

Eau Claire School Board Minutes
Monday, April 20, 2026, 6:00 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, Erica Zerr (arrived at 6:07 p.m.)

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 Lori Bica to move to closed session pursuant to 19.85(1)(c) Considering 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, Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Tim Nordin, Pa Thao

Not Present at Vote: Erica Zerr

RECONVENE (GC-1)

President Nordin reconvened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and announced that the Board took no action during closed session. Eli and Jaden T. from Robbins Elementary School led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA (GC-2)

Motion by Jarrett Dement, second by Lori Bica to adopt the Board agenda for April 20, 2026.

Motion carried

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

RECOGNITION (R-1)

Superintendent Johnson recognized Hmong Heritage Month and National School Librarian Day.

PUBLIC FORUM (GC-2.3c)

The following citizens addressed the School Board, expressing concerns about proposed reductions in force:

1) Nick Phillips; 2) Oliver Phillips; 3) Colin Schumacher; 4) Jessica Smith; 5) Nathan Phillips

The following citizens addressed the School Board regarding the Wisconsin Seal of Biliteracy and the Dual Immersion program:

6) Sarah Pederson; 7) Rio Pederson; 8) Ryan Mahr; 9) Dani Mahr

REPORTS

Legislative Liaison Report

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

- Proposal (LRB-6488) led by Representative Christian Phelps and Assembly Democrats would invest over \$1.3 billion of the state surplus into public schools—significantly increasing general aid and special education reimbursement, while aiming to reduce the burden on local property taxpayers.

- Assembly Bill 1176 and Senate Bill 1151 focus specifically on increasing special education reimbursement and adjusting equalization aid formulas—addressing one of the most significant and ongoing funding gaps for districts like ours.
- There is continued legislative movement around maintaining caps on the expansion of private school voucher programs (LRB-2916/1), also led by Rep. Christian Phelps. This draft bill has direct implications for how public education is funded and sustained in the long term.

Board Debrief Report

The Board had no questions or comments.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSENT AGENDA (GC-2.5)

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

- Human Resources – Employment Report [HIRE: Elementary Literacy/SEL Coach; RESIGN: Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, Business Education Teacher, Director of Secondary Programming & Post Secondary Readiness; TRANSFER: Assistant Principal – Interim, Behavioral Interventionist, Math Interventionist, Special Education Teacher; RETIRE: Alternative Education Teacher; VOLUNTARY REDUCTION: Social Studies Teacher]
- District 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan
- Authorization to the Executive Director of Human Resources

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 Stephanie Farrar, second by Jarrett Dement to approve the following Board Consent Agenda Items (9.2 and 9.5):

- Minutes of Board Meeting - April 6, 2026
- Supplemental Insurance Renewal

Motion carried

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

President Tim Nordin pulled item 9.3 Health Insurance Renewal and item 9.4 Dental Insurance Renewal and led discussion.

Health Insurance Renewal

Motion by Tim Nordin, second by Stephanie Farrar to approve Scenario 2 (Fuchsia Option) with \$28,102,850 in total expected cost.

Motion carried

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

No: Erica Zerr

Dental Insurance Renewal

Motion by Tim Nordin, second by Lori Bica to approve a zero-percentage increase based on annual performance that has been less than 100% of funding.

Motion carried

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

FOCUS ON RESULTS

Dual Credit Opportunities

Mandy Van Vleet, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, along with Michelle Radke (Director of Secondary Programming and Post-Secondary Readiness) and Dave Oldenberg (Memorial High School Principal), presented a comprehensive overview of dual credit opportunities in the District, detailing participation data, equity considerations, program structures, and strategies to expand access and support student success. Discussion and questions followed.

MONITORING DISTRICT RESULTS

Superintendent Johnson presented the monitoring report for OE-8 Communication with the Board. Discussion and questions followed.

Motion by Stephanie Farrar, second by Lori Bica to accept the monitoring report for OE-8 Communication with the Board.

Motion carried

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

Superintendent Johnson presented the monitoring report for OE-12 Facilities. Discussion and questions followed.

Motion by Jarrett Dement, second by Lori Bica to accept the monitoring report for OE-12 Facilities.

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.

OATH OF OFFICE

Elected School Board Members (Lori Bica, Jarrett Dement, and Pa Thao) took the Oath of Office.

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, Erica Zerr

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.