

**Westside Community Schools
Board of Education Candidate Interviews**

**September 20, 2016 and September 26, 2016
6:00 p.m.**

**ABC Building
909 S. 76th Street, Omaha 68114**

At the Board of Education Meeting on August 1, 2016, Ms. Rosie Zweiback submitted her resignation from the Board, effective 8/1/16. The procedures for filling Ms. Zweiback's seat for the remainder of her term (through May 31, 2018) were brought before the Board at the August 15, 2016 Board of Education Meeting.

Instructions were posted on the district website and made available at the district office for anyone wishing to submit an application. Applications were due by 4:00 p.m. on September 2, 2016.

At the Board of Education Meeting on September 6, 2016, the names of candidates who submitted timely received applications were announced. At the Board of Education Meeting on September 19, 2016, the Board narrowed the field of applications from seven to four by nominating ballot. The top four applicants were: Alexis Boulis, Doug Krenzer, Jim Rose and Meagan Van Gelder.

Public interview dates were set for September 20, 2016 and September 26, 2016, with two candidates scheduled per date. At the conclusion of the September 19th Board Meeting, the order of board interviews was also determined:

September 20, 2016	Meagan Van Gelder (6:00 p.m.) Alexis Boulos (7:15 p.m.)
September 26, 2016	Doug Krenzer (6:00 p.m.) Jim Rose (7:15 p.m.)

At each of the public interviews, Mr. David Williams, Board President, welcomed the candidates and thanked them for their interest in serving on the Board of Education for Westside Community Schools and explained the interview process below. He also confirmed that notice of the public interviews was given by placing advance notice on the front page of the District's website as authorized by Board Policy 1220, and that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted at the meeting, as required by law. Ms. Beth Morrisette read the the District's vision statement.

Sixty minutes was allotted for each candidate interview, beginning with the opportunity for the candidate to provide an introduction up to 5 minutes. Each candidate was asked the same series of ten questions by board members. Answers were limited to 4 minutes. Following the question portion of the interview, there was an opportunity for board members to ask up to four follow-up questions, with candidate responses limited to 2 minutes. Each candidate then had the opportunity to provide a 3 minute closing statement. Ms. Alison McGinn, District Counsel, served as the official

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timekeeper at each of the four public interview sessions. Below are the ten questions that were asked of each candidate.

- 1. Please explain to us what you consider are the primary responsibilities of the Board of Education and how your areas of expertise or professional experiences will support the work of the BOE and ultimately the Westside Community School district.*
- 2. What do you consider to be the primary challenges facing our district today, and how has your experience prepared you to deal with those challenges as a member of the Board of Education?*
- 3. Describe to us any challenges that organizations you are or were a part of faced and how you contributed to a resolution. If nothing comes to mind, describe for us how you might think through an organizational challenge.*
- 4. This last spring, we had public discussion about the budget shortfall we were anticipating for this current school year and had to make difficult decisions. Please share with us, your understanding of public school (k-12) funding and how you would work with the BOE, the school district and/or community to address and support the needs of our district. And how you would have handled the budget process differently from last year?*
- 5. Westside Community Schools humbly asks our community to provide additional support to our schools through a levy override vote. We do not take the use of our taxpayers' dollars lightly and are very thoughtful and intentional about why we ask for their support on the levy override and how to utilize those dollars. Please walk us through how you would approach such an issue and what you believe the important considerations to be.*
- 6. Westside has long been a leader in technology and our 1:1 policy is reflective of that. Do you think we should continue to expand this area or take a more careful look at it financially and educationally?*
- 7. It is paramount to the success of the district that the Board ensure open communication and a good working relationship with the Superintendent and administrators as well as staff. Please tell us how you have gone about building trust and fostering positive professional relationships. What do you believe to be the key ingredients of a successful organization?*
- 8. Possible reductions in State Aid and/or tax revenue shortfalls could necessitate more budget cuts. How would you approach future potential budget shortfalls and finding budget cuts?*
- 9. Hiring and retaining outstanding teachers has always been a big part of what makes Westside so successful. What ideas do you have on things the district should be doing to retain our fantastic instructors?*

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10. Talk about how you would motivate key connections in our community? What would you do to get them engaged/reengaged in the schools?

At the conclusion of each interview, Mr. Williams thanked each candidate for their interest in serving on the Westside Community Schools' Board of Education. At the Board Meeting on October 4, 2016, the Board will utilize a ballot process to reduce the applicants from four to two; and another ballot reducing the two candidates to one. At that time, there will be a motion for approval for the one candidate with the majority of votes to be the newly appointed Board member, with board service officially beginning at the Board of Education Meeting on October 17, 2016.



Kris Karnes, Board Secretary