

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66
Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ October 20, 2025

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on October 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office, 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, Nebraska.

Board members present:

- Adam Yale, President
- Kris Karnes, Vice President
- Meagan Van Gelder, Treasurer
- Sarah Rider, Treasurer-Elect
- Beth Morrissette, Secretary
- Dana Blakely, 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 October 7, 2025, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on October 17 and 20, 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 were 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, Kim De La Cruz, Kami Jessop, Kelcy Tapp, Laura Mann, Robert Aranda, Matt Lee, Mike Sanchez, Becky Lowther.

Others in Attendance*: Diane Cahill, Sean Conway, Rayne Byrd. *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 Meeting to order at 6:00 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Yale requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on October 6, 2025. Ms. Blakely 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 September 2025 and moved for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$17,191,070; Ms. Rider seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the September 2025 financial reports (financial statements, general fund disbursement summary and general fund check register) are included in the board documents folder.

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Communications

Ms. Elizabeth Power, Director of Communications and Engagement, welcomed Michael Sanchez, Manager of the WHS Technology Team, and Rayne Bird, a WHS Senior and Technology Intern, to share about the technology intern program at the high school, now in its 4th year. Students can apply for one of three paid intern positions each school year and work alongside Mr. Sanchez to assist with trouble-shooting technology issues for both staff and students. In addition to being paid, student interns are also able to earn credentials that will benefit their post-graduation plans, whether it is to enter the workforce or pursue a two or four-year degree. Mr. Sanchez provides interns with access to Pluralsight, which allows them to train for almost any industry certification (A+, Security+, CCNA, etc).

Disposal of District Property (Policy 3450)

Both the Technology Department and the Nutrition Services Department have / will have surplus equipment to either sell or donate. Per Policy 3450 (Disposition of Damaged and Outdated School Books, Furniture and Equipment), the Board must approve the sale / disposal of all district property. Dr. Matt Lee requested approval to sell, via lottery, 70 Meta Quest 2 VR headsets for \$100 each. Similar to past sales, the Technology team will create a lottery for WHS and WMS students and all district staff. Any units left over after the lottery will be offered up to elementary students and the community. Dr. Lee also requested approval to donate an assorted inventory of iPad cases to a third party (at no cost to WCS). These cases no longer fit our current devices. Mr. Brian Gabriel requested approval to sell / dispose of surplus kitchen equipment from Hillside Elementary and Westgate Elementary once students and staff move into their new buildings in November 2025 (Hillside) and January 2026 (Westgate); and from Loveland Elementary at the end of this school year (May 2026), since students and staff will be moving to the Swing School at the Westside Community Center at the start of the 2026-2027 school year. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Ms. Morrissette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

Board Policies for Approval

Mr. Lesiak requested approval of revisions to three existing policies that were previously presented for Board discussion and consideration on October 6, 2025. Revisions to the following policies represent minor updates to clarifying language and defined terms:

#6130 - Certified Staff (Instruction) Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

#6140 - Curriculum Program (Instruction) Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

#6600 - School Calendar (Instruction) Ms. Rider moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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

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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 resignation) for board approval. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Karnes 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: Diane Cahill - *Question from a WMS student to me: Why do they have "Come to School" signs everywhere when we keep having scheduled days off? It doesn't make sense to her / him.*

Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates / Announcements

The Board was represented at a number of activities and meetings over the last two weeks, including: Bond Oversight Committee meeting; 3/1 Superintendent meetings; Loveland CMR Short List Selection meeting; WHS Cafeteria and Locker Room Project Community meeting; WCS Retired Staff Group tour at Hillside; Oakdale Community Club fundraiser and celebration of volunteers; Westside Foundation tailgate and WHS Varsity Football game. Dr. Lucas thanked the Board for all they do outside of monthly board meetings, and being present in the school community at so many events. He also reminded the board about the Special Education showcase for state senators scheduled for December 3rd.

October 28, 2025	Golden W Coffee - Westside Community Center - 10:00 a.m.
Friday, October 31 and Monday, November 3	Moving Days at Hillside Elementary - No School for Hillside Students
November 3, 2025	Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
November 4, 2025	First Day of School at the New Hillside Elementary Building!
November 4, 2025	Westside Foundation - Dedication of WHS Life Complex Phase I
November 10, 2025	Hillside Elementary Ribbon Cutting - 4:00 p.m.
November 10, 2025	Bond Oversight Committee - Hillside Elementary - 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Mr. Yale adjourned the meeting at 6:31 p.m.



Beth Morrissette, 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 **October 20, 2025**, at **6:00 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.

10/17, 10/20 ZNEZ



Proof of Publication

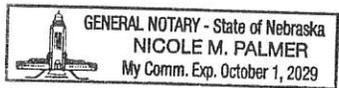
JASON W. HUFF, Publisher

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 2 consecutive weeks on:

10/17/25 10/20/25

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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Jason W. Huff
Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this OCTOBER 20 2025

Nicole M. Palmer
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WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS - 10/17

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