

**DeForest Area School District
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 8, 2024 – 6:00 pm.**

1.	<p>Convene</p> <p>Vice President Sue Esser called the July 8, 2024 regular meeting of the DeForest Area School District's Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m in the Boardroom of the District Office, 500 S. Cleveland Avenue, DeForest, WI 53532.</p> <p>Superintendent, Dr. Rebecca Toetz verified that the meeting was properly noticed.</p> <p>Board members present: Brian Coker, Sue Esser, Linda Leonhart, Gussie Lewis, and Megan Taylor. Absent were: Jeff Hahn and Gail Lovick. Stephanie Sarr arrived at 6:04 pm. Jan Berg arrived at 6:15 pm. Also present were administrators Dr. Rebecca Toetz, Kathleen Davis-Phillips, Dyanna Kadrich, Kate Dabetic, Chris Smith, Nate Jaeger, Roz Craney, and Kathy Williams.</p> <p>The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.</p> <p>Megan Taylor recited the DeForest Area School District's Mission, Vision, and Equity Statements.</p>
2.	<p>Approval of the Agenda</p> <p>A. Approve Agenda</p> <p>On a motion by Taylor, seconded by Lewis, and passed unanimously by voice vote, the agenda was approved.</p>
3.	<p>Announcements by the Chair</p> <p>The Board of Education may convene into Closed Session following the regular meeting for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, in accordance with WI Statute 19.85(1)(e) & 19.82(1) {Consideration of offer and possible counter offer for the sale of Holum Education center}</p>
4	<p>Board Education on Public School Funding</p> <p>A. Board education related to questions on Public School funding, and presentation on proposed recommendation for addressing DASD future funding</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u> Director of Business & Auxiliary Services, Kathleen Davis-Phillips, Director of Human Resource Services, Nate Jaeger, and School/Community Relations Coordinator, Kathy Williams presented information on future funding, the planning, process, and timeline. They explained what has been done to prepare for the anticipated need for increased funding, including the following:</p>

- 2021-23 WI Biennial Budget \$0/\$0 increase for public education
- Allocated one-time Federal ESSER funds
- Foreshadowed “Fiscal Cliff” to BOE and community Did-you-know? campaign
- Froze building budgets (last 3-years)
- Restructured leadership
- Advocated at State and local level for transparency and sufficient funding for public education
- Spent down ESSER funding (16 positions funded through one-time \$)
- Approved deficit spending in 2023-24 to strategically reduce fund balance by estimated \$4M
- Foreshadowed need for additional funding through monitoring reports (OE-4, R-3, and R-4)
- Debt defeasance and reduction approved by BOE in August 2023
- Ensure continued stability in tax levy and save taxpayer \$
- Established a debt levy decrease of \$5M to offset tax impact of referendum in 2025-26

Williams explained what has been done to engage and communicate with the community around DASD future funding. She shared the following opportunities:

- Framework for Our Future, 3.5, November 2023
- February 5 - March 19
 - BOE engagement sessions, 8 groups
- April 10 -June 27
 - BOE information presentations, 18 groups/sessions
 - Farmer’s Markets
 - DASD Podcast on School Funding
 - Community Expo
- Website about Future Funding & QR Code launched
 - Recorded presentation
 - Forms to submit level of support, questions
 - School funding videos
 - FAQs
- Invited, by mail, all residents to “Shaping Our Future” sessions

Administration presented information on the rationale for considering a referendum in November to meet the needs of the District. Administration presented a recommendation for the Board to consider for a recurring referendum. The amount was determined by considering the following:

- Balancing Board/community expectations with community tax tolerance
- Community feedback suggests support for categories defined as “maintain” (\$6.5-\$8M) to “improve” (\$8-\$10M)
- Also heard impact of inflation and fixed income on community members
- Maintain current positions and class size goals
 - Includes additional positions needed to continue to meet class size goals
- Increase student support related to growth and underserved areas to include possible:
 - Gifted and Talented Coordinator,
 - Math & Behavior Interventionists,

	<div>○ Additional Teacher Mentor</div> <p>The Board requested more information on the tax impacts of a range between a potential \$7.3 - \$8.0 million dollar referendum, as well as the effect on class sizes, student to staff ratios, staff retention and compensation, and future forecasting.</p>
5.	<p>Board Business & possible Board action</p> <p>A. Presentation and possible approval of preliminary 2024-2025 District Budget</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u> Director of Business & Auxiliary Services, Kathleen Davis-Phillips explained that the 2024-25 budget draft was developed using the parameters accepted by the Board on 4-8-2024. Information not yet available has been estimated. Some of these major estimates include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2023-24 Fiscal Activity● Equalized Value (estimated at 3% increase - recent trends much higher)● Equalization Aid● Enrollment● Grant allocations● Special Education Aid <p>Overall, the budget developed is in alignment with the parameters. The use of reserves to balance the budget remains in the parameters range at \$3.9 -\$ 4 Million. This budget also includes the proposed \$5M defeasance. This defeasance is important in maintaining a stable mill rate and allowing the opportunity to lower the debt levy in the 2025-26 school year to offset any referendum impact.</p> <p>The current estimated mill rate for 24-25 is \$9.07/\$1,000. This is down slightly from the 23-24 fiscal year. Important to note is that this will likely change as aid and property values get finalized.</p> <p>On a motion by Berg, seconded by Lewis, the DeForest Area School District Board of Education voted to approve the preliminary 2024-2025 District Budget, as presented. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.</p> <p>B. Presentation on potential interpretation and indicator changes for Board Policies R-3, Self-Directed Complex Thinkers, and R-4 Collaborative and Responsible Citizens Monitoring Reports</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u> Superintendent, Dr. Rebecca Toetz, Director of Instruction, 4K-6, Kate Dabetic, Director of Instruction, 7-12, Chris Smith, and Director of Student Services, Dyanna Kadrach presented interpretation and indicator revisions for R-3, Self-Directed Complex Thinkers, and R-4 Collaborative and Responsible Citizens Monitoring Reports. The revisions will be approved in the consent agenda of a future Board meeting.</p> <p>C. Presentation and possible approval of Board Policy, OE-12 Facilities Monitoring Report</p>

	<p><u>Discussion:</u> Director of Business & Auxiliary Services, Kathleen Davis-Phillips, and Director of Safety and Operations, Roz Craney presented the OE-12 monitoring report. The report was presented as not in compliance, and incomplete. Recently hired, Craney explained the action plan to bring this monitoring report back into compliance. Administration will provide regular updates on progress throughout the next school year. Revisions to interpretations and indicators for OE-12 will be brought to the Board for consideration at a future date.</p> <p>On a motion by Coker, seconded by Taylor, the DeForest Area School District Board of Education voted to accept OE-12, Facilities Board Policy Monitoring Report, as presented, as not in compliance. The vote passed with a unanimous voice vote.</p> <p>On a motion by Coker, seconded by Taylor, the DeForest Area School District Board of Education voted to approve OE-12, Facilities Program Board Policy Monitoring Report, as presented, as not in compliance. The vote passed with a unanimous voice vote.</p> <p>D. Information on potential use of an Independent Hearing Officer (IHO) for the 2024-2025 school year</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u> The Board received information on the use of an Independent Hearing Officer (IHO) for the 2024-2025 school year for expulsion hearings. The Board will learn more at a future Board meeting.</p>
6.	Public Input - None.
7.	<p>Board Consent Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Accept Minutes - June 24, 2024 B. Approval of District Content Standards for 2024-2025 School Year C. Approval of Board Policy, OE-8 Communicating with the Board Monitoring Report D. Approval of membership and associated fees in the Greater Dane County Governance Consortium E. Approval of 2024-2025 Board Annual Work Plan <p>Taylor made a motion, Berg seconded, to approve the Board Consent Agenda. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.</p>
8.	<p>Superintendent Consent Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Personnel Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Certified Staff Recommendations for Board Approval</u> I. Separations: Joana Calixto-Martinez - Multilingual Teacher DAHS - resignation effective 6/26/2024 Bethany Buenning - FACE Teacher DAHS - resignation effective 6/27/2024 II. Appointments: Emily Hendricks - Academic & Career Planning Coordinator DAHS - replacing Austin Hofer Michael Katzke - Alternative Education Teacher DAHS - replacing Ashley Streeter III. <u>Other None Other Administrative Actions</u> I. Separations: Melanie Janke - Technology Technician DO - resignation effective 7/9/2024 II. Appointments: None III. Other: Robert Kaufman - Head Girls Cross

	<p>Country Coach DAHS replacing Chris Smith</p> <p>B. Vouchers Payable/Treasurer's Report Paid: 209548-209646, 232402605-232402662, 202300753-202300849</p> <p>Berg made a motion, Leonhart seconded, to approve the Superintendent's Consent Agenda. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.</p>
9.	<p>Press Verification</p> <p>No member of the press was present at this time. Attended earlier.</p>
	Lewis left the meeting at 8:00 pm.
10.	<p>Convene into Closed Session</p> <p>Taylor moved, Coker seconded, to move into closed session at 8:06 pm. The motion was adopted by the following vote: Aye –Berg, Coker, Esser, Leonhart, Lewis, Sarr, and Taylor. Naye – None. Absent – Lovick, Lewis, and Hahn</p> <p>While in Closed Session, the Board conducted business in accordance with WI Statute 19.85(1)(e) & 19.82(1) {Consideration of offer and possible counter offer for the sale of Holum Education center}</p>
11.	<p>Reconvene into Open Session</p> <p>On a motion by Berg, seconded by Coker, and passed by a unanimous show of hands the Board of Education reconvened into open session at 8:22 pm.</p>
12.	<p>Further discussion or action related to Closed Session business</p> <p>While in closed session the Board of Education approved a counter offer for the sale of Holum Education center and agreed to parameters of a potential sale.</p>
13.	Board Debrief
14.	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>The Board of Education adjourned at 8:26 pm on a motion by Taylor, seconded by Sarr, and passed unanimously by voice vote.</p>
	DASD BOE President Signature:
	Date: