

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
DISTRICT 66**

Public Hearing Minutes – April 25, 2016

A Public Hearing for the 2016-2017 Student Fees for the Westside Community Schools, School District 66, was convened by the Board of Education in open and public session on April 25, 2016, at 6:00 p.m., at the WHS West Campus / CAPS Studio, 3534 S. 108th St., 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 meeting date as authorized by Board Policy 1220. Notice for this meeting appeared beginning on April 20, 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 made available to anyone at the Board of Education office. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public.

District Staff Members in attendance: Blane McCann, Mark Weichel, Bob Zagozda, Molly Hurley, Maryanne Ricketts, Aaron Bredenkamp, Kim De La Cruz.

Other Staff and Visitors (*):

(*) Members of the public are not required to identify themselves to attend. Visitor names appearing in these minutes are those who signed a voluntary sign-in sheet.

Scott Hazelrigg, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He acknowledged that the meeting had been publicly announced and the agenda was available to any interested parties. 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. Mr. Hazelrigg announced that a copy Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted at the meeting as required by law.

Mr. Hazelrigg stated that the purpose of this Public Hearing was to hear opposition, support, or observations regarding the Westside Community Schools' Student Fees Policy for the 2016-2017 school year.

Mr. Bob Zagozda, Chief Financial Officer, addressed the Board and advised that the Nebraska State Legislature requires school districts to review the student fee policy on an annual basis and hold a public hearing. The intent of this legislation is to inform parents in advance of costs for classroom materials or any extracurricular activities. District administration, building level administrators and in-house legal counsel review Westside's Student Fee Policy #6340 each year to update extracurricular activity fees and to ensure compliance with statutory updates. Upon completion of the update, the Student Fee Policy is distributed in a Student Fees Handbook as well as updated on the District website.

Some of the proposed changes for 2016-2017 include: increases to transportation (between \$1.00 to \$2.00); school lunches (\$.10); 1:1 co-op loss program (\$5.00). A musical instrument rental fee is being implemented at the middle school to match the current rental fee at the high school. Also, an increase of \$10.00 is being proposed for WHS Vocal Music show choir groups (Warrior Express, Simply Irresistible, Varsity Show Choir). One decrease is being proposed for the WMS Activity Fee, from \$35.00 to \$25.00. Westside High School is proposing a new fee for a Student Council Summer leadership workshop - not mandatory, but highly recommended.

Mr. Zagozda explained that any costs incurred for a curricular activity that are part of a course and are necessary for graduation are at no cost to a student. Extracurricular activities do not require student participation and do not count toward graduation. Mr. Zagozda reported that the 2016-2017 Student Fee Fund budget is \$125,000. (A copy of the Executive Summary is attached to the official minutes.)

Mr. Hazelrigg asked for questions or comments from Board of Education Members. He then asked for questions or comments from those in attendance. Hearing none, the Public Hearing adjourned at 6:13 p.m.