DeForest Area School District
Board of Education Work Session Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 14, 2026 – 6:00 pm

1. Convene

A. Vice President Brian Coker called the September 14, 2026 Work Session meeting of the DeForest Area School District's Board of Education to order at 6:01 p.m in The Glenn of the District Office, 500 S. Cleveland Avenue, DeForest, WI 53532.

Superintendent, Dr. Rebecca Toetz verified that the meeting was properly noticed.

Board members present: Jan Berg, Brian Coker, Jeff Hahn, Linda Leonhart, Stephanie Sarr, and Megan Taylor. Absent were: Gail Lovick and Sue Esser. Gussie Lewis arrived at 6:05pm. Also present were administrators Dr. Rebecca Toetz, Kathleen Davis-Phillips, Dyanna Kadrich, Kate Dabetic, Chris Smith, Nate Jaeger, Roz Craney, Russ Tronson, and Kathy Williams.

B. Jan Berg recited the DeForest Area School District's Mission, Vision, and Equity Statements.

2. Approval of the Agenda

A. Approve Agenda

On a motion by Hahn, seconded by Leonhart, and passed unanimously by voice vote, the agenda was approved.

3. Board Objective

A. Strengthen the Board's understanding of how the District's K-3 social-emotional learning curriculum (CharacterStrong) and practices support student outcomes and align with the Board's Results Policy by exploring the District's social-emotional and behavioral assessment platform (SAEBRS) and how it is used to measure student growth and inform practice; and discuss potential changes to monitoring report indicators to ensure they provide meaningful evidence of progress toward the Board's desired results.

4. Board Education

A. Presentation by Elementary Counselors of CharacterStrong K-3 social-emotional learning and character education curriculum and a brief overview of SAEBRS assessment platform and how our district is utilizing and applying the data to support student success

Discussion:
Director of Student Services Dyanna Kadrich, along with Yahara Elementary Counselor Eric Norland and Eagle Point Elementary Counselor Jessica Luebke, presented an update to the Board regarding the District's K-3 curriculum, CharacterStrong. The presentation provided an overview of the evidence-based, whole-child program, which integrates social-emotional skill development with explicit instruction in ten foundational character traits: Kindness, Respect, Empathy, Cooperation, Courage, Responsibility, Perseverance, Creativity, Honesty, and Gratitude. Presenters detailed the core pillars of the curriculum—focusing on emotion regulation, social skills, and executive functioning. They demonstrated how the lessons are

embedded throughout the school day via weekly Life Skills lessons, community-building Morning Meetings, monthly character assemblies, and consistent daily behavior prompts.

Additionally, the counseling staff outlined the district's K–3 behavioral screening framework using teacher-reported SAEBRS and student-reported mySAEBRS assessments. Administered three times yearly, these brief tools measure social, academic, and emotional behavior to identify risk early, match specific student deficits to Tier 2 targeted interventions, and strengthen Tier 1 universal instruction.

5. Board Conversation

A. Dialogue about potential indicator revisions to monitoring reports for R-2 Numeracy, OE-3 Treatment of Community Stakeholders, OE-4 Personnel Administration, OE-10 Learning Environment, and OE-11Instructional Program

Discussion:
Director of Curriculum & Instruction 4K-6 Kate Dabetic, Director of Curriculum & Instruction 7-12 Chris Smith, Director of Student Services Dyanna Kadrich, and Director of Learning & Information Systems Russ Tronsen, presented proposed indicator revisions for R-2 and OE-11. Director of Human Resources Nate Jaeger, and Coordinator of School & Community Relations Kathy Williams presented proposed indicator revisions for OE-3, OE-4, and OE-10. The Board engaged in a discussion and provided feedback on the revisions. The updates will be brought back for approval at a future Board meeting.

6. Press Verification

A. No member of the press was present at this time.

7. Board Debrief

8. Adjourn

The Board of Education adjourned at 7:26 pm on a motion by Hahn, seconded by Taylor, and passed unanimously by voice vote.

DASD BOE President Signature: _____ Date: _____