

Eau Claire School Board Minutes
Monday, April 7, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Blended Model – ECASD Administration Building and Livestream
Generated by Terri Grzyb

Members present

Lori Bica, Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Tim Nordin, Pa Thao, Erica Zerr

Members absent

Marquell Johnson

CONVENE (GC-1)

President Nordin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board Secretary Terri Grzyb confirmed the meeting had been properly noticed and was in compliance with the Open Meeting Law. A roll call was conducted to verify quorum. Andersson H. from Putnam Heights Elementary led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA (GC-2)

Motion by Stephanie Farrar, second by Lori Bica to adopt the Board agenda for April 7, 2025.

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Tim Nordin, Pa Thao, Erica Zerr

RECOGNITION (R-1)

Superintendent Johnson recognized Hmong Heritage Month, National School Librarian Day, and McKinley Charter School for their Baked Good Fundraiser and Cozy Ties Blanket Project.

PUBLIC FORUM (GC-2.3c)

No citizens of the public signed up to address the Board.

REPORTS

Legislative Liaison Report

Commissioner Dement provided a Legislative update, which included the following:

- On March 28, Governor Tony Evers vetoed AB 1/SB 18, a bill to undo recent changes to state cut scores and restrict DPI's ability to change them in the future.
- On April 1, Jill Underly was reelected to State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Local communities also passed 52 school district referendums, while 37 failed.
- On April 3, the Department of Education sent notice to states and school districts to comply with previous federal orders. Commissioner Dement read Jill Underly's response.

McKinley Charter School Update

Student Representative, Winter Fedie, provided an update on the recent baked goods fundraiser and cozy ties blanket project at McKinley Charter School, highlighting the skills learned and the organizations that benefited.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSENT AGENDA (GC-2.5)

Motion by Erica Zerr, second by Jarrett Dement to approve the following Superintendent's Consent Agenda items:

- Human Resources - Employment Report
- Cash balances by financial institution as of December 31, 2024
- Cash balances by financial institution as of January 31, 2025
- Financial Report - December 2024
- Financial Report - January 2025
- Gifts in the amount of \$16,109.89 for the period of December 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024
- Gifts in the amount of \$47,593.08 for the period of January 1, 2025, through January 31, 2025
- Gifts in the amount of \$2,780.00 for the period of February 1, 2025, through February 28, 2025

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Tim Nordin, Pa Thao, Erica Zerr

Superintendent Johnson announced the following administrative position upon approval of the employment report:

Brent Wathke will serve Delong Middle School students, staff, and families as Assistant Principal starting August 11, 2025.

BOARD'S CONSENT AGENDA (GC-2.5)

Motion by Lori Bica, second by Erica Zerr to approve the following Board Consent Agenda Items:

- Minutes of Closed Session - March 24, 2025
- Minutes of Board Meeting - March 24, 2025

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Tim Nordin, Pa Thao, Erica Zerr

BOARD DEVELOPMENT*Continuous Improvement in ECASD*

Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, Mandy Van Vleet, along with North High School staff (Kim Koller, John Samb, Nicole Vinopal, Brent Wathke, Jordan Fish, and Kelly Haskamp) shared continuous improvement efforts taking place in our District. The presentation focused on North High School's implementation of the School Administrators Institute for Transformational Leadership (SAIL) framework. SAIL is a two-year professional learning commitment for principals and school teams aimed at building deep organizational impact and addressing root cause problems at the instructional, organizational, and leadership levels. School improvement, specifically enhancing student academic achievement and instructional clarity, are the main goals of North's use of the SAIL process. Examples were shared of how referencing learning targets and success criteria throughout lessons helps students understand the goals for the day. Early results show a decrease in the number of freshmen needing credit recovery and an increase in student engagement during testing. The presentation emphasized the importance of sustaining these practices and expanding them to other schools in the District. Discussion and questions followed.

Business Services Financial Update

Executive Director of Business Services, Dr. Mark Elworthy, along with Accounting Manager, Zeke Steuerwald, presented an overview of the Business Services Department. Topics included switching to a new business information system, updating purchasing practices, and implementing process improvement strategies. The coordinated budgeting and staffing process was shared, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and planning to maximize resources and support students. Spring projects, cost containment, as well as enrollment and budget projections were touched upon. An update on self-insurance indicated an increase in visits and savings from imaging services. Lastly, the impact of the state budget on school funding and staffing was highlighted. Discussion and questions followed.

BOARD DEBRIEF (GC-2.3)

President Nordin asked Board members to complete the survey before adjourning.

ADJOURN

Motion by Stephanie Farrar, second by Erica Zerr to adjourn meeting.

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Tim Nordin, Pa Thao, Erica Zerr

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.