

aDeForest Area School District
BUDGET HEARING AND ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 25, 2023 – 7:00 pm
District Office, 500 S. Cleveland Avenue, DeForest, WI 53532
The Glenn

I. Meeting Called to Order:

The September 25, 2023 Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing of the DeForest Area School District was called to order by Gail Lovick, President of the DeForest Area Board of Education, at 7:00 pm. at the DeForest Area School District Office, in The Glenn, 500 S. Cleveland Avenue, DeForest, WI 53532. Approximately 14 residents were in attendance.

A. Introductory Comments: Gail Lovick, President DASD Board Of Education

1. Introduction of Board of Education Members

Lovick introduced the Board of Education members present: Jeff Hahn, Jan Berg, Linda Leonhart, Megan Taylor, Brian Coker, and Stephanie Sarr.

2. Introduction of District Administrator

After introductory comments, Gail Lovick introduced Dr. Rebecca Toetz, Superintendent. Toetz welcomed the attendees.

B. District Administrator: Dr. Rebecca Toetz

1. Introduction of Administrative Staff

The following members of the administrative staff were also in attendance:

Kathleen Davis-Phillips, Director of Business & Auxiliary Services,
Nate Jaeger, Director of Human Resource Services
Dyanna Kadrich, Director of Student Services
Kate Dabetic, Director of K-6 Instruction & Curriculum
Roz Craney, Principal, Yahara Elementary Schools,
Jon Rouse, DeForest Area High School Principal,
Bill Huebsch, Principal, Eagle Point Elementary School
Kathy Williams, School Community & Relations Coordinator
Chris Smith, Director of 7-12 Instruction & Curriculum

2. Introduction of Legal Counsel/Parliamentarian

Toetz introduced Mike Julka, Attorney with Boardman & Clark, LLC, who served as Legal Counsel/Parliamentarian for the DeForest Area School District Annual Meeting.

II. Election of Chairperson

Gail Lovick was nominated to be Chair of the meeting by Nate Jaeger. Lovick was then elected Chair of the Budget/Hearing Annual Meeting by a unanimous voice vote.

III. Financial Report: Kathleen Davis-Phillips, Director of Business & Auxiliary Services

Kathleen Davis-Phillips stated that the final 2022-2023 Financial report will not be finalized until the District audit is completed. A report of the 2022-2023 District finances will be presented at a future Board of Education meeting and available on the District website at that time.

IV. New Business:

A. Budget Hearing

Gail Lovick announced that the citizens were now in the Budget Hearing portion of the meeting and Kathleen Davis-Phillips, continued her report by presenting the proposed 2023-2024 budget and proposed tax levy.

The total property tax levy estimated to meet the needs of the 2023-2024 school year is \$37,941,747. Expenses are more than revenue, therefore the District will use the remainder of the Esser III Federal Grants and previously set aside reserves to balance the budget. This is intended to be a one time solution. The estimated mil rate is \$8.98 per \$1,000 of equalized value based on current property values, which is a decrease of 4.3% from the previous year. The mil rate may change when property values are certified in October. The total tax levy includes the following components:

General Fund levy - \$21,952,506
Referendum Debt Service Fund - \$15,399,241
Capital Expansion Fund - \$500,000
Community Service Fund - \$90,000

Davis-Phillips explained the next steps in the process are as follows:

- Finalization of September - 3rd Friday count
- Adjustments to revenue limit
- October 1st Dept. of Rev property values
- October 15th final state aid calculation
- October 26th Board of Education budget action
- Notices sent to municipalities

Davis-Phillips asked for comments or questions from the citizens. No questions or comments were made and the hearing was then closed.

B. Adoption of Proposed 2023-2024 Tax Levy

Gail Lovick called for a motion to adopt the proposed 2023-2024 tax levy.

A motion was made by William Huebsch, seconded by Roz Craney, to approve the 2023-2024 tax levy of \$37,941,747 of which \$21,952,506 is for the General Fund, \$15,399,241 is for Fund 39 Referendum Debt, \$500,000 is for Capital Expansion, and \$90,000 is for Community Service fund. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

C. Authorize 2023-2024 Salaries of Board of Education Members

A motion was made by Kathy William, and seconded by Sue Paulson, to approve and authorize \$3025 for the 2023-2024 salaries of the Board of Education members and \$4000 for the 2023-2024 salary of the Board President. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

D. Authorize the payment of actual and necessary expenses of Board of Education members when traveling in performance of duties

On a motion by Sue Paulson, seconded by Nate Jaeger, and passed unanimously by voice vote, the citizens authorized the district to make payment of actual and necessary expenses of Board of Education members when traveling in performance of duties.

E. Authorize the DeForest Area School District to make payment for student accident insurance.

On a motion by William Huebsch, seconded by Roz Craney, and passed unanimously by voice vote, the District was authorized to make payment for student accident insurance.

F. Date of Next Annual Meeting

Authorize the Board of Education to determine the date and hour of the 2024 annual meeting. No annual meeting may be held before May 15 or after October 31.

Section 120.08(1), Wisconsin Statutes.

On a motion by Sue Paulson, seconded by Jeff Hahn, and passed unanimously by voice vote, the Board of Education was authorized to determine the date and hour of the next annual meeting.

V. Adjournment

On a motion by William Huebsch, seconded by Brian Coker, and passed unanimously by voice vote, the Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing adjourned at 7:19 pm.