WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ October 19, 2026

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on October 19, 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 October 6, 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, Elizabeth Power, Robert Aranda, Stephanie Easton, Jennifer Harr..

Others in Attendance*: Jensyn Bell, Elizabeth Watkins, Amadeo Sonier, Annie. *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 held on October 5, 2026. Ms. Rider for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Rider presented the treasurer's report for September 2026 and moved for approval of expenditures in the amount of $18,879,733; Mr. Conway seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. September 2026 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 Community Engagement, highlighted a number of school and community activities: The new Olson Family Foundation College, Career and Life Readiness Center at the high school has quickly become a hub of activity for students taking part in innovative classes, "Lunch & Learns", in-person and virtual college visits, and exploring opportunities following high school graduation. WHS Warrior Theater students recently wrapped up their fall play production of *Inherit the Wind*. Nearly 200 Westside vocal music students in 6th through 12th grade auditioned for the NE Music Education Association All-State Chorus. On Friday, October 2nd, WHS Cheerleaders held their annual Little Warrior Cheer Clinic, with hundreds of future Warriors cheering on the sidelines at the football game. During a recent Retired District Staff meeting at the high school, former WHS Business Teacher Ann Royle, who started the high school's volleyball program in 1971, met Volleyball Coach Andy Wehrli during a team practice. On October 14th, Loveland Elementary hosted a beam signing for students, staff and community members. The beam will be visible in their new school! A Unified celebration is being planned for January 15, 2027, to recognize Westside Community Schools being named a Special Olympics Unified Champion school district.

School Update: Swanson Elementary

Ms. Jennifer Harr, Swanson Elementary Principal, shared great news about Swanson! A copy of Ms. Harr's school update is included in the board documents folder.

Strategic Plan Goal 4: Optimizing Finance, Safety and Infrastructure

Dr. Mark Weichel, Assistant Superintendent of Strategic Initiatives and Innovation, provided an overview of the strategies aligned with Strategic Plan Goal 4: Optimizing Finance, Safety, and Infrastructure. Dr. Weichel walked through the "Goal 4" page on the Strategic Plan dashboard on the district website. Directors who are responsible for the Goal 4 strategies were also on hand to answer questions and share additional information: Brian Gabrial, District Officer of Business and Finance; Matt Lee, Director of Technology; Jake Ritonya, Director of Safety and Security; Erin Vik, Director of Nutrition Services; and Andy Wane, Director of Facilities. A copy of Dr. Weichel's Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder. Link to Strategic Plan dashboard: https://www.westside66.org/strategic-plan

Update on Elementary P95 Foundational Skills Curriculum Adoption

Dr. Kami Jessop, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, and Dr. Kelcy Tapp, Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning, provided an update on the recent adoption process of Elementary P95 Foundational Skills for grades K-6. In spring 2026, 40 curriculum toolbox teacher leaders participated in a nine to twelve-week pilot of multiple high-quality literacy resources, with P95 receiving the highest overall score (3.05 out of 4). Teachers identified its explicit instruction, active student-response routines, embedded handwriting program, and support for students with unfinished foundational skills as key strengths. Dr. Jessop and Dr. Tapp reviewed the Teaching and Learning team's ongoing support with instructional coaching and training as teachers transition through the learning curve of delivering instruction of new curriculum. Early feedback suggests that the program's consistent routines are boosting student engagement and assisting teachers in building confidence with the new material. Copies of the Executive Summary and slide presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Annual Financial Literacy Report (Written Report)
Ms. Kim De La Cruz, Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning, provided a written report on the district's financial literacy curriculum as required by the state's Financial Literacy Act. A copy of Ms. De La Cruz's Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

Public Comment: There were five requests for public comment: Jensyn Bell, shock gloves; Elizabeth "Lizi" Watkins, SROs carrying G.L.O.V.E. devices; Rachel Murphy, Shock Gloves; Amadeo Sonier, G.L.O.V.E.S.; Chase Piper, asking for the removal of electric shock gloves from Westside SRO's.

Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates / Announcements
The Board was represented at a number of activities and meetings, including: Golden W Coffee on October 9th; Loveland beam signing event; Westside Middle School community meeting (for new track and field project); Unified fishing at Towl Park; Oakdale Elementary volunteer celebration; board member partner school visit at Rockbrook; Westside Foundation VI VI; 3:1 meeting; Board Finance subcommittee meeting; Multicultural Fair subcommittee meeting; letter of recommendation written for member of student board connection. Ms. Karnes reviewed the following upcoming activities:

October 28, 2026	2026 Westside Alumni Association Hall of Fame / District Lighthouse Leader Dinner - 6:00 p.m. - Happy Hollow Club
November 2, 2026	Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
November 16, 2026	Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
Nov. 25, 26, 27, 2026	Thanksgiving Break - No School
Nov. 26 & 27, 2026	District Offices Closed

There being no further business, Ms. Karnes adjourned the meeting at 7:09 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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Friday, October 02, 2026

Notice Content

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10/1, 10/2 ZNEZ

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BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
OCTOBER 19, 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 OCTOBER 16, 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)

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.

General Notary - State of Nebraska
KRISTINA REGNIER
My Comm. Exp. June 28, 2028.

Kristina Regnier
Notary Public

WCS Board of Education Meeting - October 19, 2026

Oct 6 2026 7:30 AM

The Westside Community Schools Board of Education will hold its next regular meeting on Monday, October 19, 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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