

Learning Environments and Partnerships (LEAP)

Minutes – Tuesday, September 11, 2018

Committee Members Present and Position

Melissa Greer – Putnam Heights 5 th Grade	Kim Koller – Executive Director of Administration
Gail Halmstad – Community Member	Pete Riley – McKinley Principal
Todd Johnson – Montessori Principal	Amy Traynor – DeLong Instructional Coach
Laurie Klinkhammer – BOE Member	

Absent: Derick Black, Tracy Bush, Aaron Harder, Jeremy Harrison, Mike Kohls, Michelle Radtke, Katherine Rhoades

Visitors: Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Tim Nordin, Andy Brown, Jeff Bowe, Jim Schmitt

Meeting called to order at 4:05pm.

1. Public Commentary

Gail Halmstad spoke about feeling unsure if District Administration is in support of LEAP. She feels the School Board is in support of LEAP but would like confirmation of Administration's support. Discussion occurred how to confirm Administration's support. The role of Administration is to follow and enforce Board Policies, but the policies just give the "why," not the "what" and "how." The "what" and "how" are defined by rules and exhibits, which need to accompany a policy so Administration knows how to support and enforce a policy. Discussion occurred regarding if the rules and exhibits should be created before a policy is revised, or if the policy should be revised first. It was mentioned that we have LEAP spaces as approved by the policy, but definition is needed as to who will provide support to those spaces.

2. Review and Approval of August Minutes

Motion to approve by Amy Traynor. Seconded by Laurie Klinkhammer. Minutes accepted.

3. Review of Policy 332 Recommendation

A draft of a recommended revision to Policy 332 was presented to the group. There were two additional considerations; the addition of language about charter schools, and the question of whether the policy is even needed since LEAP is included in Policy 185.

Discussion occurred about whether a subcommittee should review the policy revision or if the entire LEAP committee should review the policy revision. It was recommended that the entire LEAP committee look at the original charge, the original Policy 332, and all subsequent revisions when considering any revisions to Policy 332. **Kim will send the documents to the committee. Committee members will be asked to review as homework and be prepared to discuss and make suggestions at the next LEAP meeting.**

The committee discussed submitting a revised policy to P&G as soon as possible in order to direct the future work of LEAP. P&G could make changes, decline the revision, or accept it and recommend it to the School Board for approval.

4. INDE Update

Tim Nordin introduced himself to LEAP. He joined INDE because he is passionate about alternative ways for students to learn. Tim provided a brief background of the Little Red Nature Campus (LRNC) project.

INDE is asking to form a working group consisting of LEAP, INDE, and District representatives to answer questions put forth by the School Board regarding the LRNC project.

LEAP members asked Tim questions about what grant funding INDE has explored. It was shared that the State no longer awards grants for charter school planning purposes, grants are for implementation.

LEAP agreed that they could support the working group with three (3) members from LEAP, but they couldn't speak for other District representatives. It was mentioned that membership on this working group for the District representatives could possibly just be available as a resource to answer questions if needed via e-mail or phone. Tim stated the timeline for LRNC is several years out.

It was agreed that Tim will e-mail Pete, Todd, Laurie, or Kim with a quantified time commitment required for members of the working group so it could be determined if such a working group could be formed.

5. EauZone Proposal

Amy Traynor presented a proposal for EauZone, which is a combination of the LRNC proposal and the current Arctic Zone. EauZone would replace Arctic Zone at Northstar and be implemented at DeLong and South Middle Schools. All three middle school principals are aware of the proposal.

The new EauZone would include project-based learning following the curriculum established at the current Arctic Zone but would include more outdoor learning, similar to the LRNC proposal. Arctic Zone would continue operating with grades 6-8 under the new name. DeLong and South would be phased in starting with grade 6 in year one, grades 6 and 7 in year two, and grades 6, 7, and 8 in year three. It was asked if there were any students attending the Arctic Zone on an alternate school request. Andy Brown, a teacher in the Arctic Zone, answered that there is one 8th grader enrolled in the Arctic Zone on an alternate school request who has been in the program since 6th grade. It was made clear at the time of the alternate school request approval for that student that it was a one-off situation and it wouldn't be possible to allow other alternate school requests. The new EauZone proposal would make this learning environment available to students at all three middle schools.

A proposed timeline was included which would ask LEAP to approve the proposal at the October 9 meeting in order to move forward in the process with School Board presentation and approval with the hope of inclusion in the Middle School Course Catalog which has a deadline of early-November. It was clarified by the LEAP committee that they may have questions and need clarification at the October 9 meeting – they may not be ready to vote. Amy asked that the EauZone proposal and timeline documents be e-mailed to the LEAP committee to be reviewed prior to the October 9 meeting so committee members can be prepared with questions.

6. Future Agenda items:

- a. Policy 332 review
- b. EauZone Proposal review
- c. INDE/LRNC working group request review

Meeting adjourned at 5:24pm.