

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
DISTRICT 66
Board Meeting Minutes – September 6, 2016**

The Board of Education Meeting of School District 66 was convened in open and public session on September 6, 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
 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 September 1, 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.

At 6:30 p.m. Mr. Williams called the meeting to order. 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.

District Staff in Attendance:

Blane McCann, Bob Zagozda, Brian Gabriel, Mark Weichel, Enid Schonewise, Greg Betts, Alison McGinn, Alan Bone, Kami Jessop, Ruby Larson, Jim Sides, Garret Higginbotham, Brandi Petersen, Jay Opperman, Molly Hurley, Garret Higginbotham, Laura Iliff.

Others in Attendance*:

Dave Richardson, Rob Zimmerman, Ivan Gilreath, Doug Krenzer, Alexis Boulos, Dana Barteel, Stephanie Lund, Grant Mussman. *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 15, 2016

Ms. Morrisette made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Education Public Hearing and Meeting held on August 15, 2016, as presented. Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Approval of Amended Minutes from August 1, 2016

Mr. Yale made a motion to approve the minutes as amended for the Board of Education Meeting held on August 1, 2016. Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote, with Ms. Blakely abstaining.

Communications:

Ms. Brandi Petersen, Director of Communications and Engagement, welcomed WHS Student Council officers Stephanie Lund and Ethan Beier who reported on a number of events and activities at the high school, including updates on fall sports and new clubs that have formed this year (Men's Volleyball Club, Warrior Planet Club, Coding Club). Ms. Lund and Mr. Beier shared that Student Council representatives attended a Summer LAUNCH Workshop. DECA held a mixer for all of its members on Labor Day and enjoyed a pancake breakfast. The Theater Department will be presenting its first production, "Little Women", September 15-17, 2016. Homecoming activities kick off with a parade and pep rally on Wednesday, September 21st; a fireworks display following the Varsity Football game on Friday September 23rd; and the Homecoming dance on Saturday, September 24th. And Student Council will be holding their annual Kick-Off Carnival this coming Friday, September 9th from 4:30-6:30pm before the Varsity Football home game.

Prairie Construction Contract

Mr. Bob Zagozda, CFO, along with Mr. Rob Zimmerman and Mr. Joel McWilliams of Project Advocates, presented for board approval the negotiated contract with Prairie Construction for the construction of the new Oakdale Elementary School. Of the six firms who submitted bids for the project, Prairie Construction was the low responsive bidder, though still above the bond program construction budget. Project Advocates, along with Prairie Construction, DLR and the District, worked to bring the contract cost below the budget. DLR provided recommendations of other sites where many of the elements and features of the new school project are in use. Additionally, feedback and opinions on cost reduction items were solicited from Oakdale staff on the types of classroom features / equipment that they felt were necessary and what wasn't particularly important. These recommendations and modifications to Prairie's original bid helped to bring the contract cost down to \$11.3 million. Once the contract is approved by the board, a change order to the contract will be executed to reflect the lower cost. Mr. Zimmerman explained that the bond regulations require the contract process, which is a standard industry contract, to follow this path. Mr. Yale moved for approval of the Prairie Construction contract. Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. (A copy of the executive summary and contract is attached to the official minutes.)

EdSpec Modifications

Mr. Zimmerman and Mr. McWilliams presented for board approval revisions to the original EdSpecs that were created as a standard for the construction of new elementary buildings and remodeling projects at existing elementary buildings. Initially, the EdSpecs gross square footage was set at 56,640 square feet, which was approximately 2,000 square feet over the bond program budget. The project team was working to keep the additional area by designing the buildings to a lower cost per square foot. However, in order to maintain the ability to provide unique and individual design opportunities for each neighborhood school building, the project team felt that it was necessary to revise the EdSpecs area in all categories to a total of 54,515 square feet. Mr. Zimmerman went on to clarify that while each elementary school community will have the ability to make slight adjustments to how their new building will look, adjustments cannot be made to how the space is used or allotted for programming. Programmed space must be equitable in all buildings. The revision of the EdSpecs has been reviewed and approved by District administration. Ms. Blakely made a motion for approval of the modifications to the EdSpecs for elementary buildings. Ms. Morrissette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. (A copy of the executive summary is attached to the official minutes.)

Westbrook Boys & Girls Club

A resolution was brought before the Board this evening to affirm the district's intent to continue the presence of a Boys and Girls Club (BGC) at Westbrook Elementary. Attorney's from Boys and Girls Club are currently working with Westside District Counsel to draft a new facilities use agreement, and BGC is undertaking a capital campaign for the renovation of their space at Westbrook Elementary. Dr. McCann and Mr. Williams both expressed that this is a great project for both B&GC and Westside Schools and look forward to continuing the partnership to serve children and families in our community. Ms. Karnes read the resolution below, which was affirmed by a unanimous roll call vote of the Board. (A copy of the signed resolution is attached to the official minutes.)

RESOLVED:

WHEREAS, Westside Community Schools operates Westbrook Elementary School at 1312 Robertson Drive, Omaha, Nebraska, and

WHEREAS, Boys & Girls Club of the Midlands operates Boys & Girls Clubs at various locations in the Omaha, Nebraska, metropolitan area, and has operated a Club at Westbrook since 2005 pursuant to Facilities Use Agreements with Westside, and

WHEREAS, Boys & Girls Club of the Midlands desires to increase its ability to serve youth residing in the vicinity of Westbrook and who are students at Westbrook, and

WHEREAS, in order to increase the ability of the Club to serve youth at Westbrook, it will be necessary to renovate existing space currently being utilized by the Club and construct additional space at the school, and

WHEREAS, in order to undertake the cost of renovations and additional space at the school, the Boys & Girls Club of the Midlands has indicated its willingness to provide the funds to Westside for renovation, construction and related costs;

Now, therefore:

The Westside Board of Education affirms its intent to continue the presence of Boys & Girls Club at Westbrook Elementary School and its desire to work toward a mutually agreeable agreement with Boys & Girls Club for renovation and expansion of portions of the Westbrook facility, with the understanding that a proposed written agreement will be presented by the Boys & Girls Club to the Board for the Board's review, consideration and vote at a later date.

Personnel Report

Dr. Enid Schonewise asked for board approval of the Personnel Report (one recommendations for approval of one resignation). Ms. Morrissette moved for approval of the Personnel Report. Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. (A copy of the Personnel Report is attached to the official minutes.)

Math Curriculum

Dr. Mark Weichel, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning; Mr. Jim Sides, Director of Secondary Teaching & Learning; and Ms. Ruby Larson, Director of Elementary Teaching & Learning, presented information to the board on the State's Math Academic Content Standards and the process that our district's math teams (Elementary, Middle and High School) have been working through to ensure that the standards are addressed in our district's guaranteed and viable curriculum. Mr. Sides reported that, overall, the State has raised their standards and they are now more in line with our district standards, which have always been more rigorous. This positively impacts the amount of time that our teachers can spend on teaching content instead of writing content. Another key point of the State's standards is a focus on content that prepares students for post high school education. This process involved input from post-secondary institutions as well as individuals from business and industry. This helped the curriculum writing team to identify math knowledge and skills required for employment in the workforce. Additionally, at the high school level, they identified math content and topics that more fully prepare students for success on the ACT and SAT. Ms. Karnes moved for approval of the Nebraska Mathematics' Academic Content Standards for inclusion in the District's math curriculum. Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. (A copy of the Executive Summary, powerpoint and the State's Math Standards are attached to the official minutes.)

Professional Learning Preview

Dr. Weichel and Dr. Greg Betts, Director of Professional Learning, presented an update to the board on the district's professional learning activities for the 2016-2017 school year, which began in early 2016 with a comprehensive review of data to develop activities that are aligned with each buildings' goals. These building goals will also help guide the support from district administration. The 2016-2017 learning year started in June with a 2-day summer learning series for teachers. During this current school year, there are four professional learning days built into the calendar (September 2 and October 10, 2016; January 16 and February 20, 2017). Our Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) utilize early-release Wednesdays for their collaboration time, and with recent changes to the elementary master schedule, elementary teams are also able to meet during the school day. A number of additional learning opportunities are offered through ESU3, and there will be curriculum-specific and special sessions that will meet throughout the school year, including PBIS, elementary toolbox writing, Adaptive Schools, eMerge and Personalized Learning. Dr.'s Weichel and Betts expressed that by examining and using our data better in creating Professional Learning activities, it is having a positive impact on teaching practices and student test scores. (A copy of the Executive Summary and powerpoint is attached to the official minutes.)

Announcement of Board Candidates

Mr. Williams announced the list of names of those who submitted timely received applications for the vacant seat on the Board of Education (from Ms. Rosie Zweiback's resignation on August 1, 2016). Applications were due by 4:00 p.m. on September 2, 2016. The list of candidates will be reduced from 7 to 4 at the September 19, 2016 Board of Education Meeting, with public interviews to follow. Election of the new board member will occur at the October 3, 2016 Board of Education Meeting by motion and roll call vote. Each candidate's application will be made available on the district website and at the District Office upon request.

Dana Bartee
Robert Kully

Alexis Birge Boulos
James Rose

Richard Galusha
Meagan Van Gelder

Douglas Krenzer

2016 Summer School (Written Report)

Mr. Sides and Ms. Larson presented a written summary of the district's summer school programs that were offered for elementary, middle and high school students. A copy of their report is attached to the official minutes.

Board Member Reports

Ms. Blakely reported that the Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB) is committed in their continued work to address funding issues for education and to get money earmarked at the state level for Nebraska school districts. Mr. Williams is scheduled to attend his first MABE meeting the week of September 12th. Ms. Morrisette shared that she will be participating in the next session of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce Leadership Omaha class.

Legislative Update

Dr. McCann announced that regular updates from our lobbyist will be scheduled beginning in November. The next legislative session begins January 4, 2017.

Announcements

Dr. McCann reviewed upcoming events, which include:

September 8, 2016	NE Attorney General Presentation @ WMS - 6:00pm
September 9, 2016	WHS Student Council Kick-Off Carnival - 4:00-6:30pm
September 13, 2016	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - 6:00pm
September 19, 2016	Board of Education Public Hearing Property Tax - 6:00pm
September 19, 2016	Board of Education Meeting - 6:30pm
September 21, 2016	WHS Homecoming Parade & Pep Rally - 6:30pm

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



Kris Karnes, Secretary