

Eau Claire School Board Retreat Minutes
Thursday, August 3, 2023, 1:00 p.m.
ECASD Administration Building
Generated by Terri Grzyb

Members present

Lori Bica, Joshua Clements (left at 3:50 p.m.), Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Marquell Johnson (joined at 1:53 p.m., left at 4:14 p.m.), Tim Nordin, Erica Zerr

Superintendent Mike Johnson was also present

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

The Board of Education participated in their annual self-evaluation. To help with this process, Brynn Horton, a member of the Sun Prairie Area School Board, was invited to help facilitate. The Board reviewed and discussed results from a 360-feedback survey that was sent to select system leaders. The survey asked the following questions: 1) What do you see as strengths of the current School Board? 2) What do you see as weaknesses of the current School Board? 3) Can you suggest recommendations to help the Board improve? 4) How well do you feel the current School Board's goals fit the direction of the ECASD? 5) Do you have recommendations that can help the Board improve their goals or direction?

Among the strengths was that the Board is supportive of staff and students. More engagement with the community and building leaders, along with aligning goals, were indicated among weaknesses and/or something the Board could do to be better. Discussion of all feedback and a self-evaluation questionnaire led to how the weaknesses can become strengths and, thus, become goals for the Board as a whole and on an individual level.

Goals for the School Board as a whole for 2023-24 included the following:

- Attend professional development on governance and other educational issues
- Continue to be public education advocates
- Improve financial stewardship
- Improve questioning skills and alter Board dynamics (work together as a team) with Administration
- Find ways to talk to the public after Board meetings (key talking points)
- Create more opportunities for community engagement
- Figure out how to deal with the outdated Board strategic plan
- Work on ways to feel more comfortable regarding accountability role with Coherent Governance
- Refine monitoring reports (what indicators can we do without) and make more proactive

Goals for individuals, personally, included the following:

- Create more connections and relationships with other Boards, both locally and professionally
- Commit to understand more during Board meetings

Abby Johnson, Executive Director of Business Services, and Kaying Xiong, Executive Director of Student Services and Special Education, joined at 3:20 p.m. The Board discussed the goals they arrived at and how they align with Administration's goals.

The Board agreed on three goals until the next self-evaluation in February 2024. Those goals are as follows:

- Work on community engagement through continuation of the Key Communicator Group
- Create a professional development plan
- Monitor Board performance at regular meetings (with a focus on GC-7 as a framework for Board Debriefts)

The next Board Self-Evaluation Retreat is scheduled for February 5, 2024. At that time, the Board will assess how things are going and have a larger discussion on a community engagement plan moving forward and how to build a high-level vision.