

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
DISTRICT 66
FY17 Property Tax Public Hearing Minutes
September 19, 2016**

A Public Hearing for the 2016-2017 Property Tax Request for the Westside Community Schools, School District 66, was convened by the Board of Education in open and public session on September 19, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., at the Westside ABC Building, 909 South 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 public hearing was given in advance by publication in *The Daily Record* on September 14, 2016, a copy of which is attached to the official minutes. Notice was also posted on the District's website. Notice of this public hearing 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 offices. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened public hearing was open to the attendance of the public.

District Staff Members in Attendance: Blane McCann, Mark Weichel, Bob Zagozda, Enid Schonewise, Kami Jessop, Jim Sides, Jay Opperman, Molly Hurley.

Others in Attendance*: Alexis Boulos, Meagan Van Gelder, Dave Richardson.

*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 Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. Board member roll call was taken and attendance is noted above. Mr. Williams confirmed with Ms. Hurley that public notice had been given of the hearing 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.

Mr. Williams welcomed the audience and announced that handouts of supporting documents dealing with issues being discussed during the public hearing were available. He stated that the purpose of this special public hearing was to hear opposition, support, or observations regarding the Property Tax Request for the 2016-2017 school year.

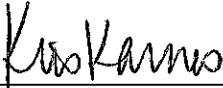
Mr. Zagozda and Mr. Gabriel reported that there is no tax need in the Special Building Fund this year. In the Bond Debt Service Fund, the tax need is \$5.86M. With expected expenditures of \$68.41M, LC Common Levy revenues of \$17.35M and revenues other than property taxes of \$42.77M, the total tax need for the General Fund is \$8.37M. However, the limit of our levy is \$0.20 per \$100 of valuation, which, at maximum, yields \$6.75M. Therefore, funding the General Fund budget will require a use of reserves, which we estimate to be \$1.71M.

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The Westside District's certified property valuation for FY16 is \$3,410,742,455 – an increase of \$151,985,705 (4.66%). Westside and Ralston (also at 4.66%) were in the middle of actual growth among other LC Districts. The largest gains in valuations were realized in Gretna (9.29%), Elkhorn (8.53%) and Bennington (7.28%). Overall, the LC valuations increased 3.89%, which was lower than anticipated and a drop of .62% from last year. The Westside Real Estate valuation was \$3,164,326,530, an increase of 3.27%; State Assessed valuation was \$53,919,050, a decrease of 5.22%; Personal Business valuation was \$192,496,875, an increase of 39.87%.

The recommended property tax to cover all levy funds for FY17 is .203189 in the General Fund and .171769 in the Bond Debt Service Fund, for a total of .374958. Added to the Common Levy of .95, this brings the total levy to \$1.324958, an increase of \$1.7033 (1.3%). Approval of the FY17 Property Tax Levy will be requested at the October 4, 2016 Board of Education Meeting. (A copy of the Executive Summary and PowerPoint is attached to the official minutes.)

Mr. Williams asked for additional questions or comments from the audience and Board members. There being no additional comments, the public hearing was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.



Kris Karnes, Board Secretary