

## WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

### Board of Education Meeting & Public Hearing Minutes ~ July 14, 2025

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The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on July 14, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office, 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, Nebraska.

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

**Board member absent (excused):** Kris Karnes, Vice President

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 June 17, 2025, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on July 11 and 14, 2025, and on their website at [omahadailyrecord.com](http://omahadailyrecord.com), as well as the NE Press Association website at [nerepublicnotices.com](http://nerepublicnotices.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, Kim De La Cruz, Laura Mann, Robert Aranda, Matt Lee, Glen Jagels, Lindsey Jagels, Maggie Person.

**Others in Attendance\*:** Stephanie Adams, Carolyn Roeder. \*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.

Mr. Yale called the Board of Education Public Hearing and Board Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. He 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. He acknowledged that the meeting had been publicly announced and the agenda was available to any interested parties. Board Meeting attendance is noted above. Mr. Yale requested a motion to approve an excused absence for Ms. Karnes. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Ms. Morrissette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### **LB71 Public Hearing**

Mr. Yale stated that the purpose of the Public Hearing is to hear input from parents, guardians, and educational decision makers regarding Board Policy 6320, which covers how such persons may: (a) access testing information and curriculum; and (b) request that a child be excused from specific instruction or activities.

Mr. Nick Lesiak, In-House Legal Counsel, reviewed LB71, which gives parents, guardians, and educational decision makers greater access to information about and involvement in educational practices. The requirements of LB71 must be reflected in school district policy.

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Westside Community Schools has had a Policy (#6320 - Review of Education Materials) in place since December 1, 2008. Prior to that, this information was contained in Policy #5700, which was implemented June 5, 1995. Mr. Lesiak advised the Board that, in order to comply with LB71, a number of procedures for Policy 6320 that were previously outlined in Regulation 6320 have been incorporated into the Policy. Mr. Lesiak will request approval of these revisions during tonight's Board Meeting. Mr. Yale invited questions from the Board of Education and from those in attendance. There were no questions.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Yale requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on June 16, 2025. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Ms. Morrissette abstained.

Mr. Yale requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Summer Workshop held on June 19, 2025. Ms. Morrissette moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Dr. Van Gelder presented the treasurer's report for June 2025 and moved for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$54,471,604; Ms. Blakely seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the June 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: A group of WMS students participated in the Stanford Design Thinking Camp this summer, learning and working alongside UNO Scott Scholars to develop solutions to real-world problems; Dr. Andrea Haynes and Mr. Doran Johnson were recognized at the HumanEx Leadership Conference in June: Dr. Haynes with a Community Exemplar in Education award and Mr. Johnson with induction into the Exemplar Hall of Fame; and WHS student James Cook constructed new cymbal cabinets for the music department for his Eagle Scout project.

### **Board Policies for Approval (#6320; #4025; #4105)**

Mr. Lesiak requested approval of the revisions to policy #6320 that were presented during the Public Hearing portion of tonight's meeting. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval of policy #6320; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Lesiak requested approval of proposed new policy #4025 (Handbooks) and revisions to existing policy #4105 (Behavioral and Mental Health Training). Both policies were previously presented for board consideration and discussion on June 16, 2025. Ms. Rider moved for approval of policy #4025; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Ms. Blakely moved for approval of policy #4105; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of each policy and Executive Summaries are included in the board documents folder.

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### **Board Policies for Review (#5305; #5350; #5700)**

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

#### 5305 - Electronic Communication Devices (Students) - proposed new policy

LB 140 requires schools to have policies prohibiting the use of cell phones and other electronic devices while at school or attending a "school instructional function." This policy was provided to us by the Perry Law Firm (through ESU 3), and developed with input from stakeholders (as required by LB140). It provides that access to and use of personal electronic communication devices during school hours on days school is in session is prohibited on school property or while students are attending an instructional function unless one of the listed exceptions applies.

#### 5350 - Student Dress (Students) - revisions to existing policy

Section 79-2,158 requires each school district to adopt a written dress code and grooming policy to be implemented at the start of the 2025-26 school year that is consistent with the model policy developed by the State Department of Education. We've revised our policy to be consistent with the Department's model policy.

#### 5700 - Parental Involvement and Participation (Students) - revisions to existing policy

Due to the changes made to 6320, this policy needed to be revised to fix cross references and to move the language about parental visits to schools into 6320.

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.

### **State Aid Review**

Mr. Brian Gabriel, District Officer of Business and Finance, presented the annual review of the State Aid formula, budget implications for FY26 and funding scenarios with an anticipated decrease in State Aid of approximately \$1.1 M. Upcoming budget presentations include: FY25 Budget Amendment Public Hearing on 8/18/25; FY26 Budget Update on 8/18/25; FY26 Budget Public Hearing on 9/8/25; FY26 Property Tax Request Public Hearing on 9/22/25; approval of FY26 Budget on 9/22/25; and approval of FY26 Property Tax Request on 10/6/25. Copies of the Executive Summary and slide presentation are included in the board documents folder.

### **Human Resources Annual Report and Strategic Plan Goal #2: Supported and Engaged Staff**

Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and District Operations, and Ms. Melanie Connolly, Director of Employee Information Systems, presented the Annual Human Resources (HR) Report covering the 2024-2025 school year. This yearly report provides an overview of the projects and programs of the Human Resource Department and year-to-year comparable data, which the District uses for informed decision-making processes. This marks the fifth year for the Annual Report. In addition, Dr. Haynes included a focused analysis of Strategic Plan Goal #2: Supported and Engaged Staff. Copies of the Executive Summary and slide presentation are included in the board documents folder.

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

Dr. Haynes presented the personnel report (one probationary contract; one certified staff resignation; non-approval of two certified staff resignations) for board approval. Ms. Blakely 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.

**Public Comment:** There was one request for public comment from Ms. Sheri Shuler regarding LB89.

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

The Board was represented at a number of activities and meetings, including: Scott Scholarship presentations at Westside Middle School; BOE Facilities Committee meeting; BOE Legislative Committee meeting; Loveland Design Advisory Committee meeting; Loveland Community meeting; Westside Foundation meeting; WHS Summer Graduation; and Westside High School Life Complex Tour.

Mr. Yale reviewed the following upcoming activities:

July 21-22, 2025	All Admin Jim Tangdall Leadership Retreat - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
August 1, 2025	All Staff Back to School Meeting - Baxter Arena - 7:30 a.m.
August 4, 2025	Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 5:00 p.m.
August 7, 2025	First Day of School!
August 11, 2025	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Mr. Yale adjourned the meeting at 6:29 p.m.



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Beth Morrisette, Secretary, Board of Education

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NOTICE OF MEETING**

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7/11, 7/14 ZNEZ



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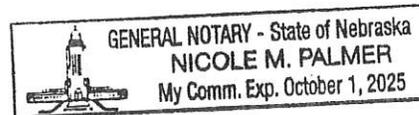
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