

**FOND DU LAC BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**72 West Ninth Street**  
**Fond du Lac, Wisconsin**  
**October 9, 2023**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**WELCOME**

President Schreiter called a public hearing on the 2023-24 Budget to order at 4:30 p.m. Members present: Godfrey, Henschel, Hoerth, Moder, Pennau, Uselmann, Schreiter. Administrative Staff members present: Fleig, Gerlach, Lombardo, Marien, Reichenberger, Steinbarth.

**PURPOSE OF HEARING**

Present/Review the 2023-24  
Budget

The purpose of the Budget Hearing is to present and review the 2023-24 Budget.

**PRESENTATION OF THE 2023-24**

**PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

Michael Gerlach, Chief of Finance and Operations, presented the 2023-24 Preliminary Budget. He reviewed the district goals and offered comparisons to other similar districts. District operation funds are a balanced budget. The exception is the general fund (10), which used funds for the stadium construction. The mill rate is projected to increase slightly to \$6.42, which is still close to the lowest in the area. Final budget action will be taken by the board in October.

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

Jim Hess, W3678 Sunny Rd., Eden, contrasted government and private business. Dan Ireland, 102 S. Sallie Ave., talked about the DeVos school choice book and its claims.

**BOARD DISCUSSION**

**CLOSURE OF THE PUBLIC  
HEARING**

Uselmann cited a University of Arkansas study that contradicted Mr. Ireland's claims.

President Schreiter closed the public hearing at 5:01 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**CONVENE**

Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Moment of Reflection/Pledge of Allegiance  
President Schreiter called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Members present: Godfrey, Henschel, Hoerth, Moder, Pennau, Uselmann, Schreiter. Administrative Staff members present: Fleig, Gerlach, Lombardo, Marien, Reichenberger, Steinbarth.

A Moment of Reflection preceded the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by the Board.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/  
COMMUNICATIONS**

President Schreiter made the following announcements:

1. Following adjournment of the regular meeting, the Board will convene in executive session to discuss negotiations with ESPA and to confer with legal counsel with respect to litigation as provided for in Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(e) and (g).
2. October is Gifted Education Month - The enclosed proclamation from State Superintendent Jill Underly celebrates gifted education and declares October as Gifted Education Month to recognize the impact of supporting our gifted learners.
3. October is Keeping Kids Safe Online Month - This year's observance of Keeping Kids Safe Online in Wisconsin reminds us to remain steadfast in our pursuit to engage in the use of digital tools without sacrificing their safety and security. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction along with the Department of Justice continue to work together to help create awareness and provide resources to support safe and healthy online choices. The enclosed proclamation from State Superintendent Jill Underly promotes online safety and digital citizenship education.
4. October is National Principal Month - Celebrated every October, National Principals Month is an opportunity to celebrate and honor our incredible school principals for their visionary leadership and tireless pursuit of success for each student.
5. National School Lunch Week is October 9-13, 2023 - This annual observance promotes the importance of a healthy school lunch in a child's life and the impact it has both in and out of the classroom.
6. National School Bus Safety Week is October 16-20, 2023 - Held during the third full week of October each year, National School Bus Safety Week is an active and

evolving public education program and an excellent way for parents, students, teachers, motorists, school bus operators, school administrators, and other interested parties to join forces and address the importance of school bus safety.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Hess, W3678 Sunny Rd., Eden, asked all to pray for the peace of Israel and the US because Hamas is already here. He cited an article where teachers were concerned about shortages and bus driver shortages. He spoke about transgender bill hearings in Madison last week, and claimed the state superintendent couldn't be trusted about risks to transgender students because she changed data benchmarks. He mentioned the Kettle Moraine school district court decision which disallowed the use of preferred pronouns without parental consent. He claimed the federal government cannot make rules for the states because of the Tenth Amendment.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT  
RESOLUTION AGENDA

MOTION BY Henschel, seconded by Godfrey, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- . Approval of Minutes:
  1. September 11, 2023 Board of Education Regular Meeting, Workshop, and Executive Session as presented.
  2. September 25, 2023 Board of Education Regular Meeting and Executive Session as presented.
- B. Chief of Finance and Operations Approvals:
  1. September Financial Statement - Accepted and its publication authorized.
  2. Current Expenses – To approve bills of the Board of Education in the amount of \$11,018,393.96 and to have warrants drawn for their payment.
  3. Retirement - Deborah Micolichek, library/media specialist at Sabish and Theisen Middle Schools, effective January 19, 2023, with 31 years of dedicated service.
  4. Resignation - Stacey Matuszewski, special education teacher at Waters Elementary School, effective August 18, 2023.

MOTION CARRIED, ayes 7-0.

INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED  
RESOLUTIONS

Chief of Finance and Operations  
Consider Approval of Request to  
Apply for Educational Flexibility  
(Ed-Flex) Program Waiver

Mike Gerlach explained that due to conservative spending, there are excess Title I funds. The administration needs board permission to apply for a waiver to use the funds in a future year.

MOTION BY Godfrey, seconded by Henschel, that the Board of Education approve the request to apply for an Educational Flexibility (Ed-Flex) Program waiver. MOTION CARRIED, ayes 7-0.

BOARD/ADMINISTRATOR  
REPORTS

Superintendent  
Acknowledge Anonymous  
Donation

Dr. Fleig shared that the National Exchange Bank and Barbara and Peter Stone Family Foundations are donating \$1 million dollars for new playgrounds at the nine elementary schools. The district will add in \$250,000. Accessibility will be a consideration as things move forward, with a type of wood chips that are deemed handicap accessible rather than rubber surface.

Literacy Task Force

Literacy has not been growing at the same rate as mathematics and there will be a task force of district teachers from elementary and middle levels, representatives from the principal core and some administrators. This builds on the reading bill passed at the state level.

Board Members  
Student/Staff Activities

Pennau: visit to Waters; Moder: fundraiser for teen parent work; Godfrey: Walk with an Athlete at Riverside, football games, positive Chegwin feedback; Hoerth: 4th grade

volleyball, walk to school day, band practice, softball; Henschel: multiple sports, Cancer awareness month; Uselmann: homecoming parade and game, band competition; Schreiter: kudos to the social media team.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bob Rundle, 36 Greenbriar Ct., congratulated John Williams on his coming retirement, and expressed disappointment at the name change of the Community Aquatic Center to include District branding. (This is not actually happening.) He also reiterated that the Recreation Department staff should be returned to the building near Woodworth. Dan Ireland, 102 S. Sallie Ave., shared a DeVos book story about protesters during a voucher school visit, that protesters were there for unions and blue politicians, not the children. Charlotte Trotter, 77 E. 11th St., invited the public to the boys' volleyball game at 7pm tomorrow night. The team is having a winning season. She also spoke about black students using the Aquatic Center and needing appropriate swim caps for their hair.

**ADJOURNMENT TO AN EXECUTIVE  
SESSION TO DISCUSS NEGOTIA-  
TIONS WITH ESPA AND TO COFER  
WITH LEGAL COUNSEL WITH  
RESPECT TO LITIGATION AS  
PROVIDED FOR IN WISCONSIN  
STATUTES 19.85(1)(e) and (g)**

MOTION BY Godfrey, seconded by Uselmann, that the Board of Education adjourn the regular meeting and convene in an executive session to discuss negotiations with the Educational Support Professionals Association (ESPA) and to confer with legal counsel with respect to litigation as provided for in Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(e) and (g):  
“(e) 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.”  
“(g) Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.”  
MOTION CARRIED, ayes 7-0. The regular meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION  
CALL TO ORDER**

President Schreiter called an executive session of the Board of Education to order at 6:04 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Members present: Godfrey, Henschel, Hoerth, Moder, Pennau, Uselmann, Schreiter. Administrative Staff members present: Fleig, Gerlach, Lombardo, Marien, Steinbarth.

**DISCUSS NEGOTIATIONS WITH  
THE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT  
PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION  
(ESPA)**

The board received an update on negotiations with the ESPA group following another negotiation meeting.

**CONFER WITH LEGAL  
COUNSEL WITH RESPECT TO  
LITIGATION**

The board received a briefing and updates on a litigation situation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION BY Henschel, seconded by Moder, that the Board of Education adjourn the executive session. MOTION CARRIED, ayes 7-0. The executive session adjourned at 7:04 p.m.