

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
DISTRICT 66
Board Meeting Minutes – April 17, 2017**

The Board of Education Meeting of School District 66 was convened in open and public session on April 17, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Westside ABC Building, 909 S. 76th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

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

Board member excused absence: David Williams, President

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 April 4, 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.

Ms. Morrissette called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Board member attendance is noted above. Ms. Morrissette 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. She 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, Enid Schonewise, Greg Betts, Ruby Larson, Kami Jessop, Brian Gabriel, Jim Sides, Molly Hurley, Jay Opperman, Kim De La Cruz, Laura Iliff, Jennifer Harr, Matt Lee, Mary McPadden, Tyler Foster, Angela Bergman.

Others in Attendance*:

Rob Zimmerman, Nancy Novak, Elliott Mitchell, Laura Mitchell, Chad Mitchell, Julie Bolek, Grayson, Terra Spiehs, Stephanie Dorsey, Keegan Dorsey, Chris Forcade, Beth Forcade, Ethan Forcade, Laurie Alger, Sean Alger.*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 April 3, 2017

Mr. Yale moved for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education meeting held on April 3, 2017, as presented. Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Blakely presented the treasurer's report for March 2017 and requested approval of expenditures in the amount of \$8,621,525. She reported higher revenues in the General Fund from a Learning Community grant for special education, and higher revenues in Nutrition Services from additional contract meals. YTD expenses are under by approximately \$900,000. Mr. Krenzer seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the March 2017 financial statements are attached to the official minutes.

Communications

Ms. Brandi Petersen welcomed Boy Scout Troop #366 and thanked them all for attending this evening's board meeting as part of their work towards their citizenship badges. Ms. Petersen introduced Mr. Tyler Foster, Engineering Technology at the high school. A group of Mr. Foster's Architecture and Engineering students recently received top honors, the Post President's Award, from the Society of American Military Engineers for their project that focused on applied science, innovation, technology and sustainability. The students developed a less expensive and more sustainable method for launching cargo and satellites into space by using an induction coil gun. Ms. Petersen shared a special announcement from Governor Ricketts' office that Dr. McCann had been bestowed an Admiralship in the Nebraska Navy in recognition of his recent outstanding educator award from the UNO-PDK Chapter. Officers of the Westside High School Student Council provided a run-down of spring events and update on spring sports. On April 19th, all juniors will be taking the ACT and all sophomores will be taking the PACT; the Student Council Talent Show will be held on April 26th; DECA students will be traveling to Anaheim for the DECA National Convention; Friday May 5th is Evening of Show Choirs; and Prom will be held May 6th at Lauritzen Gardens.

Swanson Elementary Design Concept

Representatives from Alley Poyner Macchietto (APM) Architects presented for board approval the design concept for the new Swanson Elementary School. APM was hired by the District last fall to design the new building and has held a number of meetings and interviews with district leadership, the Swanson Design Advisory Committee, City of Omaha Public Works and Project Advocates to identify the top design aspirations, desires and objectives for the new school. The concept design being presented this evening was previously shared with the Board and the Swanson Design Advisory Committee at a lunch meeting on April 4, 2017. Students at Swanson will begin classes at the district's Swing School starting in January 2018 and return to the new building in Summer 2019.

Mr. Todd Moeller from APM stated that input from students, staff and community members has been outstanding. The top design aspirations for their new neighborhood school include teacher / learner satisfaction, functionality and all grade levels (K-6) located in a single learning wing. Another wing would include all-purpose areas with media, food service / cafeteria and gym that could be easily accessed during non-school hours for use by the community. An open-air commons area would be located between the learning wing and the all-purpose wing. Flexibility of space, safety and security, and maximizing daylight were all very important elements as well. Another top priority for the community is the surrounding arboretum. It is critically important to retain / maintain the existing tree lines and mature trees.

Two more Design Advisory Committee meetings are scheduled for May to begin the design development phase, with the schematic designs ready for board approval in June. The schematic designs will include further detail in the floor plans, the learning environments and exterior design of the building. Mr. Krenzer moved for approval of the Swanson Design Concept; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. (A copy of the Executive Summary and powerpoint presentation is attached to the official minutes.)

Non-Negotiated Employee Groups Salary Proposal

This item is being held over for discussion and approval on May 8, 2017, when Mr. Williams will be present. Ms. Karnes made a motion to hold over the approval of the salary proposals for non-negotiated employee groups until May 8, 2017; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Personnel Report

Dr. Schonewise presented recommendations for approval of eight resignations and five probationary contracts. Ms. Karnes moved for approval of the Personnel Report. Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. (A copy of the Personnel Report is attached to the official minutes.)

Counseling Grant Update

Ms. Kami Jessop and Ms. Kathie McGill presented an update to the Board on the activities and progress related to the "Whole Child" Elementary and Secondary School Counseling (ESSC) Grant that was awarded to the District by the U.S. Department of Education in September 2014. This three-year, \$1.2 million grant has been used to enhance student counseling and mental health services across the district. Ms. Jessop stated that the grant was aligned with supports and services that were already in place and intended to improve the things that the district was already doing.

The focus of the grant was to improve student to staff ratios for counseling and social worker services (current ratios fall short of those recommended by the American Counseling Association); enhance mental health supports in school; improve the engagement and educational achievement of low-income students; and enhance the district's PBIS model and reduce unhealthy behaviors of students (bullying, obscenities, fighting, drug possession, improper use of technology).

Ms. McGill shared that their two overarching goals are to: 1) promote academic success for students in poverty ; and, 2) promote positive behavioral, social, and emotional development of all students. She reported that from baseline data (upon receiving the grant) to today, significant gains have been shown in: graduation rates among low-income students (from 83% to 89%); NESA reading scores for low-income 11th graders (from 68% to 74%); and NESA math scores for low-income 11th graders (from 60% to 70%). Additionally, disciplinary referrals district-wide have decreased by 700.

Ms. McGill went on to share other outcomes that have been realized with the ESSC grant, including district-wide PBIS and liaison support with NDE in every building, as well as expanded community connections with Children's Hospital and staff from the UNO Psychology Department, who have presented Professional Development for teachers. Our K-12 counselors all received four days of

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training with the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) model and have implemented various methods with their students that have resulted in more direct time with students, a drop in absenteeism at the middle school (from 13% last year to 7% this year), and an increase in the number of freshman passing classes at the high school.

Ms. Jessop commended Ms. McGill's stewardship and management of the grant funds, and that the ESSC grant has enabled the district to positively and directly impact services to staff, students, and families, and improve on the many things the district was doing before the grant. The district will maintain all current programs as well as initiatives that originated under the grant, and we will continue to build our engagement with community agencies. (A copy of the Executive Summary and powerpoint are attached to the official minutes.)

ACT / AP Testing Update

Mr. Jim Sides, Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning, Mr. Jay Opperman, Westside High School Principal, and Ms. Kim De La Cruz, Assistant Principal at Westside High School, presented an update to the Board on Advanced Placement and ACT for 2016 and a preview of 2017. Historically, Westside High School students have performed well on the ACT, compared to both state and national peers. Ms. De La Cruz shared that the Westside guidance staff has worked for the past several years to encourage more students to take the exam, and a recent change to state accountability testing requires all high school juniors to take the ACT, which will occur statewide on April 19th. In preparation for this, WHS staff participated in professional development and implemented a number of strategies in English, Math and Science to help students be successful on the exam. In math classes, teachers used actual ACT exam math questions as "warm-ups" to their instruction, and students took practice writing tests in English. Ms. De La Cruz explained that this added focus in the classroom can mean the difference of 3 to 4 more points on a student's ACT test score.

The dual enrollment and Advanced Placement (AP) courses and exams are popular options for WHS students, as they provide pathways for students to earn college credit while in high school. Testing dates for AP classes are scheduled for May 1 through May 12. Ms. De La Cruz identified some of the changes to AP testing for this year, including a new test site at Countryside Community Church, new proctor training and the use of retired teachers as test proctors. Mr. Opperman shared the importance of our district's partnerships with area colleges (UNO, Metro Community College, Methodist College and Wesleyan University) and how dual enrollment for our students help them see the connection between high school and their opportunities after high school. Because dual enrollment is becoming increasingly popular, it will be important moving forward to identify ways to recruit and retain staff who have the required education to meet dual enrollment criteria. (A copy of the Executive Summary is attached to the official minutes.)

e-Merge Update.

Dr. Paul Lindgren, Director of Technology, and Dr. Matt Lee, Coordinator of Technology Integration, presented an update to the board on the district's eMerge program. Now in its second year at the elementary level, the program was implemented to provide a network of support to teachers for the new elementary 1:1 initiative. Each elementary building team is considerably smaller than those at the middle and high school, and the elementary eMerge team has provided support to their colleagues on integrating technology in their classrooms.

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The eMerge team spends time in the summer and during the school year exploring new instructional strategies that incorporate technology (early adopters), trying them out in their classrooms (innovator, risk-taker), and sharing them with their fellow teachers. This past school year, the eMerge team held five professional development sessions that provided them with a wide variety of technology learning opportunities that they then took back to their classrooms. Not surprisingly, these new activities and tools are quickly adopted into the classrooms of their colleagues!

The successes and impact of the eMerge team are many. Members of the team are building their own leadership capacity, they are leading sessions during district Professional Learning days, and they are increasing the comfort zone of their colleagues to try new teaching strategies with technology. In addition, their students are anxious to try new things and building their own capacity for risk-taking on their own personal learning journey. Dr. Lindgren announced that a secondary eMerge team will be forming to continue the spread of effective and impactful technology in the classroom. (A copy of the Executive Summary and powerpoint is attached to the official minutes.)

Reports

Ms. Morrissette attended a MABE Meeting last week. Ms. Karnes shared that the annual Kicks for a Cure will be held this Saturday, April 22 at Creighton's Morrison Stadium at 2:00pm.

Announcements

Dr. McCann reviewed other upcoming events:

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	Project SEARCH Graduation - 9:00am
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 8:35 p.m.



Kris Karnes, Board Secretary