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2011-12 budget development

Developing the 2011-12 school budget presents many challenges for the DeForest Area School District Board of Education. The Governor’s proposed biennium budget calls for approximately $1.7 million less in revenue for the DASD for each of the next two years. While the District has been in static enrollment the last few years and declining in the revenue it is allowed by the state, the level of these proposed cuts is beyond what the District has experienced previously. The Board is charged with finding a way to cut expenses, preserve highly qualified staff, change programs and delivery of programs while providing the same quality for less money, and sustain the effectiveness of the system as resources diminish.

At the beginning of the process this spring, the Board and staff established a set of guiding principles to shape the budget development process. Using these guidelines, there are several major areas being examined to help reduce the budget. These areas for consideration are posted on the DASD website and News Blog. Other budget-related information is also available, plus an opportunity for residents to provide thoughts and ideas for the board and staff to consider.

2011-12 Budget Development Information

• DASD website -- www.deforestschools.org
  Look for the link under “News”

• DASD News Blog - www.dasdnews.wordpress.com
  (link also available on the DASD website, under “News”)

What you’ll find . . .
School Finance 101
Policies & Guiding Principles
Frequently Asked Questions
Budget Development: Areas of Consideration

Opportunity to provide feedback
Bernards return from China

After spending eleven months teaching English in Kunming, China for First Decision Elementary School, Roy and Julie Bernards and their two daughters will be returning to DeForest at the end of June. After a year leave of absence from DASD, Roy will return as an elementary principal, taking over at Windsor Elementary School for retired principal Mike Finke. Julie will return to her position as an 8th grade language arts teacher at DAMS.

According to Roy, the family has had some amazing experiences, and met some incredible people, but are very much looking forward to being home and doing the things they miss and love so much.

For Julie, that means returning to her eighth grade language arts classroom where she can practice her craft of creating and delivering meaningful, relevant, curriculum to her students. Roy is looking forward to joining the Windsor Elementary School family as the principal and working closely with them to help keep the school and district moving forward.

DASD chosen to test new Chrome laptops

The DeForest Area School District is one of two schools in the Midwest chosen as a test site for the new Google Chrome OS (CR-48) laptops through Verizon Wireless. Twenty-five of the new cloud-based laptops arrived in DeForest last month and were tested by individuals and groups through the next few months. Students in the high school Business & Marketing Management class received 12 of them on May 11. According to Learning Information Systems Coordinator Kim Bannigan, the students unpacked the machines, set them up, and then worked on an assignment from their teachers Debbie Brewster and John Webster. Using their existing GoogleApps accounts provided through the school, students will be able to access files, e-mail, and even install apps for their work during the last weeks of school.

Students in Dave Matthews 7th grade science class used the devices the last few weeks of school.
High school seniors get dose of financial "reality"

High school seniors in DeForest learned a little more about the realities of life after high school or college on Wednesday, May 25 at the school's 5th annual "Reality Day". Over 80 volunteers from local businesses, the community, and school district helped students during a simulation where they managed their personal financial resources to pay for one month of life’s necessities while making choices about what additional products and services to purchase.

The event is sponsored by DeForest Area High School and the DeForest Area Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, and held at the North Star Conference Center. Two local businesses, Settlers bank and Paulson Development, made donations to help defray the costs of facility rental and bus transportation for the students. Other businesses and volunteers donated raffle prizes.

Local businesses provided real life product and service cost information, as well as staffed “stations” (housing, groceries, checking/savings accounts, etc.) to help students learn how to survive on a given life scenario and salary.

According to Debbie Brewster, one of the coordinators of the event, “We ask every student participant to evaluate the morning’s activity, and their comments were very positive and helpful.” According to one student, the most challenging part of the day was “not buying the extra things like vacations and hair cuts that I wanted.” Another student felt the most rewarding part of the day was “being able to manage my money and not go broke.” Other comments included: “It was good to be put in a ‘real world’ scenario and have to make the hard decisions,” “It was a good experience.”

Volunteers also provided feedback. One volunteer said, “This is a great event; a good experience for the students.” “It was fun interacting with the students.”

Senior Krista Burden “purchases” groceries from volunteer Karen Klawiter (Karen the Cake Lady).

“"It was good to be put in a ‘real world’ scenario and have to make the hard decisions." DAHS Senior

Buying new devices now?!

Things have changed since 2000, but plans made 11 years ago in our District still support our work. That year, the DeForest community passed a “recurring” referendum in support of technology projects. This wise decision means that we have had consistent budgetary support for technology projects.

These funds have made it possible to build our network and provide services to staff and students. Some of the projects are very visible, like projectors in classrooms or last summer’s upgrades in DAMS computer labs or the new lab added at DAHS. Others are never seen, but are essential to making our network work, like the storage area network we installed last year. This project increased the amount of space we had and made our network more secure.

In the past, we’ve used this money to upgrade desktop computers and printers on a rotating schedule. We usually had three models in the District at a time. As one model aged, we replaced it with a newer version. The recurring funds ensured that our equipment didn’t get too old. Starting this year, we’re changing things a bit. Instead of replacing computers, we’re adding devices like iPod touches and laptops. At the same time, we’re working on adding wireless access to our schools and upgrading our network to support our ever-increasing need for bandwidth.

So, it might seem odd that we are adding devices for staff and students in a time of austerity, but they are just new pieces to our technology puzzle. The wise decisions made 11 years ago will carry us through these difficult budgetary times and ensure that we meet the instructional needs of students and staff.

We feel that moving forward with mobile learning devices is in line with many of the predominant themes from Framework 2.0:

- Technology and coordination, and integration into the curriculum
- Individual learning plans
- Global learning
- Distance and virtual learning
The DeForest Area High School Community Work Program would like to thank the many community businesses that supported the program this year. Thanks to DeForest Public Library, DeForest Community Center, Serenity Homes, Walnut Grove, St. Olaf’s, Holm Center, A to Z Rental and the many others that have provided community experience and work.


Over 1,000 attend annual grandparents lunches

Over 1,000 grandparents and older adults enjoyed lunch with students in April and May during the 19th annual Back-to-School Lunches. Thanks to the many student musicians who provided entertainment during the meals, and to the staff who organized the lunch in each school.

This annual event is sponsored by LINK-ages, a school/community organization recognizing the talents of all age groups.
DeForest Area High School’s top 10 graduating seniors were honored by the Badger Conference on Sunday, April 17 at Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. The banquet honors the top 10 students from each school in the North and South Badger Conferences based on grade point average. High school principal Machell Schwarz, District Administrator Jon Bales, and parents accompanied students to the banquet. *Pictured above, L-R: Rosa Owen, Trey Pickarts, Sam Thao, Katelyn Herlache, Janelle Skora, Elizabeth Paplow, Kelsea Fredrick, Ellen Schneider, and Morgan Lange. Inset: Sehar Resad*

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### Way to go student athletes!

Among the many individual accomplishments, several DAHS athletic teams took home honors this year . . .

- Conference Champs: girls cross country, girls swimming, and softball, gymnastics co-op, girls hockey co-op
- Regional Champs: boys basketball
- Sectional Champs: girls hockey

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In April middle school band members were honored to work with noted wind band composer Michael Sweeney. With help from the DeForest Music Parents Association, Mr. Sweeney was commissioned last year to write a new piece for the 2010-11 eighth grade band. The piece, titled Dance of the Spirits (a musical description of the Aurora Borealis/Northern Lights phenomenon), was premiered at the May 17 middle school band concert with the composer conducting.
Congratulations to students at **Morrisonville Elementary School**, who collected 4.33 pounds of pull tabs per student, to win the “Pull for the House” Ronald McDonald House-Madison contest -- second year in a row!

Students at **Windsor Elementary School** heard from Cheryl Ksobiech of Windsor Breads, along with many other community volunteers, during the school’s Career Day.

Students in Rachel Bohlman’s 4th grade class at **Eagle Point Elementary School** recently met their senior citizen computer buddies. They have been e-mailing each other throughout the semester.

Parents, community members and staff shared their “hobbies” with **Yahara Elementary School** students on May 20. Pictured is YES secretary Karen Konkol, who shared her love of “riding” with students. YES counselor Tim Hopping organized the event.

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DeForest Area Public Library

Upcoming events in the Madison area

Nature Net
Nature Passports
May 27 – September 2
Aldo Leopold Nature Center
www.naturenet.com/alnc

Log Cabin Tours
June 4 - 30
Madison Children’s Museum
www.madisonchildrensmuseum.org

Family Music Time
June 7
The University Book Store – Hilldale
www.uwbookstore.com

Second Harvest Food Drive
June 9
Henry Vilas Park Zoological Society
www.vilaszoo.org

Camp Pawprint
June 13 – July 1
Dane County Humane Society
www.giveshelter.org

Art Cart
June 16 – August 18
www.mmoca.org/events/childrensprograms/artcart

Little Sprouts Gardening
June 30 – August 4
Blooming Butterflies
July 13 – August 7
Olbrich Gardens
www.olbrich.org/events/butterflies

History Sandwiched In: B is for Battle Cry: A Civil War Alphabet
July 12
Wisconsin Historical Museum
www.wisconsinhistory.org/museum

DeForest Area Chamber of Commerce

Upcoming community events

Farmers Market
Every Tuesday, 3-6 pm
In front of DeForest Area Public Library

DeForest Area Duathlon
June 11
www.deforestduathlon.com

Annual July 4th Celebration
July 1, 3, 4
NEW this year!
July 2 Teen Day
Sponsored by DeForest Area Youth Council
3:00 - Battle of the Bands, Dodge Ball Tournament
7:00 - DJ
www.deforestarea.com

Windsor Area Garden Club Tours
July 15 & 16
windsorareagardenclub@gmail.com

DeForest Community Area Out at the Duck Blind (Mallards Game)
July 22

Relay for Life
July 29 & 30
DeForest Area High School,
www.relayforlife.org

DeForest Area Public Library

Barrel-Making in Wisconsin: The Story of the Frank Hess Cooperage
June 7, 6:30 p.m.

Film Showing— Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and the Land Ethic in the 21st Century
June 9, 6:00 p.m.

Employment Workshops
~ Using the Internet to Find a Job - June 16, 6:00 pm
~ Tips for a Successful Job Interview - June 30, 6:00 pm

Free Movies at Fireman’s Park
Begin June 17
All movies begin at dusk

Concerts in the Park
June 14
Madison Wind Ensemble
June 21
Prairie Thunder Cloggers
June 28
Jason Huneke
July 5
Ricardo Vasquez on Marimba
July 12
Sun Prairie Community Band
July 19
Waunakee Community Band
July 26
Mr. Steve - The Master Facilitator of Fun
August 2
Stuart Stotts
August 9
Ladies Must Swing

www.deforest.lib.wi.us
Looking ahead to 2011-12

Registering for the 2011-12 school year

- Registration Dates
- Supply Lists
- Fees

www.deforest.k12.wi.us/registration

2011-12 On-Line Events Calendar coming in July

www.deforest.k12.wi.us > click on Events Calendar

Watch for the DeForest Times-Tribune Back-to-School issue in July

Thank you to the many organizations and businesses who supported our DAHS graduates with scholarships to further their education. Over $200,000 ($120,000 of which are renewable) in scholarships were awarded to the Class of 2011.