WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ October 5, 2026

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on October 5, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office, 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, Nebraska.

Board members present:

Kris Karnes, President
Meagan Van Gelder, Vice President
Sarah Rider, Treasurer
Sean Conway, Treasurer-Elect
Stephanie Adams, Secretary
Adam Yale, 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 September 23, 2026, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on October 1 and 2, 2026, 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, Molly Hurley, Matt Lee, Kami Jessop, Kim De La Cruz, Kelcy Tapp, Laura Mann, Elizabeth Power, Robert Aranda, Stephanie Easton, Judy Stucky.

Others in Attendance*: Jensyn Bell, Elizabeth Watkins. *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. Karnes called the Board Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She welcomed those in attendance and confirmed 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. Attendance is noted above. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Karnes requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting and FY27 Property Tax Request Public Hearing held on September 22, 2026. Mr. Conway for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Mr. Conway abstained.

Communications

Ms. Elizabeth Power, Director of Communications and Community Engagement, reminded everyone of the Parent-Teacher conference schedule this week on Wednesday 10/7 and Thursday 10/8; Fall Break on Friday 10/9; and Professional Development day on Monday 10/12. No school for students on 10/8, 10/9 and 10/12. Ms. Power welcomed Ms. Judy Stucky, WHS Science Teacher and two members of the Science Club to share about their current fundraiser that runs October 2 through 23, 2026. Donations will help the

club cover costs for competition supplies and study guides; travel and team meal expenses; and also support the new Unified Science program. Science Club membership has grown to over 50 students.

School Update: Underwood Hills

Underwood Hills is home to both the District's Early Childhood Special Education Program / Inclusive Preschool and the Westside Foundation's Early Childhood and Club 66 programs. Ms. Michelle Avilla is the Program Coordinator for the District's Birth to Five Early Childhood Special Education program; Ms. Julie Oelke is the Program Director for all Westside Early Childhood Centers and Club 66. Both Ms. Avilla and Ms. Oelke shared great news and updates about their programs and their collaborative activities. Copies of their school updates are included in the board documents folder.

Approval of FY27 Property Tax Request

Mr. Brian Gabrial, District Officer of Business and Finance, presented the FY27 Property Tax Levies for board approval, previously introduced at a public hearing on September 22, 2026. Mr. Gabrial reviewed the proposed amounts and invited any additional questions from the Board:

General Fund:	$41,401,789
Levy:	$0.792775
Bond Fund:	$11,437,030
Levy:	$0.219000
Special Building Fund:	$3,266,529
Levy:	$0.062549
All Levy Funds Total:	$56,105,348
Combined Local Levy:	$1.074324

Mr. Yale read the property tax request resolution and moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. The Property Tax Resolution was approved by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary, Property Tax Resolution and Daily Record Notice of the Property Tax Public Hearing held on September 22, 2026, are included in the board documents folder.

Westside High School: AP and Dual Enrollment Annual Update

Ms. Kim De La Cruz, Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning, presented the annual update and overview of courses and enrollments for AP classes and Dual Credit opportunities. In the 2025-26 school year, the high school offered 27 AP courses and had 1,285 course registrations, an increase from 1,197 in the 2024-25 school year. For Dual Enrollment opportunities at UNO, two new course options were added this year: Web Design and Sports Medicine. The district continues to focus on adding dual credit courses and credentialing opportunities with Metro Community College. This year, WHS staff will be teaching courses that lead to credentials in drone piloting, forklift operator and OSHA 10. Copies of Ms. De La Cruz's Executive Summary and slide presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Fall Update on Student Benchmarking Data

Dr. Kami Jessop, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Ms. Kim De La Cruz, Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning, and Dr. Kelcy Tapp, Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning, presented an overview of early data results for K-8 student performance on fall 2026 assessments. Both FastBridge (grades K-2) and MAP (grades 3-8) reading and math assessments are administered three times during the school year in order to measure student's academic achievement and learning growth over time. The first assessments are given at the start of the school to establish student benchmarks and screen for deficiencies. Ms. De La Cruz and Dr. Tapp reviewed the timeline for other student assessments including NSCAS, Pre-ACT, and ACT. Copies of the Executive Summary and slide presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Public Comment: There were four requests for public comment: Chelsie Adams, how we address bullying and consequences; Jensyn Bell, shock gloves; Chase Piper, against shock gloves being carried by SRO's; Elizabeth "Lizi" Watkins, SRO weaponry.

Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates / Announcements

The Board was represented at a number of activities and meetings, including: WHS fall theater production of *'Inherit the Wind'*; WHS football game; BOE Finance Sub-Committee meeting; BOE American Civics Sub-Committee meeting; BOE school liaison visits at Underwood Hills ECC, Oakdale, Westgate, WMS and WHS.

Ms. Karnes reviewed the following upcoming activities:

October 7, 2026	Parent / Teacher Conferences - 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.
October 8, 2026	Parent / Teacher Conferences - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (No School for Students)
October 9, 2026	Fall Break - No School
October 12, 2026	Professional Development Day (No School for Students)
October 13, 2026	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
October 14, 2026	WMS Neighborhood Meeting on WMS Track & Field Project - @ WMS - 6:00 p.m.
October 17, 2026	VI-VI - CHI Center - 5:30 p.m.
October 19, 2026	Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Ms. Karnes adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Stephanie Adams

Secretary, Board of Education

I. MH - NOTICE OF SCHEDULED BOARD MTGS; 10/5, 10/19, 11/2, 11/16, 2026 (WCS)

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
MEETING NOTICE

Westside Community Schools, District 66 (the "**District**"), generally schedules two regular board meetings on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month, August through April. In December, May, June and July, the District generally schedules one regular board meeting for the second Monday of the month. Regular board meetings are typically held at the **District Administration Office (ABC Building), 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, NE 68114.** Official meeting notices for each regular and special meeting, including the date, time and location, will be posted on the District's website. Please check our website at westside66.org for all meeting notices, as the date, time, or location may change. Upcoming regular board meeting dates are: **10/5/26; 10/19/26; 11/2/26; 11/16/26.**

10/1, 10/2 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:

10/1/26 10/2/26

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

GENERAL NOTARY - State of Nebraska
NICOLE M. PALMER
My Comm. Exp. October 1, 2029

Publisher's Fee $37.38

Additional Copies $ _____

Filing Fee $ _____

Total $37.38

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this OCTOBER 02 2026

Notary Public in and for
Douglas County, State of Nebraska

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Omaha Daily Record

THE DAILY RECORD

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Friday, October 02, 2026

Notice Content

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10/1, 10/2 ZNEZ

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Board of Education Meeting
October 5, 2026

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
PROOF OF PUBLICATION

The undersigned hereby certifies that a Notice of Meeting for the Board of Education, a copy of which is attached hereto, was placed on the home page of the website of Westside Community Schools (www.westside66.org) beginning on SEPTEMBER 23, 2026, and that it appeared there continuously up through the time of the scheduled board meeting.

MOLLY HURLEY
Name

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT to the SUPERINTENDENT
Title

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
) SS.
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS)

General Notary - State of Nebraska
CHELSEA DUBAS
My Comm. Exp. April 6, 2028.

Before me, a Notary Public, qualified in and for said County and State, personally came Molly Hurley, known to me to be the identical person, and signed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged the execution of this document to his or her voluntary deed.

Notary Public

WCS Board of Education Meeting - October 5, 2026

Sep 23 2026 7:30 AM

The Westside Community Schools Board of Education will hold its next regular meeting on Monday, October 5, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the District Administration Office - ABC Building - 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, NE. Click here for a link to the agenda and meeting documents. (/fs/pages/2727)

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