

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
DISTRICT 66
Board Meeting Minutes – October 17, 2016**

The Board of Education Meeting of School District 66 was convened in open and public session on October 17, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. at the Westside ABC Building, 909 S. 76th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

Board members present: David Williams, President
 Beth Morrissette, Vice President
 Kris Karnes, Secretary
 Dana Blakely, Treasurer
 Adam Yale, Director
 Doug Krenzer, 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 October 12, 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:

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 5:30 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 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.

Ms. Blakely made a motion to go into closed session to discuss the Superintendent Evaluation, which is necessary the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual; and to discuss property acquisition matters, which is necessary for the protection of the public interest; and both of which are in compliance with law. Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried. Mr. Williams confirmed at 5:35 p.m. that the board would go into closed session only to discuss the Superintendent Evaluation and property acquisition matters.

At 6:24 p.m., the board adjourned from closed session (motion made by Mr. Yale and seconded by Ms. Blakely) and took a brief recess prior to the start of the Board of Education Meeting.

Mr. Williams called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. 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.

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He acknowledged that the meeting had been publicly announced and the agenda was available to any interested parties.

District Staff in Attendance:

Blane McCann, Mark Weichel, Bob Zagozda, Enid Schonewise, Greg Betts, Kami Jessop, Jim Sides, Brandi Petersen, Ruby Larson, Molly Hurley, Jay Opperman, Kim De La Cruz, Laura Iliff, Glen Jagels, Lindsey Jagels, Matt Koch, Garret Higginbotham, Andrew Easton, Lindsay Scott, Marilynn Mendick, Lynn Spady, Michelle Patterson, Jennifer Harr.

Others in Attendance*:

Dave Richardson, Rob Zimmerman, John Hughes, Jeff Dolezal, Chris Houston, Nichole Schultes, Joe Willett, Ann Christiansen.

*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 October 4, 2016

Mr. Yale made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on October 4, 2016, as presented. Ms. Morrissette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Blakely presented the treasurer's report for September 2016 with a motion for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$8,635,706. Expenditures in the General Fund are down from last year due to use of ESU3 LIF funds to make a payment (\$850,000) on the Apple lease, which was paid with district funds last year. General Fund revenues are higher due to the receipt of federal funds (\$793,000) for the Youth Career Connect (YCC) Grant. A \$69,000 expenditure out of the Special Building fund is for roof repairs at the high school. Mr. Krenzer seconded the motion for approval. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the September 2016 Financial Statements are attached to the official minutes.

Communications:

Ms. Brandi Petersen, Director of Communications and Engagement, recognized two of our teachers for recognitions they received recently. Mr. Andrew Easton, English Teacher at Westside High School, was the only teacher in Nebraska to be named a PBS Innovative Educator of the Year for 2016. Mr. Easton expressed his thanks to the Board and Administration for providing a learning environment that encourages teachers to try new things. Mr. Easton will be featured in an upcoming NET / PBS special and was profiled in Omaha Magazine for his great work. Ms. Kristeen Shabram, a Business Education Teacher at Westside Middle School, is the 2016 AIM Tech Educator of the Year, recognized for her use of technology in the classroom to help and inspire her students and others. Ms. Shabram will be formally recognized in November at a special awards ceremony at the Holland Performing Arts Center.

WHS Student Council Vice President Stephanie Lund and Treasurer Tierney Schirmer, provided an update on activities at the high school. The Homecoming Powderpuff Game was held, with the Seniors getting the win. Sparkles Cheerleaders have participated at some of the fall athletic contests. A Halloween Fun Run, sponsored by Student Council, is being held on October 27th. On November 8th, Business and Marketing students (Juniors and Seniors) will be participating in a "Market Me" conference at UNO, organized by Westside High School business education students. The Theater Department recently held performances of "Little Women" and are preparing for their upcoming production "The Lottery". And the Vocal Music Performance Groups will be presenting their annual "Cabaret" production on November 6, 2016, with performances at 3:00 and 7:00pm.

Bond Oversight Committee Report

Mr. John Hughes, Chairman of the Bond Oversight Committee (BOC), presented a report to the Board on the BOC and some highlights of the past 16 months, when the BOC held their first meeting (June 2015) to monitor and evaluate the \$79.9 million bond funds that were approved by district voters in May 2015. Project Advocates informs the BOC at monthly BOC Meetings (held on the second Tuesday at the ABC Building) of the progress of all active projects currently underway in the district. The report generated each month by Project Advocates is thoroughly reviewed, page by page, and discussed with the BOC before it is submitted to the Board of Education.

Mr. Hughes reviewed the involvement that the BOC has had with the facilities construction and improvement projects, including the architect and contractor selection process, presentations at neighborhood and community club meetings, and collaboration with the Design Advisory Committees. Mr. Hughes emphasized that the processes and opportunity for community involvement and input is working, and has even prompted Project Advocates and the architects to take a step back on some feedback and concerns they are hearing. They are listening and taking the extra steps necessary to ensure the desired outcome for each project.

Mr. Hughes reported that, moving forward, they will suggest to move the locale of the monthly BOC Meetings around to other buildings, to provide an opportunity for the community to see the work completed and work in progress. He reiterated that they view each school as a unique and individual project, and the selection of consultants, contractors and architects is not a "blanket" selection. Mr. Hughes expressed confidence that the BOE and District Administrators are properly and efficiently working within the scope of the bond initiative and upholding the representations made to the District 66 community when voters approved the bond. (A copy of Mr. Hughes' report is attached to the official minutes.)

Sunset Hills Design Development

Mr. Rob Zimmerman and representatives from TACK Architects (Jeff Dolezal, Chris Houston, Nichole Schultes) presented for Board approval the Design Development package for the new Sunset Hills Elementary School, which had been shared previously with the Board on August 5, 2016 and with the Sunset Hills Design Advisory Committee. This design package does reflect the revised modifications that were made to the Ed Spec standards (presented to and approved by the BOE on September 6, 2016) and that are being used as guidelines for all new construction and remodels in existing buildings.

The TACK team presented: color and material samples that have been selected; plans for an art display area that will be incorporated near the main entrance; plans for using acoustical tiles in various parts of the building(gym, media center) to help with sound absorption; and plans for a windowed computer server room near the grade 3 through 6 classrooms. Mr. Zimmerman responded to a question from the board about using a standard supplier for the design materials that are being purchased for the new elementary buildings and whether that would offer cost savings. Mr. Zimmerman explained that by soliciting bids from different suppliers there is more opportunity to receive pricing that is more competitive. He did state that standard suppliers would be used for mechanical and industrial-type items. Ms. Blakely moved for approval of the Sunset Hills Design Development package. Ms. Morrisette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. (A copy of the Executive Summary and Powerpoint is attached to the official minutes.)

Curriculum Toolbox Cycle

Dr. Mark Weichel, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning, Mr. Jim Sides, Director of Secondary Teaching & Learning, and Ms. Ruby Larson, Director of Elementary Teaching & Learning presented a report to the Board on the curriculum review process that is used in the District for all K-12 curriculum. Referred to as the Toolbox Cycle, Dr. Weichel stated that the District has worked diligently to establish a curriculum process that is fluid and methodical, incorporates industry best practices and provides for a thorough progression of implementation, assessment and evaluation.

Depending on a number of variables such as timelines for new state standards, assessment results and age of textbooks and materials, curriculum areas can expect to begin new cycles every seven to eight years. Curriculum toolbox teams are run by Directors of Elementary and/or Secondary Teaching and Learning and consist of a representative group of teachers. Typically, teams consist of two to three teachers from each grade level from across the District, a member of the Special Education team, and a member of the Excellence in Youth program.

Dr. Weichel, Mr. Sides and Ms. Larson reviewed the five stages of the curriculum cycle that includes:

- 1) Analysis of Current Reality: ensure that we are current with best practices and that the State standards serve as a foundation on our district curriculum maps.
- 2) Studying Best Practices: conduct a best practices study utilizing Hanover Research; audit of other districts; adopt State standards and consider National recommendations; develop goals and objectives; align and / or match curriculum from grade K through grade 12.
- 3) Materials Selection and Curriculum Writing: write curriculum maps and common assessments; assume the district will be audited by the publishers of materials.
- 4) Implementation of new curriculum
- 5) Evaluation and assessment of new curriculum

Ms. Marilyn Mendick and Ms. Lindsay Scott who teach General Biology at the high school, reported on their experience with the toolbox cycle, specifically steps #2 and #3. They stated that the curriculum maps were a fabulous tool to have and allowed them to focus on the materials they were selecting. And while the curriculum content of general biology doesn't change too much, the process

of utilizing the curriculum map guided their thinking in a thorough and methodical manner. Mr. Matt Kock and Ms. Lindsey Jagels who teach 6th grade (Paddock Road and Sunset Hills, respectively), reported on step #4, as they are currently in year 2 of implementation for 6th grade social studies. Ms. Larson will be providing a report on step #5 in her presentation to the board on the Elementary Language Arts Program evaluation. (A copy of the Executive Summary and powerpoint is attached to the official minutes.)

Elementary Language Arts Evaluation Update

Ms. Larson continued the review of the Toolbox Cycle with a report on the evaluation process of the Elementary Language Arts program that was conducted during the 2015-2016 school year. New Language Arts materials were implemented in Westside's elementary classrooms beginning in August of 2014. The materials adoption process started in December of 2013, when the K-6 Language Arts Toolbox began analyzing the district's reading and writing data and researching best practices with the goal of creating a "guaranteed and viable curriculum" for all of our elementary students. Ms. Larson explained that there were six goals that were assessed for the K-6 LA materials:

- 1) Determine student achievement, as measured by the grade 4 NeSA Writing and grade 3-6 NeSA Reading Assessments;
- 2) Determine if teachers were using the new Language Arts materials with fidelity;
- 3) Determine the effectiveness of the Writing professional development sessions provided during the 2015-2016 school year;
- 4) Determine if the core Language Arts program is resulting in a reduction of the number of students needing Reading interventions;
- 5) Determine the effectiveness of the curriculum maps with an external audit;
- 6) Solicit feedback from teachers about the Language Arts materials.

Ms. Jennifer Harr, Principal at Swanson Elementary, reported that teachers in her building - both new and veteran - have expressed positive feedback on the materials as well as the curriculum maps. Teachers found that the maps provide for clear expectations and discretion with learners in the classroom. Ms. Larson stated that the evaluation of the Language Arts program confirmed many significant outcomes and results, including: gains in NeSA Reading and Writing scores; a 5% decrease in the number of K-6 students needing reading interventions; teachers viewed the professional development sessions as highly effective; curriculum maps strongly aligned with NDE best practices; and teachers seeing an increase in student learning. (A copy of the Executive Summary and powerpoint is attached to the official minutes.)

Personnel Report

Dr. Schonewise asked for board approval of the Personnel Report that includes three probationary contracts and one adjustment to increase an FTE). 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.)

Excellence in Youth - Written Report

Excellence in Youth update, prepared by Ms. Lynn Spady and Ms. Michelle Patterson. Ms. Morrisette inquired on the new blended learning for 6th grade pre-algebra students, which combines teacher instruction and online instruction. Ms. Spady reported that the students are taking ownership of their learning and the blended instruction is working very well. (A copy of the Executive Summary is attached to the official minutes.)

Project Advocates - Written Report

Project Advocates Monthly report for October 2016 is attached to the official minutes.

Reports

Mr. Williams attended the Metro Area Boards of Education (MABE) Meeting. Mr. Krenzer attended a Boys & Girls luncheon recently and one of the featured speakers was one of our very own high school students, Mr. Brandon Miller. Mr. Krenzer stated that Brandon did a great job.

Announcements

Dr. McCann reviewed upcoming events, which include:

October 20, 2016	Sunset Hills Development Update Meeting - 6:00pm (Open to the public; held at Sunset Hills Elementary)
October 23, 2016	Children's Hospital Monster Mash - Rockbrook Village
November 3, 2016	Lighthouse Leader / Hall of Fame Dinner - Happy Hollow Club
November 7, 2016	Board of Education Meeting - 6:30pm
November 8, 2016	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - 6:00pm
November 14, 2016	BOE Big Idea Meeting - FY18 Budget - 6:30pm
November 16-18, 2016	State Education Conference - La Vista Conference Center
November 21, 2016	Board of Education Meeting - 6:30pm
November 24-25, 2016	Thanksgiving Break

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.



Kris Karnes, Board Secretary