

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
DISTRICT 66  
Board Meeting Minutes – August 15, 2016**

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The Board of Education Meeting of School District 66 was convened in open and public session on August 15, 2016 at 5:00 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  
  Dana Blakely, Treasurer  
  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 August 10, 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, Mark Weichel, Bob Zagozda, Enid Schonewise, Molly Hurley.

**Others in Attendance\*:**

\*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 5:04 p.m. Board member roll call was taken and attendance is noted above.

Ms. Karnes moved for the Board to go into closed session to discuss strategy regarding acquisition of real estate, with such closed session being clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest and in compliance with law. Ms. Morrisette seconded. Mr. Williams stated that the Board would go into closed session only to discuss strategy regarding acquisition of real estate.

At 5:36 p.m., the Board adjourned from closed session (motion made by Mr. Yale; seconded by Ms. Karnes). With no further business, the Board took a brief recess before the start of the Public Hearing, scheduled for 6:15 p.m.

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At 6:30 p.m. (following the Public Hearing), Mr. Williams called the meeting to order. Board member roll call was again 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.

**District Staff in Attendance:**

Blane McCann, Enid Schonewise, Greg Betts, Bob Zagozda, Alison McGinn, Alan Bone, Ruby Larson, Jim Sides, Garret Higginbotham, Brandi Petersen, Molly Hurley, Matt Lee, Cindy Vann, Molly Seals, Holly Weeks, April Bridwell, Laura Iliff.

**Others in Attendance\*:**

Dave Richardson, Michael Modra, Dana Bartee, Joan Bussert, Ivan Gilreath, Tom Kunkel, Jim Jansen, Mary Jansen, Theodore Jansen, Virginia Jansen, Doug Krenzer, Emily Mays. \*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.

**Approval of Minutes from August 1, 2016**

Mr. Yale made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Education Meeting held on August 1, 2016, as presented. Ms. Morrissette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (Ms. Blakely abstained).

**Financials**

Ms. Blakely presented the treasurer's report for July 2016 with a motion for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$7,517,070. Ms. Blakely noted that expenditures are down because of fewer summer projects being funded through the General Fund. Most all of the summer construction activity in the district is being funded through the Construction Fund (result of the 2015 bond). Revenues are down in the Enterprise Fund, a trend that will continue this year, due to the loss of rental income at the West Campus. Ms. Blakely also noted that, despite flat revenues and increased expenses, the district is spending less - a positive trend. Mr. Yale seconded Ms. Blakely's motion for approval of expenditures. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the July 2016 Financial Statements are attached to the official minutes.

**Communications:**

Ms. Brandi Petersen announced a number of recognitions for district staff and students, many of whom were in attendance at this evening's meeting. (A copy of Ms. Petersen's announcements is attached to the official minutes.)

Ms. Petersen acknowledged recent graduate Elias Ginsburg, who will be recognized with a Nebraska Broadcasters Association Award this week at the NBA Convention Awards Gala. Elias's advisor, Matt Rasgorshek, will be accepting the award on his behalf, as Elias has already left for college at the University of Southern California, where he'll be pursuing a degree in film.

**The Westside Spirit Squad** was invited to perform over the weekend at the Kansas City Chiefs vs. Seattle Seahawks game at Arrowhead Stadium. 9 cheerleaders and 12 dance team members made the trip, along with coaches Molly Seals, Christine Gonderinger and April Allen. The girls have also been invited to take part in a national cheerleading showcase in Orlando in December.

**55 Westside High football players** volunteered their time Sunday to help at Omaha's Triathlon. These young men, after long days of practice and now school, were at the event from 5:30am until late afternoon as part of their service projects in our community.

**Principal Garret Higginbotham and his staff at Rockbrook Elementary** put together a music video to show their excitement about being back in school. It reached more than 17,240 people on the Westside Facebook page alone!

**Westside High teacher Judy Stucky** helped raise more than \$8,000 over the summer to give hundreds of books to Peruvian students. Judy and 30 other educators from around the country traveled to Lima and Cusco for 2 weeks this summer to observe classroom instruction and exchange ideas with Peruvian educators.

**The Westside Middle Quiz Bowl team** placed 4<sup>th</sup> at Nationals in New Orleans over the summer (coached by Holly Weeks and Jon Allemang), and the **Westside High School Quiz Bowl team**, (coached by Holly Weeks) made it to the playoffs at Nationals in Chicago!

Ms. Petersen thanked Communications Specialist Julie Anderson, who will be leaving Westside at the end of this week to pursue a new opportunity with the Omaha World Herald. Julie has been an invaluable part of the Communications team as they have transitioned between two Communications Directors.

#### **Boys & Girls Club Proposal**

Mr. Ivan Gilreath, CEO / President of Boys & Girls Club of the Midlands (BGCM), Mr. Tom Kunkel, Chief Operating Officer, and Shelli Henry, Unit Director Westside Boys & Girls Club, presented for consideration and discussion a proposal for renewing a long-term agreement between BGCM and Westside Community Schools (WCS) at Westbrook Elementary. BGCM and WCS have partnered at Westbrook since 2005 and serve approximately 200 students (K-12) per day. With growing attendance and the importance of providing students with positive influences and after-school programming, the BGCM is proposing renovations to their current space at Westbrook and adding approximately 6,000 square feet of space to meet the needs of this growing program.

The students and families who are served by this program will benefit with extended learning opportunities, supervised after-school activities and daily educational tutorial services that would also be available in the summer months. Additionally, academic programming would be aligned between the school and the club in the areas of reading and math, with assessments in place to track both academic and social growth results. And Westbrook Elementary would be able to use the renovated and expanded BGC spaces during the school day.

Mr. Gilreath and Mr. Kunkel presented preliminary schematic design plans of the proposed renovations and addition. A proposed 25-year partnership agreement includes: enhanced District / BGCM shared space construction costs paid by BGCM; improvements and additional facilities become property of the District; BGCM provides at its cost the furniture, equipment, BGCM employee wages and benefits; the District provides, at no cost to BGCM, janitorial services, HVAC, utilities (not including phone service; BGCM provides own data service).

Questions remain on the idea of shared classroom space and the expectations and procedures surrounding this piece of the agreement. Additionally, further clarification and plans need to be addressed on the use of existing spaces without displacing students during renovation and construction. Mr. Gilreath and Mr. Kunkel expressed appreciation for the partnership with WCS and the impact that both BGCM and WCS have been able to have on children in our communities. The proposed agreement for Westbrook and BGC

will be brought back to the board on September 6, 2016. (A copy of the Executive Summary, Powerpoint, Schematic Designs and red line Agreement are attached to the official minutes.)

**1:1 Technology**

Dr. Paul Lindgren, Director of Technology, and Dr. Matt Lee, Coordinator of Technology Integration, provided an update on the use of technology across the district and provided many examples of how students and staff are using technology in active and engaging ways. Dr. Lindgren and Dr. Lee reported that, overwhelmingly, students and teachers perceive technology as a way to enhance learning and instruction. Some of the examples that Dr.'s Lindgren and Lee shared include: the use of Odysseyware (an online credit recovery program in many subject areas) that has had a tremendous impact on graduation rates; teachers creating YouTube instructional videos that students and parents can access 24/7; using Skype in world language classes to have shared, authentic conversations with students in classrooms in another country; a 6th grade class writing, planning and producing their own on-line "6 News" program; and using apps like "Explain Everything" and "Seesaw" that allow students to receive feedback and clarification on new material they are learning.

Dr.'s Lindgren and Lee went on to further explain that technology instruction in our classrooms is used to personalize learning for every student, expose students to a deeper processing of information and provide a platform for teamwork and collaboration and instruction on digital citizenship. Dr. McCann commended Dr.'s Lindgren and Lee and the rest of the technology staff for their work in transforming instructional technology over the past 2 years when Technology was integrated into the Teaching and Learning Team. They formed a group of staff at the elementary level in all buildings (Emerge Group) who are advanced in their technology skills and are able to help their colleagues. And much of the district's technology professional learning is shared and taught by our own teachers. The Technology team has also established a link to Lynda.com for Westside employees, which offers thousands of online, video based courses on a multitude of topics and subjects. (A copy of the Executive Summary and powerpoint is attached to the official minutes.)

**FY16 Budget Amendment**

A Public Hearing on the FY16 Budget adjustments was held immediately prior to the start of the regular board meeting to provide the opportunity for public and board comment. Mr. Bob Zagozda, Chief Financial Officer and Mr. Brian Gabriel, Director of Finance, had reported at that Public Hearing that adjustments to the original adopted FY16 budget, specifically in the General Fund and Nutrition Services Fund, would be necessary in order to accommodate higher than expected participation in the school lunch program, and avoid the possibility of needing an emergency meeting should General Fund expenses exceed budgeted expenditures.

Adjustments to those funds are as follows: Both the budgeted disbursements and transfers and the total available resources before property taxes in the Nutrition Services Fund are increased by \$300,000. The budgeted disbursements and transfers in the General Fund increased by \$500,000. Neither budget amendment will change the District's tax rates. There were no additional questions or comments regarding these adjustments. Mr. Yale moved for approval to amend the budget for fiscal year 2015-2016, to modify the General Fund budget expenditures to \$69,775,000, the School Lunch Fund budget expenditures to \$4,980,500, and the School Lunch Fund revenue budget to \$5,298,281; resulting in no change to the property tax rate for the District. Motion seconded by Ms.

Blakely. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. (A copy of the Executive Summary is attached to the official minutes.)

**FY17 Levy Funds Budget Preview**

Mr. Zagozda and Mr. Gabriel presented a preliminary overview of the FY17 budget and the overall budget process timeline, as well as expenditure and revenue estimates for FY17. A Public Hearing on the FY17 Budget will be held on September 6, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., before the regularly scheduled Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. Board approval of the FY17 budget will be requested at the Board Meeting on September 19, 2016.

Mr. Gabriel reported that the total expenditures for levy funds for FY17 are \$75,550,000. (General Fund - \$68,410,000; Employee Benefits Fund - \$840,000; Bond Debt Service Fund - \$5,800,000; Special Building Fund - \$500,000.) He stated that in the General Fund, both Salary and Non-Salary budget items are down from last year (Salary: \$200,000; Non-Salary: approximately \$1.4 million), as is the budget for the Employee Benefits Fund by approximately \$80,000. The Bond Debt Service Fund - at \$5.8 million - is up from last year because of the bond that was passed in the spring of 2015.

The District's revenue proceeds from the Common Levy are estimated at \$17,443,417, which is up from FY16 by approximately \$900,000, but this does not make up for the continued loss of State Aid. The District's total anticipated revenue for the General Fund (before property tax) is \$60,119,443. Property tax revenues are estimated at approximately \$6.54 million, which leaves a gap of approximately \$1.75 million between revenues and expenditures, and is considerably less than previously anticipated. All revenue estimates from the Common Levy and District Tax revenues provided at the meeting will be impacted by the certification of actual property values set to occur on August 20th. (A copy of the Executive Summary and powerpoint is attached to the official minutes.)

**Board Vacancy Appointment Process**

Ms. Alison McGinn, District Administrative Counsel, presented for discussion and approval by the board the following declaration and procedures for filling the vacancy on the board due to the resignation of board member Rosie Zweiback on August 1, 2016.

**Declaration of Board Member Vacancy**

It was moved (B. Morrissette) and seconded (K. Karnes) to declare that a board vacancy had occurred with the August 1, 2016 resignation of Rosie Zweiback, and that the term of the board seat runs through May 31, 2018. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**Procedures for Submitting Applications for Appointment**

There was discussion on the amount of information (too much or too little) being requested in the application. The intent is to provide interested candidates with the opportunity to share as much relevant information as possible and not limit responses. Further clarification made to include / identify related leadership experience of any organization, in addition to experience on governing boards or on a board of directors. Agreement on application submission date of September 2, 2016, with names of timely submitted applications announced at September 6, 2016 Board of Education Meeting. It was moved (D. Blakely) and seconded (K. Karnes) that applicants for appointment to the board vacancy submit their application materials no later than 4:00 pm on

September 2, 2016, to the Office of the Superintendent and include information set forth as revised per board discussion at tonight's meeting. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Procedures for Appointment

There was discussion regarding the number of timely submitted applications and the number that the field of applications would be reduced to if more than 4 were received. If there are more than 4 timely submitted applications, the field will be reduced, via a signed written nominating ballot, to a total of 4 candidates. Further, it was discussed that language would be added to the application process that would stipulate that any candidate who timely submits their application would not be permitted to discuss his / her application or the appointment process with individual board members. Any questions should be directed to the Office of the Superintendent. It was moved (K. Karnes) and seconded (B. Morrissette) that the procedures for appointment be established as set forth and further revised per discussion at tonight's board meeting. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Copies of the procedures for submitting applications and procedures for appointment (as revised) are attached to the official minutes.

Personnel Report

Dr. Enid Schonewise asked for board approval of the Personnel Report (recommendations for: one probationary contract; one administrator contract; one resignation). Ms. Blakely 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.)

Project Advocates (Written Report)

The Project Advocates' August report is attached to the official minutes. Dr. McCann stated that all buildings opened last week with no problems reported stemming from high priority project work done over the summer. There are a few minor outside projects being wrapped up. The Bond Oversight Committee will be presenting a report to the Board at a Board Meeting in October.

Board Member Reports

Ms. Morrissette reported that the Learning Community would be holding a budget public hearing on August 25, 2016, at 5:15 p.m. Information on the change from Open Enrollment to Option Enrollment will be available on the Learning Community website in the coming weeks. Ms. Blakely reported that she would be attending a NE Association of School Boards (NASB) Board of Directors Meeting on Saturday, August 20, 2016. The NASB Area Membership Meetings will kick off at the end of August. The Omaha-area meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2016, at the Embassy Suites Old Market. Also, a request has been made to the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) for a review of the district's communications department. Dr. McCann reported that we should hear a response in the coming weeks.

**Board of Education Meeting**

**August 15, 2016**

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**Announcements**

Dr. McCann reviewed upcoming events, which include:

August 18-19, 2016	BOE / Senior Leadership Workshop - NE City
September 2, 2016	Professional Learning Day (Students No School)
September 5, 2016	Labor Day - No School
September 6, 2016	Public Hearing FY17 Budget - 6:00 p.m.
September 6, 2016	Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
September 13, 2016	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
September 19, 2016	Public Hearing Property Tax - 6:00 p.m.
September 19, 2016	Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.



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Kris Karnes, Secretary