

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
DISTRICT 66  
Board Meeting Minutes – August 1, 2016  
(Amended)**

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The Board of Education Meeting of School District 66 was convened in open and public session on August 1, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Westside ABC Building, 909 S. 76th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

Board members present:       David Williams, President  
  Beth Morrisette, Vice President  
  Kris Karnes, Secretary  
  Rosie Zweiback, Director  
  Adam Yale, Director

Board member absent:         Dana Blakely, Treasurer (excused absence)

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 July 27, 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.

**District Staff in Attendance:**

Blane McCann, Enid Schonewise, Mark Weichel, Greg Betts, Bob Zagozda, Alison McGinn, Alan Bone, Ruby Larson, Kami Jessop, Jim Sides, Jay Opperman, Russ Olsen, Kim Eymann, Molly Hurley, Cynthia Bailey, Becky Sosalla, Jen Sinclair, Laura Iliff.

**Others in Attendance\*:**

Dave Richardson, Marla Fries, Mace Hack. \*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. Williams called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Board member roll call was taken and attendance is noted above. Mr. Williams welcomed the audience and confirmed with Ms. Hurley 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 is posted at the meeting, as required by law. He acknowledged that the meeting had been publicly announced and the agenda was available to any interested parties.

**Approval of Minutes from July 18, 2016 Board of Education Meeting**

Mr. Yale made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Education Meeting held on July 18, 2016, as presented. Ms. Morrisette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**Communications:**

**Hillside Elementary**

Ms. Cynthia Bailey, Principal at Hillside Elementary, shared about her first year as principal and the building staff's continued focus on literacy for 2016-2018, including personalizing learning for all students, integration of PBIS schoolwide, a strong professional learning community, technology integration and using data to inform instruction. Ms. Bailey stated that Hillside has a school-wide emphasis on reading and promote silent reading, reading workshop and small group guided reading. Their target is always 100% of students proficient in reading and reading at grade level by third grade, and they examine cohort data from year to year to assess instruction. Ms. Bailey also reported that they are

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working to keep students in the classroom for instructional interventions as opposed to pulling them out of the classroom. She has, however, established a quiet classroom space for those instances when a student does require a more intensive intervention. (A copy of Ms. Bailey's powerpoint is attached to the official minutes.)

### **Westside Middle School**

Mr. Russ Olsen, Principal at Westside Middle School, presented a report on the work that has occurred over the past two years in restructuring how the 7th Grade Language Arts classes were scheduled. The goal was to be able to provide direct instruction to 100% of seventh-grade students in every Language Arts class offering: English 7; Reading Workshop; and Writing Workshop. A staff proposal to create a block of two 45-minute classes together combined all three class offerings for all seventh-graders, and increased contact time with teachers. Mr. Olsen explained that a typical language arts class block is divided into thirds and includes reading, discussion and responding to reading (speaking and writing); large and small group instruction; and reading activities - individually and in small groups. In just over a year of the implementation of the Language Arts block, Mr. Olsen reported that they saw a decrease in the number of 8th grade students needing remedial instruction, student, parent and staff feedback has been enthusiastic, and their data shows gains in other assessment areas. Next steps involve continued improvements to literacy instruction in all content areas and expanding the Language Arts block to 8th grade. (A copy of Mr. Olsen's powerpoint is attached to the official minutes.)

### **Westside Education Association**

Dr. Schonewise presented for board approval that the Westside Education Association (WEA) be recognized as the official bargaining unit for non-administrative certificated staff, which is necessary so that negotiations can begin for the 2017-2018 contract year. Negotiations will commence in late September, early October 2016. Ms. Zweiback made a motion to approve the recognition of the WEA as the exclusive bargaining agent for all non-administrative certificated personnel employed by Westside Community Schools. Ms. Morrissette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the letter from WEA President Michael Fryda is attached to the official minutes.

### **Personnel Report**

Dr. Enid Schonewise asked for board approval of the Personnel Report (recommendation of five probationary contracts. Ms. Karnes moved for approval of the Personnel Report. Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. (A copy of the Personnel Report is attached to the official minutes.)

### **Disposal of District Vehicle**

Mr. Zagozda presented for approval by the board (pursuant to Board Policy #3450) the sale of a 1999 Isuzu delivery van that was acquired by the district in 2001 and utilized by Nutrition Services. The district will use Enterprise Fleet Management to sell the vehicle and proceeds will be deposited in the Nutrition Services Fund. Mr. Yale moved for approval of the sale of the 1999 Isuzu van. Ms. Zweiback seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. (A copy of the Executive Summary is attached to the official minutes.)

**WHS Scheduling Software Update**

Dr. McCann and Ms. Becky Sosalla presented an update on the new scheduling software being implemented this year at the high school. Dr. McCann explained that two years ago, the district was able to establish a partnership with the Raikes School of Computer Science at UNL for assistance with developing a new scheduling software program for the high school that would also include an on-line registration component and an active attendance module.

Ms. Sosalla provided an overview of the scheduling software capabilities. Given the unique structure of the modular schedule at the high school, the requirements of what we needed the software to accomplish were complex. The students and staff at the Raikes Design Studio were able to create a program that can: create a master schedule (use to be a six-week process); encompass student registration; enroll students in selected classes; accommodate schedule changes and include schedule annotations; and allow students, staff and parents to know where a student should be at any given time.

Dr. McCann reported that, with the successful development of the scheduling software, the District will be entering its third year of partnership with the Raikes School for continued collaboration in the creation of a learner profile, an “e-portfolio” for learners, and continued refinement of the scheduling software. (A copy of the Executive Summary and Ms. Sosalla’s powerpoint is attached to the official minutes.)

**Board Policy Review Process**

Dr. McCann and Ms. Alison McGinn, District Administrative Counsel, provided an update on the review process of board policies. Board policies had not previously been reviewed on a systematic basis prior to Dr. McCann’s appointment as superintendent, so he and Ms. McGinn developed a process for policy review that commenced in the fall of 2015. The board policies consist of seven separate sections covering the following areas: “Board of Education” (1000’s); “Administration” (2000’s); “Business” (3000’s); “Personnel” (4000’s); “Students” (5000’s); “Instruction” (6000’s); and “Community Relations” (7000’s).

Ms. McGinn began her review of all policies, starting with the 1000’s and presenting between 2 and 5 policies each month, including a number of policies from other sections that came up for review. Approximately 30 policies were revised or adopted, along with the review or creation of nine accompanying regulations. Ms. McGinn will complete the 1000 series and move to the 2000 series. During discussion, the board identified priority review with policies on safety and security, as well as older policies that have not been reviewed in many years. (A copy of the Executive Summary and Board Policy Table of Contents is attached to the official minutes.)

**Announcements**

Dr. McCann reviewed upcoming events, which include:

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| July 27-29, 2016 | NCSA Administrator Days – Kearney, NE               |
| July 28, 2016    | Westside Lighthouse Educator Academy (Day 1)        |
| July 29, 2016    | New Teacher Breakfast - West Campus                 |
| August 1, 2016   | Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 p.m.              |
| August 4, 2016   | District Staff Return from Summer Break             |
| August 5, 2016   | All-Staff Back-To-School Breakfast Social & Meeting |
| August 5, 2016   | Project Advocates/Sunset Hills BOE Presentation     |
| August 8, 2016   | Staff Curriculum Day                                |

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| August 8, 2016  | Elementary Open House Night / Sneak-A-Peeks  |
| August 9, 2016  | Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - 6:00 p.m. |
| August 10, 2016 | First Day of School                          |

Ms. Zweiback announced that she would be resigning from her position on the Board of Education effective today. She expressed her gratitude to Dr. McCann and to her board colleagues that she has served with over the past 12 years, and stated that it has been her honor and privilege to serve the students, families and staff of Westside Community Schools. The process for filling Ms. Zweiback's board seat will be presented at the August 15, 2016 Board of Education Meeting. A copy of Ms. Zweiback's resignation letter is attached to the official minutes.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.



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Kris Karnes, Secretary