

An Invitation to Apply for the Position of
Superintendent



Westside



Community Schools

Omaha, Nebraska

The Position

The Westside Community School District Board of Education, Omaha, Nebraska, is seeking a highly qualified, fully certified leader to serve as Superintendent. The Board wishes to have the successful candidate assume the responsibilities of the position July 1, 2012.

McPherson & Jacobson L.L.C. Executive Recruitment and Development, has been engaged as the consultant in a search for outstanding candidates. They will assist the Board of Education in identifying and screening the candidates.

Qualifications

The candidate must have the background, skills and abilities essential for excellence in educational leadership. The board recognizes that selecting a Superintendent is one of the most important decisions it will make. The board has identified the following desired characteristics:

- An individual who is student-centered, is committed to the principle that all students can learn and achieve, and one who sets high expectations for both staff and students.
- A professional educator who is respectful of people, traditions, and school culture (including embracing the uniqueness of Westside High School)
- An individual who has strong leadership skills and the ability to delegate effectively.
- A person who is a developer of people/teams, shows personal warmth, and has strong overall people skills.



The Community

Westside Community School District is located in Omaha, Nebraska, where the population of the metro area is 865,350.

Berkshire Hathaway, Union Pacific Railroad, ConAgra Foods, Kiewit Corporation and Mutual Of Omaha are Fortune 500 Companies whose headquarters are located in Omaha.

Omaha is home to Creighton University Medical Center, the Nebraska Medical Center, Alegant Health (including Bergan Mercy, Lakeside and Immanuel Medical Centers), Methodist Health Systems that includes Methodist Women's Hospital, and Children's Hospital and Medical Center.

Nebraska state parks and local recreation facilities offer plenty of opportunities for outdoor fun. Omaha has numerous golf courses; one is featured on the PGA Nationwide Tour. Another course will serve as the site of the 2013 USGA Senior Open.

Post-secondary education is available from many colleges and universities that are located in Omaha, including the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Creighton University, and Grace University.

Omaha has numerous attractions and activities for the whole family, including the Henry Doorly Zoo, Lauritzen Botanical Gardens, the Joslyn Art Museum, the Durham History Museum, Midtown Crossing, El Museo Latino, the Mormon Pioneer Cemetery, the Omaha Children's Museum, Dundee, Benson, Memorial Park, Heartland of America Park, the Old Market, and the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts.

Amazing theater, live music, and art venues abound in Omaha. The city is home to the Omaha Community Playhouse, the nation's largest community theater, along with the Orpheum Theater, the Holland Center for Performing Arts, and the CenturyLink Center.

Each summer, the city plays hosts to the NCAA College World Series. The 2012 U.S. Olympic Team Trials in swimming will also take place in Omaha. The Omaha community hosts other interesting events and festivals, including Jazz on the Green, the Summer Arts Festival, River City Round-up, Shakespeare on the Green, and Taste of Omaha, along with a variety of festivals celebrating the rich heritage and culture of the city's various ethnic groups.

Omaha is just an hour's drive from Lincoln, Nebraska's capital and home of University of Nebraska. Omaha is eight hours from Chicago, IL, six hours from Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN, three hours from Kansas City, MO and two hours from Des Moines, IA.



The District

Westside is a nationally acclaimed public school district, one of the very best in the United States. The mission of Westside Community Schools, as an innovative educational system, is to ensure academic excellence and to serve the unique needs of all learners. Westside Community Schools offers excellence in education at all levels. Every day, some of Nebraska's most highly educated and award-winning teachers bring the joy and wonder of learning into District classrooms. More than 72 percent of Westside teachers have masters, specialists or doctoral degrees. Nine are national board certified. Westside teachers are frequently honored with local, state and national awards.



Students:

5,990

Staff:

1,050

Administrative:

34

Certified teachers:

533

Classified staff:

483

Schools:

13

High School:

1 (grades 9-12)

Career Center:

1 (grades 10-12)

Middle School:

1 (grades 7-8)

Elementary:

10 (grades K-6)

Assessed

Valuation:

\$3,241,522,035

Operating

Budget:

\$84,065,984

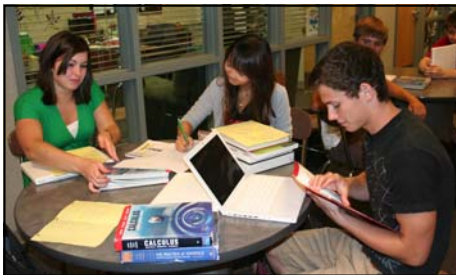
General Fund

Budget:

\$68,434,426

Westside Community Schools prides itself on personalized attention. Class sizes are small to provide students with the support they need to succeed. The overall elementary student/teacher ratio is 20 to 1. Middle school classes average about 23 students. At the high school, small group classes average 12 to 20 students.

Westside Community Schools offers state-of-the art technology, including a one-to-one laptop initiative for students in grades 8-12. Modular scheduling at the District's one high school allows students to take a greater array and a wider variety of courses than is possible with traditional scheduling. More than 80 percent of Westside High School students have completed the ACT defined core curriculum in math, science, English, and social studies. Westside High School is traditionally a state leader in the percentage of its graduates recognized as National Merit Scholars. The high school's focus on ethical literacy helps students make conscious, deliberate decisions as they prepare for the challenges of the 21st Century.



Westside Middle School offers students a nurturing transition between elementary and high school. The National Blue Ribbon School offers a developmental and comprehensive program with academic offerings including language arts, mathematics, science and social studies and exploratory courses in vocal music, business and the arts. Westside Middle School offers a full complement of "no-cut" intramural programs and competitive sports programs. All students participate in some type of club activity. To meet the individual interests and needs of students, the middle school offers specialized classes, such as a two-year foreign language program.

Westside's elementary education program offers full-day kindergarten and elementary Spanish language instruction, plus a full range of opportunities and services for gifted and special needs students. Elementary curriculum in District 66 provides students developmentally appropriate experiences with consideration of their needs, interests and prior knowledge.

The primary goal of the Westside Community Schools is to prepare students to meet the ever-changing challenges of the future.

The Board of Education

The Board of Education consists of six members who are elected to serve six-year terms. The incumbency of the board members ranges from two to 16 years.

Name	Occupation	Years Served
Ms. Kathy Bradley, President	Development Specialist/ Learning Community Representative	12 years
Mr. Thomas Baker, Vice President	Commercial Insurance, AON Risk Services	10 years
Mr. David Woodke, Secretary	Attorney, Woodke & Gibbons	16 years
Ms. Rosie Zweiback, Treasurer	Program Evaluator, Munroe Meyer Institute	8 years
Mr. Scott Hazelrigg	President, Northstar Foundation	14 years
Ms. Martha Slosburg	Homemaker and Volunteer	2 years

The mission of the Westside Community School District, as an innovative educational system, is to ensure academic excellence and to serve the unique needs of all learners.

Additional information about Westside Community School District is available at the district's website:

www.westside66.org

APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCEDURE



All nominations, letters of application, inquiries, credentials and copies of legal proof of administrative qualifications should be addressed to:

McPherson & Jacobson, L.L.C.
7905 L St., Suite 310,
Omaha, Nebraska 68127
Phone (402) 991-7031
Fax (402) 991-7168
Email: mail@macnjake.com
Website: www.macnjake.com

Selection Time Line

1. Application deadline:
December 14, 2011
2. Finalists selected by Board of Education:
January 10, 2012
3. Interviews with Board of Education:
Week of January 16, 2012
4. Starting Date:
July 1, 2012

An application for superintendent should include:

- A letter setting forth personal qualifications, experiences and reasons for interest in the position
- A current résumé
- A completed application form (available from www.macnjake.com)
- Reference letters, certificates and licenses, and academic transcripts from colleges/universities indicating degree(s)



Candidates are asked to not contact board members directly. Any effort to do so may eliminate them from consideration. Names of applicants will be held in strict confidence whenever possible; however, McPherson & Jacobson complies with individual states' Freedom of Information laws. In the final process, the board may visit the district where the candidate is employed, but will not proceed without the knowledge and consent of the candidate.

Westside Community Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer.