

Learning Environments and Partnerships (LEAP)

Minutes – Tuesday, May 9, 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.”

Meeting Recorder: Sandy LaValley

Committee Norms: Honest and open dialogue

Committee Members Present and Position	
Melissa Greer, Elementary	Gail Halmstad, Ad Hoc Member
Chris Hambuch-Boyle, BOE & Chair	Aaron Harder, BOE
Todd Johnson, CV Montessori/Co-Chair	Mike Kohls, McKinley Charter Board
Tim Leibham, Administration	Katherine Rhoades, Community Member
Pete Riley, McKinley Head of Instruction/Co-Chair	

Absent: Derek Black, Joel Dimock, Kristen Gundry, Jeremy Harrison, and Michelle Radtke

1. Approval of April Minutes (tentative)

The April Minutes will be approved at the July meeting.

2. Innovative School Network (ISN) Conference Update

Committee members who attended the ISN Conference in Wisconsin Dells shared their experience: Katherine Rhoades shared the conference was incredible: 1) many imaginative committed educators attended; 2) learning about a variety of things going on statewide including Madison elementary teacher performing arts after-school program; and 3) students that presented have truly a marvelous understanding of self-assessment. They are active players in developing what they learn, how they learn and how they assess!

Pete Riley shared the keynote speaker’s message was that the educational system has to change the delivery system. One of the statistics revealed 25 percent of students are always connected to their phone in some way. DPI shared changes regarding charter schools and what districts can do with much of it attached to finance.

Tim Leibham shared: 1) the session at the post-conference on micro-credentialing related to staff choosing what they’re interested in and how it’s shared in their classroom; 2) CESA 1 – Institute for Personalized Learning. It’s \$1500 per year to join the network. School districts are networking with other districts during the summer and often during the school year; 3) CESA 10 will hold a meeting on May 18 at 9:30 am with the speaker talking about project based personalized learning. Tim Leibham and Gail Halmstad plan to attend.

3. LEAP: Project Charter Update & Committee Approval

This was well received with great feedback from the committee members. Tim Leibham stated the executive directors were asked to identify initiatives as most significant and the plan to implement. Chris Hambuch-Boyle said the policy talks about charters and choice so if a whole school was going to do something, would that be an innovation zone or a magnet school? The group talked about the ARCTIC Zone. There could be an inter-district and conceivably get it through that, a magnet school would open up to more students. Melissa Greer asked about the awareness of LEAP and the administrative understanding. Would administrators help staff? There are very few people that are aware of the possibilities of LEAP, which led to the discussion of increasing awareness and visibility of LEAP. This could be accomplished with the principal(s) through PD Wednesday by attending a training and then communicating to their staff so they realize some of the ownership is transferred to the staff and not just administratively. There are three steps that a staff/community member must go through with this committee and then board approval. Aaron Harder stated the first bullet under objectives has a lot of detail about the steps that need to happen but feels there is a gap with Policy 332. There are some shared principles and it's reflected somewhat in the Dimensions of Learning but there is something in a different way in terms of formalizing and growing it, and a consensus that we want to see more innovation. We're looking for ideas to bring in project-based learning and to say we have a predisposition to that.

Aaron Harder made a motion to take formal action on the Project Charter, and Katherine Rhoades seconded. Motion carried.

4. Review Roosevelt Imagination Narrative

Tim Leibham met with Roosevelt staff to discuss their proposal and share the LEAP committee member's views. From the committee's standpoint, it would not go through for the 2017-18 school year. Some staff are registered to attend ISN Summer Institute in Weston WI. Their proposal could change once staff members experience another school. Melissa Greer said the math seems different; Reading doesn't seem innovating. Would someone in T & L help develop? The committee agreed it needs to see more specifics and detail about what they're doing differently and share an updated proposal at a fall meeting. Tim Leibham talked with Ben Dallman, Roosevelt Principal, about covering stipends for summer professional development.

5. Dimensions of Learning (DOL) – Next Step

Tim Leibham shared this at the ISN Conference and received feedback it was solid and useful. Identifying what makes an environment safe vs. the child is in a safe environment. If we agree, and with the charter, this could be shared at a future principal meeting and eventually students for feedback. This is some of the work that can be done with T&L support; find out who would be interested in helping us and who's got a functional grade level team. Chris Hambuch-Boyle will bring up the ASCD Whole Child definition at the next work session and cross walk what we've been given as a board and what we're evaluating as a district.

6. LEAP Rules Update

Pete Riley stated the group met recently to continue work on the LEAP Rules revisions. Tim Leibham will email committee members if/when another meeting is scheduled.

7. DPI Charter School Authorizer: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sms/charter-schools/information-authorizers>

This will be discussed at a future committee meeting.

8. June Meeting Change/Adjournment

The LEAP committee will not meet in June. Dr. Hardebeck is considering the ARCTIC Zone presenting at an upcoming board meeting. Written reports will be submitted by Amber Dernbach and Bill Giese.

Motion made by Katherine Rhoades, seconded by Pete Riley to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm. The next LEAP Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 11, 2017, at 4:00 pm.