

Eau Claire School Board Minutes
Monday, January 5, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
ECASD Administration Building and Livestream
Generated by Terri Grzyb

Members Present

Lori Bica, Jasmine Case, Jarrett Dement (arrived at 6:03 p.m.), Stephanie Farrar, Tim Nordin, Pa Thao, Erica Zerr

CONVENE (GC-1)

President Nordin called the meeting to order at 6:00 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.

CLOSED SESSION (B/SR-5)

Motion by Pa Thao, second by Erica Zerr to move to Closed Session pursuant to 19.85(1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Jasmine Case, Stephanie Farrar, Tim Nordin, Pa Thao, Erica Zerr

Not Present at Vote: Jarrett Dement

RECONVENE (GC-1)

President Nordin reconvened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. and announced that the Board approved the Superintendent's annual summary review letter. Addison (Addy) P. from Locust Lane Elementary led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA (GC-2)

Motion by Jarrett Dement, second by Lori Bica to adopt Board agenda for January 5, 2026.

Motion carried

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

RECOGNITION (R-1)

Superintendent Johnson recognized National Mentoring Month. In addition, Rebecca G., a North High School student, was recognized for leading the Blanket Community Project, providing 100 blankets for children in need and coordinating volunteers, exemplifying Husky pride.

PUBLIC FORUM (GC-2.3c)

The following citizens addressed the School Board:

1) Emily Freeman; 2) Katie Sideri

REPORTS

Legislative Liaison Report

Commissioner Thao provided a Legislative update, which included an overview of several legislative bills introduced in late December, detailing their potential impacts on district policies, curriculum, and student welfare.

- Assembly Bill 678 would require school boards to adopt a policy on appropriate communications between district employees, volunteers, and students by July 1, 2026
- Assembly Bill 749 would mandate instruction on human organ and blood donation for at least one of grades 9-12

- Assembly Bill 795 would require DPI to maintain a portal with outcomes of investigations into license holders to increase transparency
- Assembly Bill 810 proposes increasing daily recess for K-6 students to at least 60 minutes

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: School Counselor, Special Ed Teacher; RESIGN: German Teacher; RETIRE: Principal; TRANSFER: Special Ed Teacher]
- Cash balances by financial institution as of July 31, 2025
- Cash balances by financial institution as of August 31, 2025
- Cash balances by financial institution as of September 30, 2025
- Financial Report - July 2025
- Financial Report - August 2025
- Financial Report - September 2025
- Gifts in the amount of \$19,509.00 for the period of September 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025
- Gifts in the amount of \$6,905.01 for the period of October 1, 2025, through October 31, 2025
- Gifts in the amount of \$18,287.15 for the period of November 1, 2025, through November 30, 2025
- Payment of all bills in the amount of \$9,223,408.79 and net payroll in the amount of \$4,326,153.44 for the period of July 1, 2025, through July 31, 2025
- Payment of all bills in the amount of \$6,931,839.67 and net payroll in the amount of \$6,541,980.76 for the period of August 1, 2025, through August 31, 2025
- Payment of all bills in the amount of \$15,060,057.96 and net payroll in the amount of \$5,346,337.48 for the period of September 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025
- Head Start Grant Approval
- 2026-2027 School Year Calendar
- 2026-2027 Early Learning Calendar
- Capital Project Bid

Motion carried

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

BOARD'S CONSENT AGENDA (GC-2.5)

Motion by Lori Bica, second by Jarrett Dement to approve the following Board Consent Agenda Items:

- Minutes of Board Meeting - December 15, 2025
- Proclamation Recognizing National Human Trafficking Awareness Month
- Board Summary Statement for R-2: Academic Performance
- Ratification of ECASD and ECAE Master Agreement

Motion carried

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

FOCUS ON RESULTS

North High School: Commitment to Excellence Through Continuous Improvement

North High School Principal, Kim Koller, and the North High School team (Nicole Vinopal, Assistant Principal; John Samb, Assistant Principal; Jacob Ricci, Algebra Teacher; Jordan Fish, Instructional Coach, and Paulette Sampson, Instructional Coach), along with Kaying Xiong, Executive Director of Student Services and Special Education, presented a comprehensive overview of North's three-year continuous improvement journey, focusing on lesson clarity, instructional coherence, and measurable gains in student outcomes. The key is to create a supportive learning environment, leveraging existing resources. In 2022, the school identified unclear expectations and lack of supportive environments as root causes for low achievement and set ambitious

improvement goals. Key strategies included improving attendance through relationship-building, implementing a structured environment for freshmen, and focusing on lesson clarity using an Adult Learning Framework. Professional learning, peer observations, and instructional coaching were used to support staff, especially new teachers. Results showed 90% of classrooms using clear learning targets, improved attendance, higher GPAs, increased credit completion, fewer behavior incidents, and a significant rise in the school report card score to "exceeds expectations." The school continues to address achievement gaps and will focus on sustaining and refining these systems. Board members commended the staff's hard work, vulnerability, and commitment to continuous improvement.

MONITORING DISTRICT RESULTS

OE-9 Budget and Financial Planning and OE-10 Financial Administration

Mark Elworthy, Executive Director of Business Services, and Superintendent Johnson presented the OE-9 and OE-10 financial monitoring reports, discussing budget planning, fund balances, insurance costs, and audit processes. Discussion and questions followed.

Motion by Erica Zerr, second by Stephanie Farrar to accept the monitoring report for OE-9 Budget and Financial Planning.

Motion carried

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

Motion by Tim Nordin, second by Jarrett Dement to move OE-10 to future Board consent as long as it's in full compliance. *Discussion on motion.*

Motion failed

Yes: Jarrett Dement, Tim Nordin

No: Lori Bica, Jasmine Case, Stephanie Farrar, Pa Thao, Erica Zerr

Motion by Stephanie Farrar, second by Jarrett Dement to accept the monitoring report for OE-10 Financial Administration.

Motion carried

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

MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD ACTION

Consideration of 2026 WASB Resolutions

Board members were asked how to vote for the Resolutions that will be considered by the Delegate Assembly at the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) Convention on January 21, 2026, in Milwaukee. President Nordin will serve as the WASB Delegate for our District. Discussion occurred with planned follow-up reporting after the assembly.

Motion by Erica Zerr, second by Jarrett Dement to instruct the WASB Delegate to vote yes on Resolutions #1, #3-6, #8, #9, and #12.

Motion carried

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

Motion by Stephanie Farrar, second by Jarrett Dement to instruct the WASB Delegate to vote no on Resolution #2.

Motion carried

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

Motion by Stephanie Farrar, second by Jarrett Dement to instruct WASB Delegate to vote yes on Resolution #7.

Motion carried

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

Motion by Stephanie Farrar, second by Pa Thao to instruct WASB Delegate to vote yes on Resolution #11 and no on Resolution #10.

Motion carried

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

BOARD DEBRIEF (GC-2.3)

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

ADJOURN

Motion by Jarrett Dement, second by Erica Zerr to adjourn meeting

Motion carried

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.