

**DeForest Area School District  
Board of Education Meeting Minutes  
Monday, October 26, 2020 – 6:00 pm.**

1.	<p>Convene</p> <p>President Jan Berg called the October 26, 2020 regular meeting of the DeForest Area School District's Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Eric Runez verified that the meeting was properly noticed.</p> <p>Board members present in person: Jan Berg and Sue Esser. Board members participating via remote virtual access were: Brian Coker, Linda Leonhart, Jeff Miller, Spencer Statz, and Steve Tenpas. Absent was: Gail Lovick. Keri Brunelle arrived via remote access at 6:04 pm. Also present in person was Superintendent, Eric Runez. Participating remotely were administrators Rebecca Toetz, Kathy Davis, Sara Totten, Pete Wilson, Nate Jaeger and Debbie Brewster.</p>
2.	<p>Approval of the Agenda</p> <p>On a motion by Coker, seconded by Tenpas, and passed unanimously by voice vote, the agenda was approved.</p>
3.	<p>Board Business &amp; possible Board action</p> <p>A. Consider revision of Board Policy - BP-2 Board Members Participating in Meetings Remotely</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u> The Board discussed revisions to Board Policy, BP-2 to address roll call votes.</p> <p>On a motion by Tenpas, seconded by Leonhart, the DeForest Area School District Board of Education voted to approve the revisions to Board Policy - BP-2 Board Members Participating in Meetings Remotely. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote, with Lovick absent.</p> <p>B. Construction and Facilities Update</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u> John Rauwolf, District Owner Advocate for the referendum construction projects shared updated photos of the construction projects. He shared photos of the High School Project, Harvest Intermediate School, and the new Facilities Building. All estimates show that the District is well within the budget parameters established for the projects.</p> <p>C. School reopening update and survey results</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u> A summary of Dane County Covid-19 data from Public Health Madison Dane County (PHMDC) was shared, along with District staff and student data. In addition, the current metrics supported by PHMDC for school reopening were</p>

discussed. Following weekly updates from Public Health, the District posts on the website the current data reported in order to keep the community informed.

Several Dane County Superintendents have met with Dane County Executive Joe Parisi to discuss the growing concern around other factors to consider in the metrics for school reopening, including mental health factors, reconsideration of metrics for Grades 3-5, and reconsideration of the use of indoor facilities, athletics, and activities.

The current K-2 hybrid instructional model feedback was discussed, including results from family and staff surveys. School/Community Relations Coordinator, Debbie Brewster, explained that the family survey received a 62% response rate, and staff survey received an 84% response rate. Families were asked for feedback on the district's consideration of a four half-day schedule. Feedback indicated that there would be challenges with child care, transportation, and family scheduling. Also, there were concerns about the number of transitions and more people in the buildings at one time.

Director of Instructional Services, Dr. Rebecca Toetz shared the staff survey results. Considering all the challenges, and based on the feedback received from staff and families, the current hybrid schedule will continue as it is. However, staff will prioritize solutions for issues with the current schedule and consider adjustments to address teacher and parent concerns. A timeline for families to make any switches at trimester and will be communicated.

Athletics Director, Rick Henert reported on fall activities and explained that winter sports will begin practices next month within the guidelines provided by Dane County Health. On Monday, November 2 Dane County Public Health will be meeting with Dane County Athletic Directors to discuss the prospect of competitions this winter. Dane County AD's plan to create a checklist for safety guidelines and criteria that will be considered when traveling to schools outside of Dane County for competitions.

Finally, Dr. Sara Totten, Director of Student Services provided an update on Phase 2 of bringing in approximately 55 more special education students to in-person learning. Totten explained the criteria for Phase 2 students which includes regression in IEP goal progress and students inability to access a free and appropriate education in the virtual environment. The goal is to bring Phase 2 students in beginning the week of November 9, 2020.

#### D. Student Services update regarding mental health screener

Discussion: Lynn Sisco, DeForest Area Middle School Social Worker joined Dr. Totten in explaining the results of the mental health screener. They provided an update on multi-level systems of support, interventions, and social emotional learning for students and adults. They then shared the results of the student and family mental health screener. The Student Services department will consider the results as they continue collaboration with leadership, building teams, and curriculum and instruction teams. They intend to provide staff professional development and plan family communications regarding anxiety, attention, learning, as well as developmental appropriateness in students.

E. Presentation and final approval of 2020-2021 District Annual Budget and tax levy certification

Discussion: Director of Business & Auxiliary Services, Kathleen Davis-Phillips presented the final 2020-2021 Annual District Budget and tax levy certification. The tax levy increase for 2020-21 is estimated at \$1,595,042 over the 2019-20 school year. The mill rate is anticipated to be \$11.63/\$1,000 a decrease of \$.01 /\$1,000 over the 2019-20 fiscal year.

Davis-Phillips detailed revenue and expenditures, including allocations to cover anticipated expenditures related to COVID-19. These costs however, should be offset by federal assistance. Total revenue shared is \$45,968,006 and expenses are \$46,586,670. This predicted deficit of \$618,644 is due to Covid-19 related expenses and will be covered by District reserves. The total levy presented is \$34,503,905.

On a motion by Tenpas, seconded by Statz, the DeForest Area School District Board of Education voted to approve the 2020-2021 Annual Operating Budget and certify the tax levy at \$34,503,905, resulting in a mil rate of \$11.63. The motion was approved with a unanimous roll call vote, with Lovick absent.

F. Presentation and possible approval of OE-5 Financial Planning Monitoring Report

Discussion: Director of Business & Auxiliary Services, Kathleen Davis-Phillips presented the monitoring report for OE-5, Financial Planning as in compliance.

On a motion by Miller, seconded by Coker, the DeForest Area School District Board of Education voted to accept OE-5, Financial Planning Board Policy Monitoring Report, as presented. The vote passed with a unanimous voice vote, with Lovick absent.

On a motion by Coker, seconded by Statz, the DeForest Area School District Board of Education voted to approve OE-5, Financial Planning Board Policy Monitoring Report, as presented, in compliance. The vote passed with a unanimous voice vote, with Lovick absent.

Summary Statement: *The Board compliments the administration on continuing to keep the district financially sound, particularly in this challenging environment. The Board is also appreciative of the continued top S & P global rating of AA+ for school districts in the State, with DeForest Area being only one of four districts in the state to receive such a rating.*

G. Consider District's Medical Advisory Team and possible Board liaison

Discussion: The Board discussed their governance model and the role of a Board member on a non-Board appointed committee. The Board wishes to have further discussion about roles on committees in an upcoming Board retreat.

Miller made a motion to appoint a Board member as a liaison to the Medical Advisory Team, seconded by Brunelle. The motion passed by a 7-1 vote, with Esser opposed.

President Jan Berg appointed Jeff Miller to be the liaison to the Medical Advisory

	Team. He will observe meetings and provide the Board with updates on the work of the committee.
4.	Public Input - None.
5.	<p>Board Consent Agenda</p> <p>A. Accept Minutes - October 12, 2020</p> <p>Brunelle made a motion, Esser seconded to approve the Board Consent Agenda. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.</p>
6.	<p>Superintendent Consent Agenda</p> <p>A. Personnel Recommendations</p> <p>I. Separations: None.</p> <p>II. Leaves: None.</p> <p>III. Transfers: None.</p> <p>IV. Appointments:</p> <p>Nathan Molina - Custodian 2 - Districtwide - new position</p> <p>Janelle Sivam - School Nurse Districtwide - new position</p> <p>V. Reassignments: None.</p> <p>VI. Other: None.</p> <p>B. Vouchers Payable/Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Paid: 203092-203138, 202100345-202100406, 202000115-202000121, 19072-19072</p> <p>Coker made a motion, Esser seconded, to approve the Superintendent's Consent Agenda. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.</p>
7.	<p>Linkages - Coker is willing to attend the WASB Regional 12 meeting tomorrow evening and indicate the Board's support of Tom Weber for the position of WASB Region 12 Director.</p> <p>Linda Leonhart left the meeting at 8:29 pm.</p>
8.	<p>Press Verification</p> <p>No member of the press was present at this time. Attended earlier.</p>
9.	Future Agenda Items - Role of the Board on committees.
10.	Board Debrief
11.	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>The Board of Education adjourned at 8:41 pm on a motion by Esser, seconded by Brunelle, and passed unanimously by voice vote.</p>
	DASD BOE President Signature:
	Date:

