

DeForest Area School District
BUDGET HEARING AND ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 27, 2021 – 7:00 pm
DeForest Area Public Library, 203 Library Street, DeForest

I. Meeting Called to Order:

The September 27, 2021 Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting of the DeForest Area School District was called to order by Jan Berg, President of the DeForest Area Board of Education, at 7:04 p.m. in the Community Room of the DeForest Area Public Library, 203 Library Street, DeForest, WI 53532. Approximately 25 residents were in attendance.

A. Introductory Comments: Jan Berg, President DASD Board Of Education

1. Introduction of Board of Education Members

Berg introduced the Board of Education members present: Keri Brunelle, Brian Coker, Jeff Hahn, Gail Lovick, Linda Leonhart, and Stephanie Sarr.

2. Introduction of District Administrator

After introductory comments, Jan Berg introduced Eric Runez, Superintendent. Runez welcomed the attendees.

B. District Administrator: Eric Runez

1. Introduction of Administrative Staff

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

Kathleen Davis-Phillips, Director of Business & Auxiliary Services,
Dr. Rebecca Toetz, Director of Instructional Services,
Dr. Pete Wilson, Director of Administrative Services,
Nate Jaeger, Director of Human Resource Services

Roz Craney, Principal, Yahara Elementary Schools,
Valerie Crawl, Principal, Windsor Elementary School,
Bill Huebsch, Assistant Principal, Windsor Elementary & Harvest Intermediate Schools
Kurt Becker, Principal, DeForest Area Middle School
Pheng Lee, DeForest Area High School Principal,
Doug Crowley, Assistant Principal, DeForest Area High School,

Debbie Brewster, School Community & Relations Coordinator
Becky Terry, Supervisor Food Services

2. Introduction of Legal Counsel/Parliamentarian

Eric Runez introduced Doug Witte, Attorney with Boardman & Clark, LLC, who served as Legal Counsel/Parliamentarian for the DeForest Area School District Annual Meeting.

II. Election of Chairperson

Jan Berg was nominated to be Chair of the meeting on a motion by Sue Paulson. Berg 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 2020-2021 Financial report will not be finalized until the District audit. A report of the 2020-2021 District finances will be presented at a future Board of Education meeting.

IV. New Business:

A. Budget Hearing and Adoption of Proposed 2021-2022 Tax Levy

Jan Berg 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 2021-2022 budget and proposed tax levy.

The total property tax levy estimated to meet the needs of the 2021-2022 school year is \$33,703,694. The proposed budget for 2021-22 is approximately 2.32% lower than the prior year. Davis explained the proposed distribution of revenue and expenditures. Equalized Value is estimated at 2.84% however, it is expected to be closer to 6%. The estimated mil rate is \$11.04 per \$1,000 of equalized value based on current property values and may change when property values are certified in October. This mil rate represents a decrease of \$0.59 from the prior year. The total tax levy includes the following components:

General Fund levy - \$22,924,639
Referendum Debt Service Fund - \$10,199,055
Capital Expansion Fund - \$500,000
Community Service Fund - \$80,000

Davis-Phillips explained the next steps in the process 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.

A motion was made by Bill Huebsch, seconded by Jeff Hahn to approve the 2021-22 tax levy of \$33,703,694 of which \$22,924,639 is for the General Fund, \$10,199,055 is for Fund 39 Referendum Debt, \$500,000 is for Capital Expansion, and \$80,000 is for Community Service fund. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

B. Authorize 2021-2022 Salaries of Board of Education Members

A motion was made by Sue Paulson, and seconded by Roz Craney to approve and authorize an increase of \$350 to \$2800 (\$2450 currently) for the 2021-22 salaries of the Board of Education members and \$3700 (\$3350 currently) for the 2021-22 salary of the Board President. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

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

On a motion by Sara Runez, seconded by Sue Paulson, 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.

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

On a motion by Maren Anderson, seconded by Kurt Becker, and passed unanimously by voice vote, the District was authorized to make payment for student accident insurance.

E. Authorize the new grade configuration and alignment of transportation requirements with the opening of Harvest Intermediate School

On a motion by Zeth Engel, seconded by Sue Paulson, the citizens authorized the new grade configuration and alignment of transportation requirements with the opening of Harvest Intermediate School. Harvest Intermediate will follow the same requirements as the DeForest Area Middle School and the DeForest Area High School, which is 1.0 mile. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

F. Authorize the acquisition of real estate by the Board of Education—vacant land situated at 7203/7601 Portage Road in the City of Madison, Wisconsin

The Board of Education is seeking authorization from the district's electors to acquire the property at 7203 and 7601 Portage Road in the City of Madison, Wisconsin.

Authorization by the electors will allow the school board to finalize the terms and conditions of the land purchase and execute a purchase if terms are agreeable between the board and land owner. The property being proposed is located in an area which has been identified as having the potential for significant housing development. If the development proceeds as predicted, the anticipated student enrollment is expected to exceed the current capacity of DASD elementary schools. This location, which is anticipated to be used for a future school site, also aligns with the City of Madison's long range development plan. The funding for the land purchase, if approved, is recommended to come from the district's Fund 46 Capital Improvement Trust. Utilization of Fund 46 for this purchase will not have an impact on the tax levy.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of the DeForest Area School District be authorized, pursuant to Section 120.10(5m) of the Wisconsin Statutes, to acquire real estate necessary for school district purposes, to-wit: approximately 48 acres of vacant land situated at 7203/7601 Portage Road in the City of Madison, having property tax parcel numbers 251/0810-103-0097-9 and 251/0810-103-0098-7. The School Board shall have the authority to determine the terms and conditions of acquisition of such real estate.

On a motion by Jeff Hahn, seconded by Kathy Williams, the Board of Education was authorized to acquire the real estate, vacant land, situated at 7203/7601 Portage Road in the City of Madison, Wisconsin, having property tax parcel numbers 251/0810-103-0097-9 and 251/0810-103-0098-7. The School Board shall have the authority to determine the terms and conditions of acquisition of such real estate.
The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

G. Date of Next Annual Meeting

Authorize the Board of Education to determine the date and hour of the 2022 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 Roz Craney, 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 Kathy Williams, seconded by Zeth Engel, and passed unanimously by voice vote, the Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.