

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
DISTRICT 66  
Board Meeting Minutes – July 31, 2017**

---

The Board of Education Meeting of School District 66 was convened in open and public session on July 31, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Westside ABC Building, 909 S. 76th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

**Board members present:** Beth Morrissette, President  
Doug Krenzer, Secretary  
Adam Yale, Treasurer  
Kris Karnes, Director  
David Williams, Director

**Board member absent (excused):** Dana Blakely, Vice 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 July 24, 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 meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Board member attendance is noted above and Ms. Morrissette acknowledged Ms. Blakely's excused absence from the meeting. She 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.

**District Staff in Attendance:**

Blane McCann, Mark Weichel, Enid Schonewise, Bob Zagozda, Alan Bone, Molly Hurley, Brandi Petersen, Greg Betts, Brian Gabriel, Jim Sides, Kami Jessop, Michelle Patterson, Laura Iliff, Jay Opperman, Garret Higginbotham.

**Others in Attendance\*:**

Sarah Sinovic, Steve Hogan.

\*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**

Mr. Williams moved for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on July 17, 2017, as presented. Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**Levy Override Resolution**

Dr. McCann and Ms. Morrissette introduced the discussion of the levy override and provided background on the district's past levy overrides in 1998, 2002, 2007 and 2012, which were passed with the support of the Westside community.

## Board of Education Big Idea Meeting

July 31, 2017

Page 2 of 3

Currently, and with the approval of the Westside Community, the District has a levy override of \$.10 effective through the FY18 or the 2017-2018 school year. The District has reduced expenses by \$10.5 million dollars to balance our general fund (Fund One) budget over a three year period.

The two primary reasons for these expense reductions are: 1) declining state aid over the past several years and; 2) flat property valuations over the past decade. Sixty percent of K-12 public school funding comes from the State of Nebraska and the financial outlook of the state is not promising. Dr. McCann stated that the district does not expect or anticipate state aid to increase significantly in the foreseeable future. The levy override is intended to support operations in the school, specifically in the following areas:

- Attracting and retaining staff members with a competitive salary structure
- Maintaining excellence in every classroom
- Preventing further erosion of outstanding academic programs through additional budget expense reductions
- Continuing career education opportunities through real world learning opportunities
- Expanded mental health programming to support our children
- Maintaining new and existing facilities in a timely manner

Due to declining state revenue and changes to the Nebraska public school funding formula, it is recommended that the levy override be increased to \$.15 from the current \$.10. The property value increase on \$100,000 of property value would be \$4.17/month. If approved by the board, the levy override would be a mail-in ballot, with ballots mailed out no later than August 22, 2017, and due to the Election Commission office by 5:00 p.m. on September 12, 2017.

Motion for passage of the levy override election was made by Mr. Yale; seconded by Mr. Krenzer. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the motion, resolution and ballot language is attached to the official minutes.

### Announcements

Dr. McCann reviewed upcoming events:

August 7, 2017	Veteran Staff Returns! All Staff Welcome Back Breakfast & Meeting @ WHS - 7:45am
August 7, 2017	Board of Education Meeting - 6:30pm
August 8, 2017	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - 6:00pm
August 10, 2017	All Elementary Buildings - Open House / Sneak-Peek Night (Individual Elementary Building times & activities vary)
August 15, 2017	First Day of School!
August 21, 2017	Board of Education Public Hearing - 6:15pm (FY17 Budget Amendment)
August 21, 2017	Board of Education Meeting - 6:30pm
September 1, 2017	Professional Development Day (No School for Students)
September 4, 2017	Labor Day - No School / District Office Closed

**Board of Education Big Idea Meeting**  
**July 31, 2017**  
**Page 3 of 3**

September 5, 2017 Board of Education Public Hearing - 6:00pm (FY18 Budget)  
September 5, 2017 Board of Education Meeting - 6:30pm  
September 7-8, 2017 BOE / Senior Leadership Workshop - NE City  
September 12, 2017 Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - 6:00pm  
September 18, 2017 Board of Education Public Hearing - 6:00pm (Proposed Property Tax Request)  
September 18, 2017 Board of Education Meeting - 6:30pm

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Krenzer, Board Secretary