WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS DISTRICT 66 Board Meeting Minutes – April 3, 2017

The Board of Education Meeting of School District 66 was convened in open and public session on April 3, 2017 at 6:30 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 Doug Krenzer, Director 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 March 21, 2017, 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.

Mr. Williams called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Board member 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, Mark Weichel, Bob Zagozda, Enid Schonewise, Greg Betts, Ruby Larson, Jim Sides, Kami Jessop, Molly Hurley, Brandi Petersen, Alan Bone, Melanie Connolly, Kristen Job, Mary Morris.

Others in Attendance*:

Dave Richardson, Guy O'Brien, Milenna Morris.

*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 March 20, 2017

Ms. Morrissette moved for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on March 20, 2017, as presented. Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Communications

Ms. Brandi Petersen, Director of Communications and Community Engagement, introduced students from the middle and high school who recently qualified for the National History Bee, along with their coach, Middle School EY Teacher Ms. Kristen Job. From the middle school: Paul Suder, Virginia Jansen, Brendan Pennington, Peter Voller and Milena Morris. From the high school: Theo Jansen, Reese Pike, Ethan Yaroch and Maryam Akramova.

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Communications, continued:

Also attending for special recognition was Mr. Doran Johnson and approximately 20 students from the WHS Amazing Technicolor Show Choir, who recently finished the show choir season with a 1st Runner-Up finish at Nationals in Atlanta. The group had a number of Grand Champion finishes during their season, and treated everyone in attendance at the board meeting with a performance by singing one of their favorite numbers from the season.

Westside Education Association - Negotiated Agreement

Dr. Schonewise presented the 2017-2018 Certified Teachers Negotiated Agreement for board approval, which has been finalized and is being proposed by both district administration and the Westside Education Association. Dr. Schonewise thanked those who served on the negotiating teams: WEA - Jaime Kammandel, Guy O'Brien and Sally Shepherd; District - Bob Zagozda, Greg Betts and Melanie Connolly. Dr. Schonewise also served on the district team. She said work began in October 2016, with a tentative agreement reached on February 27, 2017. WEA voting concluded on March 14, 2017, with 86% of WEA membership voting in favor. Dr. Schonewise expressed that the negotiations involved brainstorming and problem solving, with the goal of focusing on mutually beneficial solutions, and was a very positive process for everyone.

The 2017-2018 agreement includes an increase in base salary from \$36,500 to \$36,700, and a total increase to base pay of current teachers of 3.07%. Increases for individual teachers will be based on years of service with Westside Community Schools and 2016-2017 base pay. When additional costs associated with newly negotiated items are included, the increased package is 4.3%. Dr. Schonewise stated that the district's tuition reimbursement plan is also a big draw for teachers applying for positions with Westside Schools.

There were some plan design changes to health insurance, a deductible increase to \$1,100, and clarifying language was introduced to tie health insurance premium sharing, for premiums above employee, to participation in the wellness program. Additional language clarifications were made to: start and end times for workdays and conference times; pro-rating salary and benefits; non-birth parent leave; hourly pay; and covering unfilled jobs due to teacher absences. Dr. Schonewise added that compensation will be made to teachers who might have to use their own plan time when providing classroom coverage for a colleague who is absent. Ms. Morrissette moved for approval of the 2017-2018 Certified Teachers Negotiated Agreement. Mr. Krenzer seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. (A copy of the negotiated agreement is attached to the official minutes.)

Personnel Report

Dr. Schonewise presented recommendations for approval for: one resignation, three probationary contracts, one temporary to probationary contract and one administrator contract. Mr. Krenzer moved for approval of the Personnel Report. Ms. Morrissette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. (A copy of the Personnel Report is attached to the official minutes.)

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Custodial Equipment Lease

Mr. Zagozda requested board approval for the lease of new custodial equipment from Hillyard, the District's provider of custodial supplies. As part of the supplier agreement, Hillyard performed a review of our custodial procedures based on the type of cleaning done in each building. One of their recommendations was to replace some of the district's out-dated equipment that was acquired - used - from Aramark in 2012. Mr. Zagozda reported that much of the equipment has reached the end of its useful life, and Hillyard has offered a 36-month 0% lease to acquire approximately \$208k of equipment, and will train all custodial staff on the use and care of the equipment. Mr. Zagozda stated that this equipment will be based mostly at WHS and WMS, with some equipment rotated through the elementary buildings as needed.

The lease document was reviewed by Mr. Steve Likes, attorney from Kutak Rock, to ensure there was no conflict with the district's bond documents (Mr. Likes serves as the district's bond counsel). Ms. Morrissette moved for approval of the custodial equipment with Hillyard. Mr. Yale seconded. Prior to the roll call vote, Ms. Karnes advised that, though she is employed with Kutak Rock, she had no involvement with the review of the lease or drafting of the motion language. Fellow board members concurred that they did not feel there was a conflict of interest and did not feel it was necessary for Ms. Karnes to recuse herself from the roll call vote. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. (A copy of the Executive Summary and lease is attached to the official minutes.)

Professional Learning Report

Dr. Mark Weichel and Dr. Greg Betts presented an update to the board on 2016-2017 Professional Learning opportunities. Planning for this school years' activities began in August 2016, with building teams using data to create goals that guided the work of their individual design teams. Dr. Weichel and Dr. Betts reiterated that all the activities are guided by and support the district's strategic plan and the house document.

There were four Professional Learning days built into the school year, with an intended focus on poverty and design team work, as well as choice sessions connected to the strategic plan. The professional learning day on September 2, 2016 focused on poverty and the brain, with presentations to secondary and elementary staff by Dr. Eric Jensen. In October, Dr. McCann presented to the entire staff about the importance of systems and design teams, and then teams worked through a design team process inspired by the University of Stanford. The professional learning choice day in January was snowed out. On February 20, 2017, a professional learning choice day was held with 33 sessions offered. Forty-three of the presenters were district staff, which speaks volumes to the expertise of our teaching professionals.

The Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) at each building have been able to utilize their collaborative time within the school day for planning and Wednesday early outs for PLC time. In conjunction with this, principals have asked for more time with their design teams within their own buildings. Additionally, the data protocol document (that helps guide building teams on how to assess data) has proven to be a valuable tool for building teams to continually evaluate and improve their own collaborative practices.

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Dr. Weichel and Dr. Betts explained that ABC administrative staff serve as the backbone for building training and are continually engaged at the building level to help guide and model collaborative teaching strategies; how to use data and make data-informed decisions; how to provide corrective feedback; and to reinforce the district's commitment to continuous learning.

In addition to Professional Learning days and PLC's, there are a number of special sessions offered during the school year, including Framework for Teaching, Adaptive Schools and Explicit Instruction. Dr. Betts also noted that ESU3 provides many opportunities for staff development and training that the district normally wouldn't be able to afford. Additionally, as noted earlier with the level of expertise among our district staff, there are a number of small learning group opportunities that are building-driven as well as sessions led by the district's Area66 technology team. (A copy of the Executive Summary and powerpoint are attached to the official minutes.)

Student Wellness (Written Report)

Ms. Ruby Larson provided the annual progress report on student wellness. As outlined in board policy #5660, the District provides curriculum, instruction and experiences in an environment that promotes student wellness and that seeks to promote habits of lifelong learning and health. A copy of Ms. Larson's Executive Summary is attached to the official minutes.)

Reports

Mr. Krenzer and Ms. Morrissette and Dr. Weichel enjoyed a speciality coffee at "No More Empty Cups" coffee shop with our middle school students, who participated in the Chamber of Commerce Career Rocket program and spent the day in a real-world learning opportunity. District performing arts productions this past week included a vocal music exhibition at the high school and the middle school play, "Loserville". Dr. McCann will continue to keep the board apprised of legislative activities that impact the district.

Announcements

Dr. McCann reviewed other upcoming events:

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April 10-14, 2017	Spring Break - No School
April 11, 2017	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - 6:00pm
April 17, 2017	Board of Education Meeting - 6:30pm
April 20, 2017	K-8 Art Fair - The Living Stage at Hotel RL
May 2, 2017	Mentor Recognition Reception - 4:30pm
May 4, 2017	Years of Service Reception - 4:00pm
May 8, 2017	Board of Education Meeting - 6:30pm
May 9, 2017	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - 6:00pm
May 11, 2017	Staff Retirement Open House Reception - 4:30pm
May 19, 2017	BOE / Senior Leadership Workshop
May 21, 2017	WHS Commencement - Baxter Arena - 2:00pm
May 24, 2017	Last Day of School

There, being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Kris Karnes, Board Secretary