

**DeForest Area School District
Board of Education Regular Meeting
and Reorganizational Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 13, 2024 – 6:00 pm.**

1.	<p>Convene</p> <p>President Gail Lovick called the May 13, 2024 regular meeting of the DeForest Area School District’s Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Superintendent, Dr. Rebecca Toetz verified that the meeting was properly noticed.</p> <p>Board members present: Jan Berg, Brian Coker, Sue Esser, Linda Leonhart, Gussie Lewis, Gail Lovick, Stephanie Sarr, and Megan Taylor. Jeff Hahn participated in the meeting remotely. Also present were administrators Dr. Rebecca Toetz, Kathleen Davis-Phillips, Dyanna Kadrich, Kate Dabetic, Chris Smith, Nate Jaeger and Kathy Williams.</p> <p>The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.</p> <p>Brian Coker recited the DeForest Area School District’s Mission, Vision, Equity Statements, and Working Agreements.</p>
2.	<p>Approval of the Agenda</p> <p>A. DASD Board of Education Norms and Working Agreements</p> <p>B. Approve Agenda</p> <p>On a motion by Sarr, seconded by Berg, and passed unanimously by voice vote, the agenda was approved with a point of clarity, on 4.L., with a corrected date of 2025, not 2024, and with an amendment to remove 8.D. under the consent agenda.</p>
3.	<p>Announcements by the Chair</p> <p>The Board of Education may convene into Closed Session for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, in accordance with WI Statute 19.85(1)(e) {consider and possibly approve adjustments to parameters of sale of the Holum Education Center site}</p>
4.	<p>School Board Reorganization and Election of Officers</p> <p>Superintendent Presides</p> <p>A. Review Reorganization Meeting Election Process</p> <p>The Board reviewed their current process for the reorganization election process. A suggestion was made to edit BP-2, Board Members Participating in Meetings Remotely, regarding the voting by show of hands. There was discussion about term limits and</p>

succession planning, as related to officer positions. The Board will consider revisions at a future board meeting.

B. Proposed suspension of requirement in Board Procedure BP-2, Board Members Participating in Meetings Remotely, for voting by show of hands and amendment to Reorganization Election Process for the May 13, 2024, Reorganization Meeting

On a motion by Esser, seconded by Coker, the DeForest Area School District Board of Education voted to suspend the requirement in Board Procedure BP-2, Board Members Participating in Meetings Remotely, for voting by show of hands and approved the proposed amendment to Reorganization Election Process to allow Board Member, Jeff Hahn, to participate and vote remotely in the Reorganization Meeting on May 13, 2024, by emailing his votes directly to District legal counsel, Tess O'Brien-Heinzen, who will be present at the meeting and who will submit Board Member Hahn's votes on a paper ballot. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

C. Election of President

Superintendent Dr. Rebecca Toetz presided and called for nominations for President of the Board.

Gail Lovick was nominated as President. A secret ballot vote was taken. The vote was 8 votes, with one abstaining. Lovick was declared President of the DeForest Area School District Board of Education.

President Presides

Newly elected Board President, Gail Lovick presided and called for nominations for the Vice President Officer Role.

D. Election of Vice President

Sue Esser and Megan Taylor were nominated for Vice President. On a 6-3 vote, Sue Esser was declared Vice President.

E. Election of Clerk

Jeff Hahn and Stephanie Sarr were nominated for Board Clerk. On a 5-4 vote, Stephanie Sarr was declared Clerk.

F. Election of Treasurer

Gussie Lewis was nominated for Treasurer. On motion by Berg, seconded by Coker, the Board voted to cast a unanimous vote in favor of Gussie Lewis. Lewis is declared the Treasurer.

G. Election of Governance Officer (s)

Brian Coker, Megan Taylor, and Jan Berg were nominated as Governance Officers. Coker received 7 votes, Berg received 6 votes, and Taylor received 5 votes. Coker and Berg were declared Governance Officers.

H. Schedule Regular Board Meetings or Work Sessions: Day,Time,Place, Number per Month

On a motion by Jan Berg, seconded by Megan Taylor, DeForest Area School District Board of Education meetings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, at 6:00 pm at the District Office, 500 S. Cleveland Avenue, DeForest, WI. (Administration will have the option to set an alternative site by posting.) The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

I. Appoint Fiscal Depository for District

On a motion by Jan Berg, seconded by Linda Leonhart, the DeForest Area Board of Education appointed DMB Community Bank as the fiscal depository for the district. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

J. Appoint School District Legal Counsel

On a motion by Brian Coker, seconded by Gussie Lewis, the DeForest Area Board of Education appointed Tess O'Brien-Heinzen, Renning, Lewis, & Lacy as the school district's legal counsel. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

K. Appoint School District Official Newspaper

On a motion by Berg, seconded by Esser, the DeForest Area Board of Education appointed The Star as the school district's official newspaper. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

L. Appoint Delegate and Alternate Delegate to WASB 2025 Delegate Assembly - January 22, 2025

Jan Berg made a motion that Brian Coker be appointed as WASB 2025 as Delegate, and Stephanie Sarr as Alternate Delegate to the WASB 2025 Delegate Assembly on January 22, 2025. Sue Esser seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

M. Appoint Board Representative to CESA #2 Annual Delegate Convention - June 18, 2024

Jan Berg made a motion that the Board appoint Stephanie Sarr as the DASD Board Representative to CESA #2 Annual Delegate Convention on June 18, 2024, and Linda Leonhart be the alternate. Sue Esser seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

O. Appoint Delegate to the WIAA Annual Meeting

On a motion by Coker, seconded by Lewis, the DeForest Area School District Board of Education appointed District Athletic Director Richard Henert as the delegate to the WIAA Annual Meeting.

	<p>P. Determine 2024 Budget Hearing/Annual Meeting date - September 23, 2024</p> <p>On a motion by Berg, seconded by Leonhart, the DeForest Area School District Board of Education voted to schedule the 2024 Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting on September 23, 2024. Motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Board Education</p> <p>A. Board education on Roles and Responsibilities of Board members - Tess O'Brien-Heinzen, Attorney - Renning, Lewis, & Lacy</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u> Board legal counsel, Tess O'Brien-Heinzen, Attorney, Renning, Lewis, & Lacy presented information on roles, responsibilities, legal considerations, and best practices for Board members.</p> <p>B. Report and education on District long-range financial planning - Jordan Masnica, Baird</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u> Administration proposed the approval of a Defeasance of general obligation refunding bonds. Jordan Masnica from Baird, and Director of Business and Auxiliary Services, Kathleen Davis-Phillips, presented the proposed defeasance plan. This defeasance is an essential next step to help stabilize the mill rate, minimize the impact of a future referendum, and save interest costs by restructuring debt. Overall, it is anticipated that this debt defeasance should save the community approximately \$1.98 million in future interest.</p> <p>Jeff Hahn left the meeting at 7:45 pm.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Board Business & possible Board action</p> <p>A. Board approval of Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Funds, the Establishment of an Escrow Account with Respect to and the Defeasance of Certain of the General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Dated July 31, 2019</p> <p>On a motion by Jan, seconded by Taylor, the DeForest Area School District Board of Education voted to approve a Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Funds, the Establishment of an Escrow Account with Respect to and the Defeasance of Certain of the General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Dated July 31, 2019.</p> <p>The motion passed by the following roll call vote: Aye: Jan Berg, Brian Coker, Sue Esser, Linda Leonhart, Gussie Lewis, Gail Lovick, Stephanie Sarr, and Megan Taylor. Absent: Jeff Hahn</p> <p>B. Discussion and possible next steps related to recent Board professional development workshop on Coherent Governance</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u>The Board reviewed priorities that were identified at the recent Board professional development workshop in Coherent Governance, and identified next steps or areas where more information is needed.</p> <p>C. Final discussions on Governance Culture (GC) policies</p>

	<p><u>Discussion:</u> The Board finalized the language in GC-2 and GC-7. All Governance Culture policies will be approved in the consent agenda of an upcoming Board meeting.</p>
7.	Public Input - None.
8.	<p>Board Consent Agenda</p> <p>A. Accept Minutes - April 19, 20, & 22, 2024</p> <p>B. Approval of Neola District policies revisions, including Neola Update 33.1</p> <p>C. Annual approval of Food Service Co-Op Agreement - WiSNP 66.03 for 2024-2025</p> <p>D. Approve monitoring report summary statements for Board policies OE-10 Learning Environment and OE-11 Instructional Program</p> <p>Taylor made a motion, Leonhart seconded to approve the Board Consent Agenda. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.</p>
9.	<p>Superintendent Consent Agenda</p> <p>A. Personnel Recommendations</p> <p>I. Separations: Ashley Streeter - Alternative Education Teacher DAHS - resignation effective 6/5/2024 Tressa Bauer - 5th grade Teacher Harvest - resignation effective 6/5/2024</p> <p>II. Appointments: Meghan Caulfield -English Teacher DAHS - replacing Gretchen McClain Thomas Mably - Science Teacher DAHS - replacing one-year position Katie Nelson - Special Education Teacher DAHS - new position Emily Johnson - 8th Grade Math Teacher DAMS - replacing Brea Skora Katherine Rozas - Multilingual Teacher Harvest - new position Ella Weaver - 2nd Grade Teacher EPES - new position Catherine Hayes - Special Education Coordinator District - new position</p> <p>III. Other: None</p> <p>Other Administrative Actions</p> <p>I. Separations: Jennifer Larson - Special Education Assistant DAHS - resignation effective 6/5/2024 Brandie Thrall - Recess EPES - resignation effective 4/29/2024 Jamie Znidarsich - Food Service Assistant Float - resignation effective 5/8/2024 Candy Luell - District Registrar DO - retirement effective 7/8/2024</p> <p>II. Appointments: None</p> <p>III. Other: None</p> <p>B. Vouchers Payable/Treasurer’s Report Paid: 209193-209276, 232402148-232402314, I 202300583-202300675</p> <p>On a motion by Coker, seconded by Sarr, the DeForest Area School District Board of Education, voted to approve the Superintendent Consent Agenda. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.</p>
10.	<p>Press Verification</p> <p>No member of the press was present at this time.</p>

11	<p>Convene into Closed Session</p> <p>Lewis moved, Berg seconded, to move into closed session at 8:47 pm. The motion was adopted by the following vote: Aye –Berg, Coker, Esser, Leonhart, Lewis, Lovick, Sarr, and Taylor. Naye – None. Absent – Hahn.</p> <p>While in Closed Session, the Board conducted business in accordance with WI Statute 19.85(1)(e) {consider and possibly approve adjustments to parameters of sale of the Holum Education Center site}</p>
14.	<p>Reconvene into Open Session</p> <p>On a motion by Taylor, seconded by Lewis, and passed by a unanimous show of hands the Board of Education reconvened into open session at 8:55 pm.</p>
15.	<p>Further action or discussion related to Closed Session business</p> <p>While in Closed Session the Board voted to adjust the parameters of the sale of the Holum Education Center site.</p>
16.	<p>Board Debrief</p>
17.	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>The Board of Education adjourned at 9:01 pm on a motion by Esser, seconded by Coker and passed unanimously by voice vote.</p>
	<p>DASD BOE President Signature:</p>
	<p>Date:</p>