

Learning Environments and Partnerships (LEAP)

Minutes – Tuesday, July 11, 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	
Joel Dimock, Secondary	Melissa Greer, Elementary
Gail Halmstad, Ad Hoc Member	Chris Hambuch-Boyle, BOE & Chair
Aaron Harder, BOE	Jeremy Harrison, CV Montessori Charter
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, Kristen Gundry, and Michelle Radtke

Visitors: Anna Rybicki, Erica Zerr, Shelly Peters, Jim Schmitt, and Dave Oldenberg

Katherine Rhoades motioned and Aaron Harder seconded to bring meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

The April, May and July committee meeting minutes will be presented/approved at the August or September meeting.

1. DPI Districts of Innovation Update

Tim Leibham shared State Superintendent Tony Ever’s announcement of Innovation:

<https://dpi.wi.gov/news/releases/2017/evers-announces-districts-innovation>.

Tim talked with Tom McCarthy, DPI Communications Director, noting this is the direction DPI is transitioning to and away from the current model. He was not optimistic about charter school dollars being offered as in the past or looking to reorganize their budget to create funding.

They did not use CESA 1, but are partnering with them. The group talked about seeking funding and applying for grants.

2. Innovation Zone Proposals Review

South Proposal: INFINITY Zone Revised Step 1

The committee felt this provided a little more detail but still vague about the following:

- Transition to 8th grade
- Art was not mentioned
- Rotation of grades
- Class size/teacher ratio

They need to learn about project-based learning. Professional development would look different than it does now.

Motion by Aaron Harder to remain at Step 1, seconded by Katherine Rhoades. Motion carried. Tim Leibham and Todd Johnson will share the committee's decision/concerns with South staff.

Little Red Nature Campus (LRNC) Step 1

This proposal was submitted by ECASD parents and many of them were in attendance for the meeting. This proposal involves transforming the former Little Red Schoolhouse and grounds into Little Red Nature Campus (LRNC), a dual-purpose ECASD property, including a newly developed middle school and a nature campus. The campus would serve the entire student body of the ECASD by creating space and providing facilities for field trips, summer classes, special programs and intensive study courses. The committee was very impressed with the detail of Step 1 and felt that the proposers had done a wonderful job with research and including all students. There were questions in regards to funding, mainly the cost of reopening Little Red School. It was suggested to approve Step 1 and postpone the development of Step 2 until there is better articulation and more detail of what needs to be done to move forward. Aaron Harder said there are logistical and budget issues that need to be addressed. Approximately 1.5 million would be needed for building renovation not to mention still needing equipment, staffing and bussing. There most likely would be no state funds through DPI. One challenge is the number of students that can be served in the small school, however, it would be remiss not to proceed given the quality of the proposal. As one committee member stated, "Our job is to support this proposal and bring great minds together to tackle the other things!"

Motion by Tim Leibham to approve LRNC Step 1, seconded by Jeremy Harrison, with the stipulation that we identify specifics that would need to be addressed before Step 2 is approved. Motion carried.

3. Update on Weekly LEAP Charter Meetings

Tim Leibham would like to meet with principal to share a couple of books, "Tapping the Power of Personalized Learning: A Roadmap for School Leaders" (CESA 1), and "Students at the Center: Personalized Learning with Habits of Mind." He will attend future Budget Development and T&L meetings. Tim shared he has talked with Sarah French, Executive Director of Eau Claire Public Schools Foundation, about LEAP or some account that could be identified for donations by community members who might be interested in funding IZ. Sarah will report back after she shares this with her board.

4. Community Outreach

The committee looks to build relationships with businesses in the community, get feedback and maybe look at a method of how we can work with a group one on one. Currently we have a connection with JAMF through Gail Halmstad and Clear Vision through Ann Rupnow, President of Clear Vision Board of Directors and on the Poverty Summit.

5. Performance Agreements

Tim Leibham would like to send an update to the Board and Superintendent on any adjustments and progress of the Innovation Zone for the upcoming school year. The ARCTIC Zone will present at a future board meeting, perhaps September.

6. Rules Update & Review

The committee reviewed this document. All members received it through Google Docs, which allows them to add comments. This will eventually be submitted to the Board for approval and attached to Policy 332.

7. Other/Adjournment

Motion by Jeremy Harrison, seconded by Katherine Rhoades, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:21 pm. Due to many committee members unable to meet in August, the next meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2017, at 4pm.