

Eau Claire School Board Minutes

Monday, November 27, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Blended Model – ECASD Administration Building and Livestream

Generated by Terri Grzyb

Members present

Lori Bica, Joshua Clements, Stephanie Farrar, Marquell Johnson, Tim Nordin, Erica Zerr

Members absent

Jarrett Dement

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. Thoryn and Lucas K. from Manz Elementary led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA (GC-2)

Motion by Stephanie Farrar, second by Joshua Clements to adopt the Board agenda for November 27, 2023

Motion carried

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

RECOGNITION (R-1)

Superintendent Johnson recognized the Identity Project at Manz Elementary and Family Focus Circles at Putnam Elementary.

PUBLIC FORUM

The following citizen addressed the Board: Mark Goings (What is the vision of our District for the next 5-15 years).

REPORTS

Referendum Committee Report (GC-5)

Commissioner Johnson provided a Referendum Committee report. The committee met on November 15 and 20 to discuss the best timeline for a 2024 operational referendum and whether we should move forward with an April or November date. The committee was provided various referendum amounts and the impact on local tax levy and requested further information on what is at risk of being lost due to an unsuccessful referendum and/or the timeline of the referendum. With the information provided at the time, the committee recommends an April referendum.

Legislative Liaison

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

The Senate Committee on Mental Health, Substance Abuse Prevention, Children and Families will hold a public hearing on SB 597. This bill requires school boards to develop and implement a policy for notifying parents/guardians of children under 16 of each material checked out by their child at school libraries.

Also, SB 688 was introduced in the Senate. This bill would require that school boards solicit bids and award a public works contract to the lowest bidder if the estimated cost of a contract exceeds \$150,000 and the contract is for the construction, repair, remodeling, or improvement of a public school building or for the furnishing of supplies or materials.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Stephanie Farrar, second by Lori Bica to approve the following Superintendent's Consent Agenda items 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, and 6.6 (item 6.7 was pulled by Marquell Johnson for discussion):

- Human Resources - Employment Report
- Cash balances by financial institution as of September 30, 2023

- Payment of all bills in the amount of \$7,736,312.58 and net payroll in the amount of \$7,447,275.83 for the period of September 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023
- Gifts in the amount of \$10,714.29 for the period of September 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023
- Gifts in the amount of \$221,675.02 for the period of October 1, 2023, through October 31, 2023

Motion carried

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

Commissioner Johnson pulled item 6.7 Transportation Contract and led discussion.

Motion by Marquell Johnson, second by Erica Zerr to approve Transportation Contract.

Motion carried

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

BOARD'S CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Erica Zerr, second by Joshua Clements to approve the following Board Consent Agenda Items:

- Minutes of Closed Session - November 6, 2023
- Minutes of Board Meeting - November 6, 2023
- Resolution Authorizing a Taxable Tax and Revenue Anticipation Promissory Note for Cash Flow Purposes in an Amount Not to Exceed \$7,000,000
- Delegate Authority to Executive Director of Business Services to Request Cash Advances on the Line of Credit at Merchants Bank through June 30, 2024

Motion carried

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

FOCUS ON RESULTS

Mandy Van Vleet, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning; Heather Grant, Director of Early Learning and Elementary Programming; Jessica Pelka, Teaching and Learning Coordinator for PK-5 Literacy; and Abbie Oleson, Literacy/SEL Coach at Lakeshore Elementary, presented information on Elementary Literacy. Our District uses an equitable multi-level system of support framework (EMLSS) to provide equitable resources, practices, and services to every student. Within this framework are key performance indicators that measure progress and success. One of these indicators is the Forward Exam. The District's goal is to have more than 80% of students meeting all benchmarks. However, the Forward Exam for grades 3-8 indicated that only 38.8% of students are meeting benchmark. Disaggregated data for grades 3-5 was shared for the last several years.

A review of the ELA (English Language Arts) program began in 2018 and continues as we work on identifying what needs to be done to improve literacy scores. The District did a restart in 2022-23 with a renewed focus on Elementary ELA, which includes the following: updated job descriptions for Literacy/SEL Coaches to include social emotional learning supports, adding Reading Interventionists in every building, a book study, review of data, and purchasing a resource for Foundational Skills instruction.

The science of reading was touched upon, as was Act 20, which states that all Wisconsin schools are required to provide science-based early literacy instruction in both universal and intervention settings. Continuous improvements are in place to create a high-quality Elementary ELA program. With both resources and professional learning, change in adult practices at the school level will ultimately improve student outcomes. Discussion and questions followed.

MONITORING DISTRICT RESULTS

Superintendent Johnson presented the monitoring report for OE-4 Student Learning Environment. Discussion and questions followed.

Motion by Tim Nordin, second by Erica Zerr to amend 4.6 to read as In Compliance.

Motion carried

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

Motion by Erica Zerr, second by Lori Bica to accept the monitoring report for OE-4 Student Learning Environment, as amended. Discussion on motion.

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Joshua Clements, Stephanie Farrar, Tim Nordin, Erica Zerr

No: Marquell Johnson

Motion by Marquell Johnson, second by Stephanie Farrar to amend OE 4.5, indicator 4 to include disaggregated data for race and disability in future reports.

Motion carried

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

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Referendum Committee Update Presentation

Abby Johnson, Executive Director of Business Services, provided information to the full Board on what had been discussed at Referendum Committee meetings regarding a proposed operational referendum. The Board will need to decide on the date, type (recurring or non-recurring), question, and amount. Topics included 2024-25 initial budget projections, ESSER-funded positions, a summary of varying referendum amounts and how it would affect the budget and tax levy, the timeline for April vs. November, historical referendum information, and upcoming election options. The Referendum Committee recommends going to referendum in April 2024. Discussion and questions followed.

Board members decided that more time is needed before making any timeline decision. The December 4 Board meeting will be a referendum work session, and the December 18 Board meeting will have additional time allocated for discussion with the goal of voting on how to proceed.

BOARD DEBRIEF

Commissioner Zerr led the Board Debrief.

ADJOURN

Motion by Erica Zerr, second by Lori Bica to adjourn meeting.

Motion carried

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.