

Eau Claire School Board Minutes
Monday, April 15, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Blended Model – ECASD Administration Building and Livestream
Generated by Terri Grzyb

Members present

Lori Bica, Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Tim Nordin, Erica Zerr

Members absent

Joshua Clements, Marquell Johnson

CONVENE (GC-1)

President Nordin called the meeting to order at 7:01 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. Victoria R. from the Eau Claire Virtual 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 15, 2024.

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Tim Nordin, Erica Zerr

RECOGNITION (R-1)

Superintendent Johnson recognized Hmong Heritage Month (a live performance by students followed) and "The Masked Reader" at Sherman Elementary School.

PUBLIC FORUM (GC-2.3c)

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

REPORTS

Referendum Committee Report (GC-5)

No Referendum Committee Report, as Commissioner Johnson was absent. The Committee has not met since the last Board meeting.

Legislative Liaison

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

- Voters across Wisconsin approved 62 of the 103 school district referenda placed on primary and general election ballots this spring. The 60.2% approval rate was the lowest in a midterm or presidential election year since 2010. More districts asked to increase property taxes for operations rather than capital needs, a sign of the stress they are facing from inflation, state caps on their revenues, declining enrollment, and the expiration of federal pandemic aid.
- Governor Evers signed a bill requiring Hmong and Asian American instruction in K-12 schools.
- Governor Evers vetoed AB 377, a bill to regulate the participation of transgender athletes in school sports.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSENT AGENDA (GC-2.5)

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

- Human Resources - Employment Report
- Cash balances by financial institution as of February 28, 2024
- Financial Report - February 2024
- Payment of all bills in the amount of \$6,744,647.28 and net payroll in the amount of \$5,243,819.63 for the period of February 1, 2024, through February 29, 2024
- Re-employment of Certified Staff for the 2024-25 School Year
- Preliminary Notice of Non-Renewal for Limited Term Contracts

- Authorization to the Executive Director of Human Resources

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Tim Nordin, Erica Zerr

BOARD'S CONSENT AGENDA (GC-2.5)

Motion by Jarrett Dement, second by Erica Zerr to approve the following Board Consent Agenda Items:

- Minutes of Board Meeting - April 1, 2024

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Tim Nordin, Erica Zerr

FOCUS ON RESULTS

Jim Schmitt, Eau Claire Virtual School (ECVS) Principal, and Shannyn Pinkert, ECVS Governance Board, Inc., President, presented information about ECVS. ECVS is a community-based and relationship-based K-12 school, governed by a local board. The number of enrolled students and the services offered at each grade level were provided. Local and personalized connections to the Eau Claire Area School District and staff, along with regular communication between ECVS and schools, are keys to the success of the school and its students, with many layers of support offered. ECVS partners with Pearson for their online curriculum and has options for in-person classes and activities, depending on the student's grade. Additional details shared included successes of the program, opportunities for growth, demographics, reasons for enrolling in ECVS, credit attainment rates, 4-year graduation rates, graduate post-secondary enrollment, and family survey results. 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 Erica Zerr, second by Jarrett Dement to accept the monitoring report for OE-8 Communication with the Board.

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Tim Nordin, Erica Zerr

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

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

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Tim Nordin, Erica Zerr

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Superintendent Johnson and Abby Johnson, Executive Director of Business Services, presented information on the upcoming referendum. Current objectives include adopting a question on June 3 and working on a communication plan. The community survey will be complete on April 17. The Referendum Committee will then review the survey results on May 3, with a presentation to the full Board on May 6. A Referendum Communication Committee has been formed that will inform staff and community members of referendum information. Communication will be shared via videos, the District Update and website, public presentations, mailings, and social media. The District will meet with key community groups and the media, as needed. Discussion and questions followed.

BOARD DEBRIEF (GC-2.3)

President Nordin reminded Board Members to fill out the survey in the Board Debrief.

ADJOURN

Motion by Stephanie Farrar, second by Erica Zerr to adjourn meeting.

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Jarrett Dement, Stephanie Farrar, Tim Nordin, Erica Zerr

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.