WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ November 2, 2026

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on November 2, 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 20, 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 30 and November 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, Kim De La Cruz, Laura Mann, Elizabeth Power, Robert Aranda, Stephanie Easton, Jennifer Harr, Melanie Connolly, Garret Higginbotham, Heather Rogers, Cynthia Watts, Maggie Person, Teunnia Archie, Jacquelin Williams, Jill Foster.

Others in Attendance*: Jensyn Bell, Chase Piper, Annie, Zeke, 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 held on October 19, 2026. Ms. Adams for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Communications

Ms. Elizabeth Power, Director of Communications and Community Engagement, highlighted a number of school and community activities: Paddock Road fifth-grade student Penny is in the running for Nebraska's Kid Governor. This state-wide initiative gives Nebraska fifth-graders a one-of-a-kind chance to campaign for – and serve in – a real, statewide office of their own. Penny's platform for her campaign is Inclusivity in

Schools. Good luck, Penny! A number of Hillside Tiger 3rd through 6th grade girls participated recently in the "Girls on the Run" 5K in Lincoln. Many were joined by running buddies (adult coaches or parents) to help encourage them across the finish line. Way to go, girls!! Alex Steele, PE Teacher at Prairie Lane and Rockbrook, was recently recognized by SHAPE America (Society of Health and Physical Educators) with the SHAPE Nebraska Service Award. Thank you, Mr. Steele, for teaching and encouraging our students to lead healthy and physically active lives! Westside High School was recently named as the "Best Public High School" in Omaha Magazine's "Best Of" Edition!

School Update: Swanson Elementary

Mr. Garret Higginbotham, Rockbrook Elementary Principal, shared great news about Rockbrook! A copy of his school update is included in the board documents folder.

School Update: WHS West Campus

Ms. Heather Rogers, WHS West Campus Program Coordinator, shared great news about West Campus! A copy of her school update is included in the board documents folder.

Board Policies for Review (3105, 7210)

Mr. Lesiak presented one new proposed policy (3105) and minor revisions to one existing policy (7210) for discussion and consideration.

3105 - Audio and Video Recording (proposed new policy) - The board asked to ensure that guidance outlined in this policy aligns with district practices prior to approval.
7210 - Soliciting Funds from School Personnel and Pupils (minor language updates to existing policy)

Both policies will be presented for approval at the November 16, 2026, Board of Education meeting. Copies of each policy and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

Report on School Funding and Property Taxes

Dr. Mike Lucas provided a brief overview of the district's tax levy and the Board of Education's commitment to efficient and proactive use of our patron's tax dollars. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

Project Lead The Way

Dr. Lucas and Ms. Kim De La Cruz, Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning, highlighted the district's recent implementation of Project Lead The Way (PLTW), a nationally-recognized project-based learning platform for students in grades pre-K through 12. PLTW's partnerships with industry corporations, non-profits, colleges and universities ensure that its curriculum, which focuses on STEM and CTE, is leading-edge and provides students with the skills and knowledge they need for workplace success. Currently, the district has five teachers who have completed the 80-hours of training required to be certified in five PLTW courses that earn students certifications and the opportunity for college credit and scholarship money. https://www.pltw.org/ A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

Computer Science and Technology Curriculum Annual Update (Written Report)
The District's Annual Computer Science Education Curriculum was submitted by 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. This report is prepared each year to meet the requirements as outlined in Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-3305 (Computer Science and Technology Education Act). A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

Public Comment: There were three requests for public comment: Elizabeth "Lizi" Watkins, SRO Weaponry - G.L.O.V.E. compliance device; Jensyn Bell, ZeroEyes weapon AI surveillance; Chase Piper, requesting the removal of shock gloves from Westside Schools.

Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates / Announcements
The Board was represented at a number of activities and meetings, including: Board member liaison visits to Loveland, Paddock Road, Westbrook, and West Campus; Halloween parade and parties at Loveland Elementary; College & Career Showcase at WHS; WMS production of "The Addams Family"; Variety Show at WHS; WHS Marching Band concert; NASB virtual candidate forum; Underwood Hills Trunk or Treat; WMS boys basketball game; Board Policy Subcommittee meeting; Teaching and Learning Key Communicator meeting; Board Finance Committee audit review meeting; wrote letter of recommendation for Student Board Connection member. Ms. Karnes reviewed the following upcoming activities:

November 16, 2026	Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
November 18-20, 2026	State Education Conference - CHI Center
November 25-27, 2026	Thanksgiving Break - No School
November 26 & 27, 2026	District Offices Closed
December 7, 2026	Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
December 14, 2026	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - Westbrook Elementary - 6:00 p.m

There being no further business, Ms. Karnes adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Stephanie adams
Secretary, Board of Education

I. MH - NOTICE OF MTGS - BOE/1ST & 3RD EA. MON - 11/2, 11/16, 12/7/26, 1/1, 2/1/27 (WCS)

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
NOTICE

Westside Community Schools, District 66 (the "**District**"), generally schedules two regular board meetings on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. In January, May, June, July and December, the District generally schedules one regular board meeting on the 1st or 2nd 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: 11/2/26; 11/16/26; 12/7/26; 1/11/27; 2/1/27.

10/30, 11/2 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:

10/30/26 11/2/26

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 NOVEMBER 02 2026

Notary Public in and for
Douglas County, State of Nebraska

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THE DAILY RECORD

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Notice Publish Date: Monday, November 02, 2026

Notice Content

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10/30, 11/2 ZNEZ

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BOARD of EDUCATION MEETING
NOVEMBER 2, 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 20, 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 - November 2, 2026

Oct 20 2026 7:30 AM

The Westside Community Schools Board of Education will hold its next regular meeting on Monday, November 2, 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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