Planning Committee: (President; Vice President; Immediate Past President) Adam Yale, Kris Karnes, Dana Blakely.

Finance Committee: (President; Treasurer; one other board member appointed by the President) Adam Yale, Meagan Van Gelder, Sarah Rider.

Committee on American Civics: (The Board appoints three people from among all board members) Beth Morrissette, Dana Blakely, Sarah Rider.

Legislative Committee: (Board President appoints three people) Beth Morrissette, Adam Yale, Meagan Van Gelder.

Facilities Committee: (Board President appoints three people) Kris Karnes, Dana Blakely, Beth Morrissette.

Policy Review Committee: (Board President appoints three people) Kris Karnes, Sarah Rider, Megan Van Gelder.

Public Comment: There were three requests for public comment (in support of the Loveland Concept Design): Anne Duggins; Patti Peterson; Marcia Anderson. Ms. Duggins also submitted a petition to the Board requesting to retain the original 1932 schoolhouse.

Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates / Announcements

The Board was represented at a number of activities and meetings, including: Loveland Concept Design review with BVH and Project Advocates; WMS Honors Night; Project Search Graduation; Transition Program Graduation; WHS Graduation; Oakdale Field Day; All-Staff End of Year Celebration; Foundation Board meeting; Bond Oversight Committee meeting; Westside Alumni Association Golf Outing; Loveland Design Advisory Committee; Sunset Hills walk-through; Boys and Girls Club luncheon; NE Council on Teacher Education meeting.

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Ms. Blakely reviewed the following upcoming activities:

June 19, 2025	District Offices Closed in observance of Juneteenth Summer Board Workshop - Henry Doorly Zoo - 9:00 a.m.
June 23, 2025	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
July 3-4, 2025	District Offices Closed in Observance of Fourth of July Holiday
July 14, 2025	Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 5:00 p.m.
July 21-22, 2025	All Admin Jim Tangdall Leadership Retreat - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (ABC; SNB)

There being no further business, Ms. Blakely adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.



Beth Morrisette, 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 **June 16, 2025**, at **5:00 p.m.**, at the **District Administration Office, 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, NE**. The agenda, continually kept current, is available at the District Office. The meeting is open to the public.

6/13, 6/16 ZNEZ



Proof of Publication

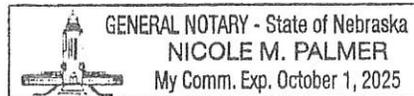
JASON W. HUFF, Publisher

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 1 consecutive weeks on:

6/13/25

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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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this JUNE 13 2025
Nicole M. Palmer
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6/13, 6/16 ZNEZ

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