

Learning Environments And Partnerships (LEAP)

Minutes – October 11, 2016

“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 & Position

Melissa Greer, Elementary Teacher

Chris Hambuch-Boyle, BOE & Chair

Gail Halmstad, Ad Hoc Member

Todd Johnson, CVM Principal/Co-Chair

Tim Leibham, Administration

Kristen Gundry, CV Montessori Board

Aaron Harder, BOE

Jeremy Harrison, CV Montessori Teacher

Mike Kohls, McKinley Board

Pete Riley, McKinley Head of

Instruction/Co-Chair

Absent: Derick Black, Tracy Bush

1. Committee Membership

The group discussed options for filling the open seat, previously served by a secondary staff member from the McKinley Charter School. Motion made by Chris Hambuch-Boyle to accept Joel Dimock, Secondary Program Support of Special Education, to the committee, seconded by Aaron Harder. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Michelle Radtke, Director of Assessment – Teaching & Learning has expressed interest in attending the LEAP meetings. Motion by Todd Johnson, seconded by Aaron Harder to add Michelle as an ex-officio member. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

The committee members discussed inviting the two school principals that have an innovation zone in their building to future LEAP meetings, perhaps alternating on a monthly basis to provide an update on the progress in their building (Sam Davey Elementary and Northstar Middle School).

2. LEAP Professional Development Parameters

The committee discussed parameters and budget regarding staff requests to attend out of state conferences. The current staff development budget is targeted for the schools in our district that are looking to implement an

Innovation Zone (IZ). The consensus felt it would be beneficial to send staff to other schools/districts that have an IZ established, concentrating on staff that have submitted a proposal to the LEAP Committee. It would be beneficial to focus on partnerships with other districts whether internally or externally and approved by the committee

3. Innovative School Network (ISN) - Conference Registration

The national ISN Conference will be held in Wisconsin Dells April 19 – 21, 2017. Registration prior to October 14, 2016, will result in savings of \$100 per person. Motion made by Pete Riley, seconded by Chris Hambuch-Boyle to register four committee members by the early bird deadline. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

4. ARTIC ZONE

Tim Leibham reported that the Arctic Zone is going well at Northstar and staff have received positive feedback from parents. Twenty-four 6th grade students are participating. Tim recently met with Northstar staff regarding the 2017-18 school year. They will continue with the 24 for 7th grader plus fifty 6th grade students, which would require another teacher and space. At this time, we will not open this to students outside of Northstar. It was noted that there is sub money available for interested teachers to observe their classroom.

Sam Davey has applied for an in-tech grant for their Innovation Zone, S.A.M.R. (Substitution, Augmentation, Modification, and Redefinition), which applies to digital learning in the classroom. This innovation program involves 3rd – 5th grade students. The grant would allow Davey staff to investigate other resources/schools.

5. Innovation Zone Proposals Update

Documentary Theatre

Memorial staff member, Amber Dernbach, successfully submitted Step 1 of the IZ proposal, Documentary Theatre, and will submit Step 2 for the committee to review for the November meeting. She is currently .9 FTE, but will have .1 FTE added. Drama and English Language (EL) students will learn and work together engaging in meaningful, practical discussion and collaborative planning and performing theatre productions.

Infinity Zone

Todd Johnson reported that he met with the four teachers at South Middle School that submitted the Infinity Zone proposal, offering feedback and suggestions for submission of Step 2. This proposal involves 60 students (30 6th and 30 7th grade students) who may struggle in the traditional classroom

setting, emphasizing the English Learners, Gifted and Talented and learning disabled students. Their goal is to partner with community members and businesses providing meaningful service-learning opportunities.

Hmong Immersion Program

Tim Leibham reported that the UWEC Hmong studies program would like to offer an undergraduate degree in Hmong Studies. Concordia and UW Milwaukee currently offer this program, and there is an interest in the community to develop it in Eau Claire. This would require serious time, focus and study. The members discussed options of grant opportunities to provide a sabbatical for someone to help develop this program. Committee member, Kristen Gundry, expressed interest in this as she had partnered with UWEC at one time on a collaborative effort on Hmong culture/language. She stated there is funding available for this type of research and heritage language programs under Title III. Tim and Kristen will collaborate on this.

6. LEAP Professional Collaboration

Kristen Gundry shared information about a CESA 10 sponsored event, *Capitalizing on the Opportunity to Engage Learners*, held at Chippewa Valley Technical College on Friday, February 10, 2017. Featured speakers are Kevin Honeycutt and David Gagnon from the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery, who will discuss tools available to educators today and the power they have to engage diverse learners. Sub pay is available for interested certified staff.

Tim Leibham shared the LEAP Committee has a Twitter account. The Executive Assistant will be trained to create a page on the district website, which will link to Facebook.

7. Other/Adjournment

Motion made by Todd Johnson, seconded by Jeremy Harrison to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, November 15, 2016, at the District Office in Room 123B beginning at 4 pm