

## WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

### Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ November 3, 2025

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The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on November 3, 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 21, 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 31 and November 3, 2025, and on their website at [omahadailyrecord.com](http://omahadailyrecord.com), as well as the NE Press Association website at [nepublicnotices.com](http://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, Eric Samson, Katie Sindt, Karin Mussman, Maggie Person.

**Others in Attendance\*:** Mike Heser. \*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.

### **Communications**

Ms. Elizabeth Power, Director of Communications and Engagement, shared student, staff and community highlights: Our dedicated and talented high school journalism students are proud that their student newspaper - "The Lance" - is now available in all Omaha Public Libraries (we are proud of them too!); West Campus created special medallions with the Westside crest to celebrate their "Students of the Month"; our Hillside Tigers got to move their personal belongings into their new building on October 30th in preparation for the first day in their new classrooms on November 4th!; Judy Stucky, WHS Physics Teacher, was recently named a 2025 PhysTEC Teacher of the Year, a recognition that is awarded to less than 20 individuals nationwide for their excellence in the classroom ([PhysTEC Teacher of the Year 2025](#)); shout-out to our team at Westside High School for receiving first place in the "Best of Omaha" public high school category!; Dr. Lucas and Ms. Power welcomed nearly 65 people at the Golden W meeting on October 28th, where they received updates on a number of district initiatives (academics; construction; taxes and safety), and enjoyed a fantastic performance from ATSC! Finally, with nearly 500 district families in jeopardy of losing SNAP benefits, the District announced plans to support them, as well as several ways the community can help.

### **Bond Phase II Project - Precast Concrete Bid for WHS Fluid Cooler**

Mr. Matt Herzog, Project Advocates, requested approval of the bid from Enterprise Precast Concrete in the amount of \$240,963, along with a letter of intent, for the procurement of precast concrete material for the fluid cooler enclosure at Westside High School. The precast panel design will include brick inlay to match the existing high school brick. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary, bid tab spreadsheet and letter of intent are included in the board documents folder.

### **Bond Phase II Project - Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) Contract for Loveland Elementary**

Mr. Herzog requested approval of the CMR Contract with MCL Construction for the Loveland Elementary School building project. MCL was selected for the project following interviews on October 21, 2025; a notice to proceed letter was issued on October 22, 2025, authorizing MCL to begin preconstruction services immediately while the final contract was being negotiated. That contract is now being presented for approval by the Board of Education. Ms. Morrisette moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and CMR Contract are included in the board documents folder.

### **Update on K-12 English Language Arts**

Dr. Mark Weichel, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, was joined by Katie Sindt, EY Coordinator; Camille Akers, 6th Grade Teacher at Westbrook; and Tina Christiansen and Eric Samson, Language Arts Teachers at WMS, for an update on the English Language Arts content area. They reviewed positive trends that have been observed in grades K-8 since the 'Wit & Wisdom' (K-8) curriculum adoption three years ago. The common learning goals and content of the Wit & Wisdom curriculum provides for a smooth transition from one grade level to the next, as students are able to more readily and easily recognize the skills and concepts they have already mastered. This has been especially beneficial for our students moving from 6th to 7th grade.

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For students moving from 8th to 9th grade, teachers in both grades have collaborated on common language, terminology, and writing, speaking and listening expectations to help ensure student success at the high school level. The ELA team also highlighted achievement data from a number of assessments that demonstrate growth across all grade levels. Copies of the Executive Summary and slide presentation are included in the board documents folder.

### **Update on K-6 Reading Coordinators**

Dr. Kelcy Tapp, Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning, was joined by three of the District's 13 Reading Coordinators - Carrie Wendt, Oakdale; Kim Streff, Loveland; and Linda Safranek, Westbrook - to share the critical role Reading Coordinators have in advancing literacy outcomes for all students. All Reading Coordinators have completed extensive professional learning in the Science of Reading and maintain advanced certification through a nationally recognized literacy organization. Collectively, they represent the district's highest level of expertise in structured literacy instruction and are instrumental in the evaluation, selection, and implementation of high-quality English Language Arts materials. The work of our Reading Coordinators encompasses direct student instruction; coaching and professional support for teachers; and building leadership. Copies of the Executive Summary and slide presentation are included in the board documents folder.

### **Disposal of District Property (Policy 3450)**

Mr. Brian Gabrial, District Officer of Business and Finance, requested approval to sell retired marching band uniforms from the high school. In the past, a bulk purchase agreement has been secured for uniforms and similar items. However, we were unable to identify a buyer, so uniforms will be sold to individual parties. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Executive Summary is 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 administrator retirement and one certified staff retirement) for board approval. Ms. Karnes 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 were no requests for public comment.

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

The Board was represented at a number of activities and meetings over the last two weeks, including: Loveland CMR Interviews; NorthStar Foundation Luncheon; Golden W Community Meeting; Community Walk at El Museo Latino; WHS Cabaret; "Steam Night" at Oakdale Elementary; Volleyball District Championship game; walk-throughs at Westbrook and Underwood Hills; meeting with Dr. Dostal and Dr. Lucas; BOE Finance Committee annual meeting with the District's outside auditor.

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

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November 10, 2025 Hillside Elementary Ribbon Cutting - 4:00 p.m.  
November 10, 2025 Bond Oversight Committee - Hillside Elementary - 6:00 p.m.  
November 17, 2025 Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.  
November 19-21 State Education Conference - CHI  
November 26-28 Thanksgiving Break (No School; District Offices closed Nov. 27 & 28)

There being no further business, Mr. Yale adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_, PRESIDENT FOR BETH MORRISSETTE  
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 **November 3, 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.

10/31, 11/3 ZNEZ



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**JASON W. HUFF, Publisher**

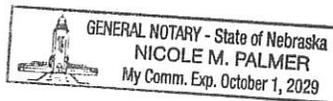
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The State of Nebraska,  
District of Nebraska,  
County of Douglas,  
City of Omaha } ss.

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:

10/31/25      11/3/25

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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 NOVEMBER 03 2025

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