

Eau Claire School Board Minutes
Monday, August 21, 2023, 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, Erica Zerr

Members absent

Tim Nordin

CONVENE (GC-1)

Vice President Bica called the meeting to order at 7:02 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was offered.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA (GC-2)

Motion by Stephanie Farrar, second by Joshua Clements to adopt the Board agenda for August 21, 2023.

Motion carried

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

RECOGNITION (R-1)

Superintendent Johnson recognized the EMLSS (Equitable, Multi-Level System of Supports) Success in our schools.

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 August 7. Preliminary discussions took place regarding a proposed operational referendum and an overview of necessary deadlines for moving forward with a referendum in April or November.

Legislative Liaison

Commissioner Farrar provided a Legislative update, which included the following:
Attorney General Josh Kaul announced that the WI Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of School Safety (OSS) has secured one-time funding to temporarily continue its current, lifesaving operations to keep Wisconsin kids safe. Governor Tony Evers signed a bill allowing school board members to serve as volunteer school bus drivers. GOP legislators are circulating a bill draft to eliminate restrictions on low revenue ceiling. WASB supports this proposal.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSENT AGENDA (GC-2.5)

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

- Human Resources - Employment Report
- Cash balances by financial institution as of June 30, 2023
- Gifts in the amount of \$11,668.20 for the period of July 1, 2023, through July 31, 2023
- Referendum Project Bids

Motion carried

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

Superintendent Johnson announced the following administrative positions upon approval of employment reports:

- Christy Brower is the South Middle School Assistant Principal for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Dana McConnell is the Director of Special Education effective August 14, 2023.
- Nick Flinner is the DeLong Middle School Assistant Principal for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Michelle Golden is the Substitute Executive Director of Administration effective August 21, 2023.

Superintendent Johnson also referred to a request from a Board member in June regarding data from administrative hires. This will be reviewed and provided to the Board this week.

BOARD'S CONSENT AGENDA (GC-2.5)

Motion by Joshua Clements, second by Jarrett Dement to approve the following Board Consent Agenda Items:

- Minutes of Open Segment of Closed Session - July 17, 2023
- Minutes of Board Meeting - July 24, 2023
- Minutes of Board Meeting - August 3, 2023
- Changes to Governance Policies
- Ratification of ECASD and ECAE Master Agreement
- R-1 Mega Result: Affirm
- OE-1 Global Operational Expectation: Affirm
- OE-13 Emergency Superintendent Succession

Motion carried

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

MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD ACTION

Executive Director of Human Resources, Kay Marks, and Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Dang Yang, presented modifications to the 2023-2024 Employee Handbook. Kay thanked the members of the Employee Relations Committee (ERC) for their work on this throughout the past school year. The process used to create the modifications included the building improvement committees. In addition, Dang was asked to join and help facilitate in the work so the handbook could be looked at through an EDI lens. Opportunities to make changes to language on what employees can do to be successful was also part of this work. Discussion and questions followed.

Motion by Stephanie Farrar, second by Joshua Clements to approve the 2023-2024 Employee Handbook modifications as presented.

Motion carried

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

Kim Koller provided an update on the work of the Demographic Trends & Facilities Planning Committee for the 2022-2023 school year. The charge or priority that was worked on last school year was a need for space. Specifically, considering an alternative site for students with Individualized Education Programs that demonstrate significant social, emotional, and/or behavioral needs, as previous community partners that provided these services were no longer available. After reviewing all options, the committee recommended renovating the Arlington wing at Memorial High School as the most equitable opportunity for this alternate programming with an estimated cost of \$285,000-\$300,000 (capital improvement project). Land acquisition adjacent to Northwoods Elementary was also discussed (potential needs/uses). The committee recommended developing an agreement to purchase this land. Lastly, the committee asked the Board for a new charge for the 2023-2024 school year. Discussion and questions followed.

No action was taken, as the Board requires more information.

BOARD DEBRIEF (GC-2.3)

Commissioner Farrar led the Board Debrief.

ADJOURN

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

Motion carried

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.