

Eau Claire School Board Minutes
Monday, March 18, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Blended Model – ECASD Administration Building and Livestream
Generated by Terri Grzyb

Members present

Lori Bica, Joshua Clements, Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Marquell Johnson, Tim Nordin, 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. Naiya L. from Longfellow Elementary led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA (GC-2)

Motion by Erica Zerr, second by Joshua Clements to adopt the Board agenda for March 18, 2024.

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Joshua Clements, Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Marquell Johnson, Tim Nordin, Erica Zerr

RECOGNITION (R-1)

Superintendent Johnson recognized National Music in Our Schools Month, Youth Art Month, National School Social Work Week, and the Kindness Challenge at Manz Elementary School.

PUBLIC FORUM (GC-2.3c)

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

REPORTS

Referendum Committee Report (GC-5)

Commissioner Johnson provided a Referendum Committee report. The committee met on March 11 to solidify final questions that will be on the community survey.

Legislative Liaison

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

The state Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) voted to approve 4 of the 11 proposed curricula for early literacy. The Senate Committee on Mental Health, Substance Abuse Prevention, Children and Families voted against legislation that would bar transgender athletes from playing girls sports. Voters will find 91 local school district referendums on the April 2 ballot in 85 districts. With new state legislative maps getting signed into law, lawmakers across the state are turning their eyes to the coming election season. New maps bring many changes, including possible changes to longstanding relationships built with state representatives. Public education partners have created a short, animated video that explains public school funding.

Key Communicators Group Update

Commissioner Dement provided an update on the Key Communicators Group, which recently met. The group focused on OE-3 Climate Commitment and OE-10 Financial Administration. Participants were pleased to hear that the District is on track with climate commitment goals. The majority of the conversation centered on the underfunding of education in Wisconsin, as well as the fiscal cliff caused by the expiring of ESSER funds and the necessity of a referendum.

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 - March 18, 2024
- Cash balances by financial institution as of January 31, 2024
- Financial Report - January 2024

- Gifts in the amount of \$8,758.29 for the period of January 1, 2024, through January 31, 2024
- Payment of all bills in the amount of \$7,336,538.57 and net payroll in the amount of \$4,954,506.96 for the period of January 1, 2024, through January 31, 2024
- 2024-2025 Early Learning Calendar
- Referendum Project Bids
- Food & Nutrition Project Bids
- Emergency Response Plan
- CESA 10 Contract

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Joshua Clements, Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Marquell Johnson, Tim Nordin, Erica Zerr

BOARD'S CONSENT AGENDA (GC-2.5)

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

- Minutes of Closed Session - February 15, 2024
- Minutes of Closed Session - February 19, 2024
- Minutes of Board Meeting - February 19, 2024
- Minutes of Public Hearing - February 21, 2024
- Minutes of Closed Session - February 21, 2024
- Minutes of Closed Session - March 4, 2024
- Board Summary Statement for OE-7 Community Engagement
- Health Insurance Renewal Rates

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Joshua Clements, Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Marquell Johnson, Tim Nordin, Erica Zerr

Motion by Joshua Clements, second by Jarrett Dement to adjourn to work session.

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Joshua Clements, Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Marquell Johnson, Tim Nordin, Erica Zerr

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

President Nordin reconvened the meeting at 7:19 p.m. Abby Johnson, Executive Director of Business Services, presented information to the Board regarding the upcoming operational referendum. The goals for this session included sharing current budget projections, finalizing the community survey, determining what amounts to test in the survey, and reviewing what recurring vs. non-recurring entails. A timeline and target dates were shown (the survey will need to be finalized by March 29; phone interviews will begin on April 2; survey results will be presented on May 6; the School Board will adopt a question on June 3). Budget projections with various referendum amounts, along with the tax impact, were displayed. An in-depth look at the survey took place, which included the survey introduction, demographics, specific questions, and what amounts to include. Examples of recurring vs. non-recurring questions were provided, as well as the District's referendum history. Discussion and questions occurred throughout the session.

BOARD DEBRIEF (GC-2.3)

Commissioner Bica reminded Board Members to fill out the Board Debrief.

ADJOURN

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

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Joshua Clements, Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Marquell Johnson, Tim Nordin, Erica Zerr

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.