

Charter/Choice Programming Committee

“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.”

School: District Office **Date:** 9/8/2015 **Time:** 4:00 pm

Meeting Recorder: Sandy LaValley

Committee Norms: Honest & open dialogue

Committee Members Present & Position/Employee Group

Derick Black, Secondary Teacher	Tracy Bush, Ad Hoc Member
Melissa Greer, Elementary Teacher	Gail Halmstad, Ad Hoc Member
Chris Hambuch-Boyle/BOE	Jeremy Harrison, CV Montessori
Todd Johnson, CVM Principal/Co-Chair	Mike Kohls, McKinley
Tim Leibham/District Office Admin	Pete Riley/McKinley Head of Instruction/Co-Chair
Rich Spindler/BOE	

Absent: Doug Diermeier

Two new members were introduced. Gail Halmstad is a retired teacher of the Eau Claire School District and previously served on the CV Montessori Charter School Governance Board. Jeremy Harrison is a currently teaching at the CV Montessori Charter School. Welcome Gail and Jeremy!

1. History of the Committee

Pete Riley and Todd Johnson brought the new members up to speed by sharing the Board's goals, Charge of the committee, information gathered at the Innovation Conference and work done thus far.

Tim Leibham shared several sources of research by Ted Kolderie and Tim McDonald. The following link, Teacher-Powered Schools, provides information about a national conference in Minneapolis, MN, November 6 -7. Please let us know if you wish to attend: <http://www.teacherpowered.org/>

2. Draft Policy and September 28 Board Presentation

The committee reviewed a draft policy that incorporated some of the same language from Board Policy 331, Charter School Guidelines. It was suggested to present the draft policy to the Policy and Governance Committee for review.

Tim Leibham presented the Development of Innovation Zones (PowerPoint)

- Educational Opportunities
- Governance & Structure
- Budget & Funding
- Proposal Process
- Performance Agreement
- Dissolving a Performance Agreement
- Transition Process of Innovation to Improvement

The committee discussed the structure of the program. It would need to separate from the Teaching & Learning Department. This is how we want to structure our program, methodologies, etc. Once that happens, they are free to be fully autonomous from other staff development. They would need some sort of supervision, but fundamentally they would be their own entity. Ultimately, the Board would approve for it to function.

Tim Leibham shared some of the performance agreements are quite lengthy. This could squelch the desire to implement this. Rich Spindler suggested presenting the PowerPoint at the September 28 Board Meeting, and then ask for approval to refer the draft policy to the Policy and Governance Committee.

Is anyone doing anything right now that is outside the norm that has helped close the reading or math gap? Co-teaching could be an example. Also, some teachers are incorporating Social Studies within Reading. It was suggested to perhaps add an additional slide to include autonomies.

The committee members discussed some of the cons:

- Reallocation of funds/cost
- Acceptance of risk and failure
- Difficulty with acceptance of autonomies
- Tensions between innovation zones and conventional programs
- Staff tensions
- Fear of change and unknown (is it fear of unknown, or fear of giving up what is known?)

Gail Halmstad shared the education department at UWEC is initiating a pilot (focus will be on reading) at Robbins Elementary and some schools in Chippewa Falls. If they get a specific grant, they plan to work with Augusta and Cornell School Districts as well. Evidence-based rules would be part of the application process.

Tim Leibham, Melissa Greer and Derick Black will meet prior to the September 28 meeting to review the PowerPoint.

The following dates have been reserved for future committee meetings in Room 123B at 4pm. The second Tuesday of each month:

October, 13, 2015
November 10, 2015
December 8, 2015
January 12, 2016
February 9, 2016
March 8, 2016
April 12, 2016
May 10, 2016
June 14, 2016

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.