

Learning Environments and Partnerships (LEAP)

Minutes – Tuesday, November 14, 2017

“The charge of this committee is to provide guidance and recommendations to the School Board, relating to its role as authorizer of current and future ECASD Charter/Choice Schools. This will encourage innovation that could increase our ability to provide diverse programming and methodologies. Through this investigation and advisement, the committee can support the increase in student readiness for and success in ECASD programming and post-secondary options.”

Committee Members Present and Position	
Derek Black, Secondary	Melissa Greer, Elementary
Kristen Gundry, CV Montessori Charter Board	Gail Halmstad, Ad Hoc Member
Chris Hambuch-Boyle, BOE & Chair	Aaron Harder, BOE
Jeremy Harrison, CV Montessori Charter	Todd Johnson, CV Montessori/Co-Chair
Tim Leibham, Administration	Michelle Radtke, Director of Assessment
Pete Riley, McKinley Head of Instruction/Co-Chair	Katherine Rhoades, Community Member
Amy Traynor, Secondary	

Absent: Mike Kohls

Visitors: Beth Martin and Jim Schmitt

1. Public Commentary
Beth Martin, 4333 S Lowes Creek Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701, spoke on behalf of the Little Red Nature Campus (LRNC) group asking the committee to vote in favor of the LRNC presenting at a December/future school board meeting for support and approval to investigate this project further.
2. Review and Approval of October Minutes
Committee members reviewed the October 2017 meeting minutes. Motion by Katherine Rhoades to approve, seconded by Aaron Harder. Motion carried.
3. CESA 10 Board of Control Meeting
Members who attended the CESA 10 Board of Control Meeting held at Northstar Middle School on Thursday, November 9, shared positive feedback. They were impressed by how intricately teachers know their students and the ease in building on those relationships. Students from Documentary Theatre were empowered with positive feedback and recognition from the adults in attendance. CESA 10 is interested in sharing this with other neighboring districts to build a regional network, and will be partnering with CVTC for a one day professional development focused on project-based learning environments. Contact Tim Leibham for more details if interested in attending.

4. Program Needs 2018-19

Committee members discussed the board directed formation of the LEAP Committee (previously Charter/Choice) including a historical overview by Tim Leibham. Upon approval of the committee charge in June 2014, the members explored educational principles/theories and programs that had a universal approach to education and found the split screen strategy. In January 2016, the policy was approved and adopted by the Board. Policy 332 is very technical on what is and what is not allowed in the LEAP program. Rules to accompany the policy were developed and recently approved in September 2017 that included committee membership and the 3 Step proposal process for Innovation Zones (IZ). Moving forward, are staff encouraged or not encouraged to submit a proposal? McKinley offered staff development in October from Epiphany Learning and some teachers requested to go but felt they received mixed messages about being at their building(s).

Chris Hambuch Boyle shared with the change of new board members, this will be a topic discussed at a future work session to review the policy and redefine how it fits with our strategic plan and focus of the board. This type of learning is imperative to who we are. Policy 332 states it shall be reviewed annually, and it was suggested the LEAP Committee update the board annually as well as the Innovation Zones.

The committee discussed applying for a grant through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Wisconsin a five-year \$95 million grant to support quality charter schools in the state. Subgrants will be available to eligible charter school operators for planning and implementation. Budget-wise, the board needs to support this as the fiscal agent.

Members discussed in length the connection between LEAP and Teaching and Learning (T&L), as well as assessments and School Improvement Plans (SIP). In theory, SIP is the driving force each building utilizes to raise student achievement, however, not one system will make it for all students. If it's not working for all students how can some teachers implement other ideas for those kids that need something different? If you look at staff development, there are different ways to do it without being costly and if IZ's are going to function they need to function in a space to be free to expand them.

5. Little Red Nature Campus (LRNC)

Tim Leibham reported the school board is aware of the Little Red Nature Campus (LRNC) proposal as well as middle school principals. The LEAP Committee is in favor of endorsing the LRNC group presenting at a future school board meeting as early as December 2017 to share the program concept and look for support to further investigate a planning grant through DPI. Grant guidelines will be available in December and the district must agree to be the fiscal agent.

Motion made by Chris Hambuch Boyle and seconded by Amy Traynor to support the LRNC Team for placement on a future school board agenda (possible December 2017) to share their program concept, their partnership with LEAP, and gain support from the school board to further

investigate their program idea. Investigation would include continued partnership with LEAP, but may also include applying for a Charter School Planning grant. Motion carried.

6. Upgrade on Current Innovation Zones
Tabled to December meeting.

7. Imagination Narrative Status: Roosevelt
Tabled to December meeting.

8. Other/Adjournment

Motion by Melissa Greer to adjourn, seconded by Jeremy Harrison. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12, 2017, in Room 123C at the Administration Building beginning at 4:00 pm.