

Eau Claire School Board Minutes
Monday, August 4, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
ECASD Administration Building and Livestream
Generated by Terri Grzyb

Members Present

Lori Bica, Jasmine Case, Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Tim Nordin, Pa Thao

Members Absent

Erica Zerr

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. The Pledge of Allegiance was offered.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA (GC-2)

Motion by Stephanie Farrar, second by Lori Bica to adopt the Board agenda for August 4, 2025.

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Jasmine Case, Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Tim Nordin, Pa Thao

RECOGNITION (R-1)

Superintendent Johnson recognized Flynn Elementary for their “Bee-yond the Garden Gates” project.

PUBLIC FORUM (GC-2.3c)

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

REPORTS

Legislative Liaison Report

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

- A new bill was introduced by Republican lawmakers to repeal Governor Evers' veto to increase revenue limits.
- Updates from the DPI included the Trump administration unfreezing roughly \$50 million of education funds that were previously withheld. Wisconsin will receive a portion of these funds.
- A new Wisconsin policy planning study showed that Wisconsin has dropped to 26th in the nation for per-pupil education spending, down from 25th in 2020. The recently passed budget includes increases for education, but no additional general aid was provided.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSENT AGENDA (GC-2.5)

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

- Human Resources – Employment Report [HIRE: Grade 1 Teacher, Grade 2 Teacher, Grade 3 Teacher, Grade 5 Teacher, Grade 6 Teachers, Instructional/SEL Coach, School Counselor, School Psychologists, Special Education Teachers; RESIGN: Special Education Teachers; TRANSFER: Reading Interventionist – Bilingual, Grade 4 Teacher]
- Gifts in the amount of \$39,130.23 for the period of June 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Jasmine Case, Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Tim Nordin, Pa Thao

BOARD'S CONSENT AGENDA (GC-2.5)

Motion by Pa Thao, second by Jarrett Dement to approve the following Board Consent Agenda Items:

- Minutes of Board Meeting - July 21, 2025

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Jasmine Case, Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Tim Nordin, Pa Thao

ITEM RESERVED FOR BOARD ACTION

Dr. Mark Elworthy, Executive Director of Business Services, presented an update on the self-insurance plan, including the timeline, current differences between ODAC (Oakwood Direct Access Center) and Achieve Health, and the impact of the plan on cost savings and prescription rebates. The recommendation was to consider discontinuing ODAC services and transitioning to Achieve Health. Discussion and questions followed, with Board members emphasizing the importance of maintaining quality care, the impact on staff, and the need for in-person mental health services. The decision was made to vote on the recommendation at the next meeting.

WORK SESSION

Motion by Stephanie Farrar, second by Pa Thao to adjourn to work session at 7:50 p.m.

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Jasmine Case, Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Tim Nordin, Pa Thao

President Nordin reconvened the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

The Board discussed recommendations from Neola (policy consultant group) regarding district-level policies. President Nordin suggested that items already covered in governance policies should be stricken from district-level policy to avoid redundancy and potential conflict. The Board agreed to only address these if a compelling case is brought forward.

The Board reviewed merging OE-5.2 and OE-5.8 (from the OE-5 Student Success monitoring report) into a single statement to ensure instructional programs are based on best practices and regularly evaluated. The merged draft was accepted for inclusion on the next consent agenda.

Dang Yang, Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, presented a review of the District's equity statement, highlighting the need for updates to reflect contemporary discussions and narratives. Board members discussed the importance of making the statement more inclusive and accessible to all staff and students. The Board agreed to adopt the proposed changes to the equity statement at the next meeting and to work on a larger revision to be completed by next year. Commissioner Farrar was nominated to lead the subcommittee for the revision.

BOARD DEBRIEF (GC-2.3)

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

ADJOURN

Motion by Stephanie Farrar, second by Jarrett Dement to adjourn meeting.

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Jasmine Case, Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Tim Nordin, Pa Thao

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.