

Eau Claire School Board Retreat Minutes
Friday, February 7, 2025, 1:30 p.m.
ECASD Administration Building – Room 123C
Generated by Terri Grzyb

Members present

Lori Bica (joined at 3:13 p.m.), Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Tim Nordin, Pa Thao, Erica Zerr

Members absent

Marquell Johnson

Superintendent Mike Johnson was also present (virtually)

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

The Board of Education participated in their self-evaluation. To help with this process, Bryn Horton, a member of the Sun Prairie Area School District Board, was invited to help facilitate. The Board reviewed the existing goals and progress from the last self-evaluation:

- Assess Board members' performance during Board meetings
 - This was done during the Board debrief at the end of each Board meeting, via a survey link. The Board discussed the practice of conducting board debriefs and its impact.
- Create a professional development plan
 - The Board acknowledged that the professional development plan was not completed over the last year. They discussed the need to revisit and improve the plan, emphasizing the importance of professional growth for Board members. Creating calendar events for this may help. Tim referred to the information regarding DeForest's community engagement work.
- Board summary statements for monitoring reports
 - The Board considered different methods for creating summary comments, aiming to capture the essence of discussions more accurately. They discussed the importance of consensus and clarity in these summaries.

The Board reviewed and discussed the 2025 feedback from the District leadership survey, looking at strengths, weaknesses, and suggestions for improvement.

The Board then set personal and Board goals for 2025:

- Review GC's (specifically, GC-2 and GC-7)
 - Need to have shared values, expectations, and initiatives.
 - This may impact how Board debriefs are structured going forward.
- Improve community engagement
 - Create a communication plan that allows for Board members to attend community events and provide updates on district programs and results.
- Professional development
 - Create a calendar that includes various events, such as Wisdom Sharing and the WASB state convention.
 - Conduct book studies (selecting relevant leadership and governance books to read and discuss as a group).
 - Consider attending professional learning sessions alongside administrators to gain insights into the latest educational practices and policies; host informal gatherings to build relationships and improve collaboration.