

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
DISTRICT 66**

Board Meeting Minutes – March 21, 2016

The Board of Education Meeting of School District 66 was convened in open and public session on March 21, 2016 at 4:45 p.m., at the Westside ABC Building, 909 S. 76th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

Board members present: Scott Hazelrigg, President
 David Williams, Vice-President
 Martha Slosburg, Secretary
 Beth Morrissette, Treasurer
 Rosie Zweiback, Director
 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 March 16, 2016, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting, a copy of which is 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.

David Williams made a motion for the board to go into closed session to evaluate and discuss the job performance of the Superintendent, and which is necessary for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Martha Slosburg seconded; motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

At 4:50 p.m., the board went into closed session only to evaluate and discuss the job performance of the Superintendent, which was necessary for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. At 6:20 p.m. the board adjourned from closed session and took a 10 minute recess prior to the start of the regular board meeting at 6:30 p.m.

District Staff in Attendance:

Blane McCann, Enid Schonewise, Mark Weichel, Greg Betts, Peggy Rupprecht, Bob Zagozda, Kami Jessop, Brian Gabriel, Alan Bone, Molly Hurley, Dan Carlson, Steph Hornung, Russ Olsen, Guy O'Brien, Ginger Starks-Yoble, Maria Olvera, Mike Freeman, Laura Iliff, Sarah Percival, Lynn Spady, Jennifer Paskach, David Shabram, Kristeen Shabram.

Others in Attendance:

Dave Richardson, Rob Zimmerman, Sue Seline, Rev. A. David Paul, Chris Johnson, Isaiah Langworthy, Julie Gibson-Beier, Patrick B. Linehan, Tess Fogarty, Joseph Willett, Lee Madsen, Deanna Langworthy.

* 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. Hazelrigg called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Board member roll call was taken and attendance is noted above.

Mr. Hazelrigg welcomed the audience and asked if public notice had been given of the meeting under the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. Ms. Hurley responded that required notice had been given. He acknowledged that the meeting had been publicly announced and the agenda was available to any interested parties. Mr. Hazelrigg announced that a copy Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted at the meeting as required by law.

Ms. Morrissette made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Education Meeting held on March 7, 2016, as presented. Ms. Blakely seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote, with Mr. Williams abstaining.

Financials

Ms. Morrissette presented the treasurer's report and asked for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$7,064,035. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the February 2016 Financial Statements are attached to the official minutes.

Loveland Elementary

Ms. Stephanie Hornung, Principal at Loveland Elementary, presented a report to the board on the Flexible Instructional Grouping that Loveland teachers in all grade levels are currently using in the area of reading. Flexible Instructional Grouping requires two or more teachers using the same data to make their instructional decisions. The students are divided into groups based on the data and students are "shared" among the teachers. Grade level classrooms of the "flex" groups are fluid and can change based on the student's progress. Data is reviewed monthly and new reading interventions are created if needed. Additionally, the data gathered in the Spring of 2016 will be used to help create classroom groups for the 2016-2017 school year. Once school begins in August 2016, the fall 2016 data benchmarking will allow for further adjustments to reading groups. Ms. Hornung stated that the school staff philosophy with Flexible Instructional Grouping is that all learners belong to all teachers. They will maintain and continue practicing flexible grouping in all subject areas. (A copy of Ms. Hornung's powerpoint presentation is attached to the official minutes.)

Public Comment

Mr. Hazelrigg acknowledged public comment and the following individuals who made requests to address the board at this evening's meeting. Their names and topic of comment: Mr. Terry Niver, Westside Foundation; Mr. Patrick Linehan, Budget (Mr. Linehan provided the board with a one page handout of student and Learning Community school district information from http://reportcard.education.ne.gov/default_state.aspx); Ms. Ginger Starks-Yoble, Elementary World Language; Mr. Isaiah Langworthy, Budget; Mr. David Shabram, Budget; and Mr. Michael Fryda, Budget.

Budget Discussion

Dr. McCann recapped the budget reduction recommendations that were presented at the February 29, 2016 BOE Budget Meeting. District Administration, with continued guidance and input from the BOE, will move forward with implementing the recommendations over the next few months before presenting a final FY17 budget to the board for approval later this summer. Changes to the recommendations that were presented on February 29th include the replacement of the 1.0 music FTE; a more conservative number to high school staffing ratios; and increased ABC restructuring amount with redistribution of support staff work assignments. Dr. McCann also expects savings with vacancy turnover and is continuing to seek donations to pay for the ambulance services for high school varsity football games. Ms. Zweiback made a motion for the Administration to continue its work on the FY17 budget using the recommendations contained in the budget report. Mr. Williams seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. (A copy of the FY17 budget recommendations is included with the official minutes.)

Project Advocates - Facilities Master Plan Update

Mr. Rob Zimmerman of Project Advocates provided an update on the current 10 active projects that are part of Phase I of the Facilities Master Plan:

- High-priority projects at six elementary buildings (Hillside, Loveland, Paddock Road, Rockbrook, Westbrook and Westgate) are in the subcontractor bidding phase; design standards continue to be assessed for all elementary schools (facilities systems, security, kitchen and food service, AV and technology, and furniture); work has been awarded for abatement of hazardous materials; construction projects on schedule for Summer 2016.
- Middle School construction will begin in Summer 2016; BVH & Gould Evans are in design development and continue work on design refinement and interior finish selection; and a phased project plan has been developed to allow work to continue through the school year which potentially accelerates the scheduled completion date.
- Oakdale Elementary is on schedule for construction to begin Summer 2016; DLR continues schematic design review of site layout, building exterior elevations and materials based on feedback from community meetings. Rezoning application of the site has been submitted to City Planning.
- Lower level demolition at the Swing School / West Campus is complete and work is on-going with carpet, millwork, tile, painting and ceiling installation. A moving plan is in place for WHS West Campus teachers and students to relocate to their new space after spring break. Upper level abatement will start in early April.
- The Sunset Hills Elementary architect - TACK Architects - has begun concept design and initial Design Advisory Committee meetings are getting underway; a community input meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2016, and a traffic study is scheduled for the week of April 4, 2016.

A copy of the Project Advocates March 2016 Monthly Report is attached to the official minutes.

Professional Learning Update

Dr. Mark Weichel, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, and Dr. Greg Betts, Director of Professional Learning, presented an update on the current school years' professional learning activities as well as events that are lined up for this coming summer. Dr. Weichel stated that each building focuses on their own "house" document - the strategic plan that drives the work of the district. There were four professional learning days built into the school year that included teacher choice of numerous grade-level sessions taught by the district's own talented staff; a "flipped learning" day, where teachers completed the assignment the night before and then reflected on the lesson with their peers (92% of staff survey respondents felt this was a positive experience and should be further pursued by the district); and a keynote presentation by Sue Presler, a senior consultant for the Center for Cognitive Coaching and the Center for Adaptive Schools.

District Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) continue to improve their collaborative practices, purposefully and constructively, and direct each other in their professional growth. Curriculum toolbox groups, summer learning, a focus on state writing, personalized learning and the Schoolwide Enrichment Model (SEM) were just a few of the areas that staff gathered together for professional learning opportunities. Additionally, the district's instructional coaches and master mentors met via video-conference in January 2016 with Stephanie Hirsh, Executive Director of Learning Forward. This organization is devoted exclusively to advancing professional learning for the purpose of student success. The 2016-2017 learning year will kick off with the district's 3rd Annual Summer Learning series, and a local Confratute is planned for June 1-2, 2016 with SEM experts from the University of Connecticut. Dr. Weichel stated that our staff is being recognized for their great work and are leading innovation across the state. (A copy of the Executive Summary and powerpoint is attached to the official minutes.)

Personnel Report

Dr. Enid Schonewise asked for board approval of Parts I, II and III of the Personnel Report. Ms. Morrissette moved for approval of the Personnel Report. Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. (A copy of the Personnel Report is attached to the official minutes.)

Reports

Board Member Representation - Ms. Morrissette reported that the Learning Community had selected David Patton as the new Executive. Ms. Blakely attended meetings in Lincoln this past week for NCTE and NASB.

Announcements

Dr. McCann reviewed upcoming events, which include:

March 28-April 1, 2016	Spring Break
April 5, 2016	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
April 11, 2016	Board of Education Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
April 18, 2016	WCS / WEA BOE Candidate Forum – 7:00 p.m.
April 25, 2016	Public Hearing - Student Fees 2016-2017 - 6:00pm @ CCC
April 25, 2016	BOE Meeting / Art Fair @ CCC
May 5, 2016	Mentor Breakfast @ CCC
May 9, 2016	Board of Education Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
May 14, 2016	WHS Commencement at Baxter Arena - 2:00pm

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.