

WELCOME TO THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING



What is the role of the School Board?

The school board is a policy making body that governs the school district as officials elected by the citizens of our community. The Board's role is to represent all the members of the community.

It is responsible for establishing standards of operation, identifying what all of our students should know and be able to do upon graduation, and expressing the values of the community when making decisions.

The Board hires and directs the Superintendent to achieve the established standards and to make sure students achieve the results the board has defined. The Superintendent is evaluated based on the board's rigorous monitoring of these standards and student results.

What happens at Board meetings?

Board meetings are held in public, but are not public meetings. The business of the board meetings mainly includes examining compliance with our operational standards and data-based evidence monitoring of student achievement progress.

What are the different kinds of Board meetings?

Regular Board meetings

These meetings are where most of the board's business is conducted. The Board strives to spend at least 50% of its time talking about student achievement. All of the board business is directly tied to the Board's governing policies referenced within the agenda and found on the District website.

The Board can take action at two points during the meeting: Board Action Items, and Board and Superintendent Consent Agendas. Action Items generally include issues that may require additional discussion and a request for approval.

The Board reviews agenda items before they go to a meeting and additional information is provided during the meeting. Board members may discuss only items that are on the agenda.

Work Sessions

Work sessions are a time for the Board to review and modify Board policies as needed, receive more education about items that pertain to student learning results and operational expectations, and collaborate with administration about any necessary indicator changes in Monitoring Reports. No Board action will be taken other than routine consent agenda items.

Closed meetings

Closed meetings are an "executive session" that, by statute, is not open to the public. Topics that legally can be addressed include: personnel, real estate, contract negotiations, and expulsions. With certain limited exceptions, no official action is taken on issues discussed in executive session without first returning to open session.

Public hearings

Certain school matters, such as the budget adoption, tax exemptions, and changes to certain plans or policies require a public hearing.

These meetings are advertised, and the District encourages public participation and dialogue.

Why does the Board use a consent agenda format?

By using the consent agenda format, Board members take action on agenda items in one motion, rather than having individual motions for each item. Board members do, however, have the option to remove items from the consent agenda, by a vote of a majority of the members, if discussion about an item is required or if the Board wishes to highlight a



DeForest Area School District

500 S Cleveland Avenue

DeForest, WI 53532

(608) 842-6500

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particular action. A consent agenda streamlines the meeting, and provides for better use of time allowing the Board to focus on students and their achievements.

Consent agenda items comprise of more routine actions including accepting personnel recommendations, approving business reports, and approving Board meeting minutes.

How can I participate in Board meetings?

The DASD Board of Education welcomes community participation and feedback at Regular Board meetings. Citizens wishing to address the Board are requested to complete a **Public Input form** providing the nature of their comments. This form is given to the President of the Board prior to the start of the meeting. The President will call each person's name at the appropriate time.

Public comment shall be limited to three (3) minutes in duration. If there is a group who all wish to speak on the same topic, a single spokesperson should be selected. The Board President may interrupt or stop an individual's statement if it is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, repetitive, or irrelevant.

Please refrain from presenting comments at public meetings that introduce complaints or concerns that are directed toward and that identify individual staff members or individual students. Any person with such a complaint or concern may contact the Office of the Superintendent for information on the most appropriate means of raising or pursuing his/her complaint.

The **Wisconsin Open Meetings Law** requires that Board of Education members do not discuss topics, respond to questions, take action or otherwise engage in conversation related to items that are not listed on the Board's agenda. Members of the Board may ask questions for clarification purposes only.

What if I have a question or want some information?

The school's administrative staff is capable of handling most questions and requests for information. Matters relating to an individual school or teacher should be directed to the principal of that building. You are always welcome to contact the Superintendent's Office, and they can direct you to the right person.

Why does the board sometimes refer community members to administrators to handle a concern?

As stated previously, the Board is a body that directs all operations and student outcomes through carefully articulated policy values. It is the administrators who are held accountable for complying with those policies.

A chain of command exists in school districts as it does in many organizations. It is important that concerns be addressed by the person closest to the source before going to the Board.

What do Board members do in addition to attending Board meetings?

Each of our Board members is truly passionate about **their role**. Board members spend additional time to obtain professional training related to their governance role and learn about best practices of other districts.

Board members also participate in engagement activities with district stakeholders throughout the year. This provides an opportunity for board members to meet with and hear from a broad base of constituents around topics of relevance to our students' reasonable progress and preparation for success.

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Visit our website for more information about your DASD Board of Education:

www.deforestschoools.org/district/board-of-education.cfm

