

## Learning Environments and Partnerships (LEAP)

Minutes – Tuesday, December 12, 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
Tim Leibham, Administration	Michelle Radtke, Director of Assessment
Katherine Rhoades, Community Member	Amy Traynor, Secondary

Absent: Jeremy Harrison, Todd Johnson, Mike Kohls, and Pete Riley

Visitors: Anna Rybicki and Jim Schmitt

1. Public Commentary  
No public commentary.
2. Review and Approval of November Minutes  
Committee members reviewed the November meeting minutes. Motion by Tim Leibham to approve, seconded by Katherine Rhoades. Motion carried.
3. Committee Member Sharing  
Gail Halmstad shared she attended a meeting with the Eau Claire Area Economic Development Corporation. They are working on very inspired connections that will allow students to shadow the work place.

On December 14 DeLong Middle School will host the kick off statewide campaign to end child poverty in Wisconsin. The goal is to cut poverty in half within 10 years. JONAH, Citizen Action, and other organizations hoped to gather 10,000 signatures toward this goal.

The Teaching & Learning (T&L) staff recently presented career planning for the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC). Chris Hambuch-Boyle shared this presentation expanded on the importance of relationships between educators and students.

Tim Leibham shared an update on ISN Project Based Learning (PBL) planned for March 8, 2018. His directive from administration is that funding is tight, and staff not associated with an IZ should not attend the meeting. He is looking at what adjustments can be made for ISN presenting at a

future principal meeting; principals can take the information back to their building to share with staff on a Professional Development (PD) Wednesday.

Bill Giese, Sam Davey principal, is looking to develop a STEM focus and has been working with Northstar ARCTIC Zone staff. The Janesville School District currently has 12 elementary schools with three using Project Based Learning (PBL). Through our district ISN license membership we have a ZOOM account to collaborate with them.

Amy Traynor shared the WI Every Teacher a Leader Summit will again be held statewide the end of April. Please share if you know a team (3 - 5 people) that would like to work on a proposal for submission. There is an application process and will have a wide variation of project proposals.

CESA 10 and CVTC together are offering an opportunity to network and share strategies on Friday, February 9, 2018, to “help support students at each transition – harnessing an entrepreneurial mindset and exploration of student interests and passions to ensure that they are capable of being healthy, happy and creative in learning and in life.” The cost is \$20 and will be held at CVTC. If interested in attending, please contact Tim Leibham. More information can be found at this link: <https://www.smores.com/wt3s9>.

#### 4. Roosevelt IZ Proposal Status

Roosevelt staff (2 teachers) had wanted to submit a multi-age proposal looping 4<sup>th</sup> with 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, but were informed by administration that their low-test scores are an issue. They were informed that at this point it is on hold, and staff are unable to do anything different. Amy Traynor shared that if the proposal is re-submitted, she has a friend in the DC Everest area that just started a multi-age school program that would serve as a great resource.

#### 5. Little Red Nature Campus (LRNC) Update

Anna Rybicki and Erica Zerr will share an overview of the LRNC Proposal with the Board of Education on Monday, December 18. They will share work they have accomplished to date and seek support to continue investigating state and local funding resources and community support.

Committee members discussed Planning Grant details and the Little Red School site. Tim Leibham shared 40 students in two grade levels must be achieved in the first year. DPI said they now will allow funds to bring a building up to code, but no specific details have been shared yet. The State of Wisconsin will be awarded 12 million to offer the opportunity to establish a department of innovation to provide supports, assessment, and statewide networks for schools looking to introduce innovation.

#### 6. LEAP Recommitment

The committee talked about the future of LEAP. A small group previously met to discuss four fundamental questions:

1. Is the original charge to the committee still relevant to the ECASD? Why or why not?
  - a. Original charge
  - b. Policy 332
2. Identify and explain the value of the underlying principles or tenets that define LEAP and Innovation Zones.
3. Board policy and proposal process has been approved by LEAP and the school board. What is working well; what needs to be adjusted? What needs to be done to operationalize LEAP - what are the rules.
4. Who needs to be involved and what must they do better operationalize LEAP?

The DPI website unveiled its effort to “encourage innovation, increase educational equity, and remove barriers that schools may face in helping all student graduate college and career ready.” More information on Districts of Innovation can be found at this link: <https://dpi.wi.gov/news/releases/2017/evers-announces-districts-innovation>, which states, “Districts of Innovation will provide new opportunities to pursue innovative, locally driven ideas to improve outcomes for all kids.”

The committee members shared input on two working documents, Opportunity Chart and Recommitment BOE LEAP, and discussed graduation rates and hands on learning.

Derick Black shared what many educators are experiencing in the (middle school) classroom. Mental health, attention span, significantly higher desire and want widens the disparity gap. With 32 students who are all over the place, it’s getting harder to distribute a universal program for everyone, and that’s why the LEAP Committee is so important.

Jim Schmitt shared that typically it’s a life changing event or timing of school that doesn’t work for that group of students. There’s not one way to address or fix it but the T&L staff have been investigating other options for at-risk students, but noted the relevance in building stronger relationships with students. He talked about the CESA Off Campus program stating that 14% of students are not graduating within four years. There are situations that we know are not working but trying to find a common denominator and resources to intervene. Tim Leibham asked, what if we start by articulating district-wide what it is engagement, what is relevance and learning outcomes that are a unique focus.

#### 7. Other/Adjournment

Motion by Katherine Rhoades to adjourn, seconded by Derick Black. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 9, 2018, in Room 123C at the Administration Building beginning at 4:00 pm.