

## Learning Environments and Partnerships (LEAP)

Minutes – Tuesday, January 9, 2018

“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	Gail Halmstad, Ad Hoc Member
Chris Hambuch-Boyle, BOE & Chair	Aaron Harder, BOE
Todd Johnson, CV Montessori/Co-Chair	Tim Leibham, Administration
Michelle Radtke, Director of Assessment	Katherine Rhoades, Community Member
Pete Riley, McKinley Head of Instruction/Co-Chair	Amy Traynor, Secondary

Absent: Melissa Greer, Kristen Gundry, Jeremy Harrison, and Mike Kohls

Visitors: Anna Rybicki and Jim Schmitt

### 1. Public Commentary

No public commentary.

### 2. Review and Approval of December Minutes

Committee members reviewed the December 2017 meeting minutes. Motion by Katherine Rhoades to approve, seconded by Mike Kohls. Motion carried.

### 3. Committee Member Sharing

Chris Hambuch-Boyle shared a link about an elementary nature school in Munford, Alabama (below). This new school, built near a national forest, is a partnership with the community and Department of Natural Resources:

<http://www.tcboe.org/news-4cd1828e/blending-the-environment-learning-munford-elementary-school-4fb7ae2e>

Tim Leibham shared the PBL planned for March 8 at Prairie Ridge will have 20 – 30 seats available. Folks from CESA 10 plan to attend. Tim will mention this opportunity to principals, coordinators, and coaches, and will provide an overview of what it is. Let Tim know if you would like to attend.

### 4. LRNC Update

This proposal was approved for the next step! At the January 8 School Board Meeting, the members formally designated support for the community-based group, Initiative for New Directions in Education (INDE), and to formally develop the proposal for the Little Red Nature Campus, an outdoor focused project-based learning school for middle school aged children.

Next steps will include looking at interested secondary staff, building, equipment and material needs, redesign to reopen, funding sources and dollar amounts. The INDE group has formulated a website: <https://www.inde-ec.org/> sharing their vision, mission and opportunity to seek community partners who would like to assist with this project. As of Jan. 9, no updates on grant information have been shared on the DPI webpage.

Katherine Rhoades asked if there were concerns expressed at the board meeting. Aaron Harder shared a few board members were absent, however, Com. Bica raised a few concerns/questions:

- Why in this direction rather than strengthen existing middle schools? 3000 vs. 125 children?
- Biased theory about/between universal program and what LEAP wants to see happen?
- Biased theory ready to see evidence that this bias is wrong.
- Personalized learning opportunities are already happening in the district.

Tim Leibham stated the INDE group did a fine job presenting and answering questions and felt their proposal was well-received. They spent a lot of time processing and looking at different perspectives. This is the first time folks with no school attachment presented an idea to the board. With their favored site being the former Little Red School, Chris Hambuch-Boyle would like to see board members walk the 30 acre property to see its potential.

## 5. Future of LEAP

The Recommitment document that was shared through Google Docs allowing members to share their thoughts/comments was discussed, as well as the underlying principles that define LEAP.

The committee worked on revising the PowerPoint presentation that will be shared with the board on January 22:

- Overview: Broad arc showing history tenets, relevance, challenges and next steps.
- LEAP History: board policy, date started, handout on facts about charter choice, etc. Innovation Zone vs. Charter/Alternative School and split screen vs. one bet strategy.
- Tenets: What does LEAP Value? Reflecting community demographics, Teacher led, LEAP members, Holistic Outcomes. Aaron Harder asked about including the Dimensions of Learning (DOL); they are completed, but not implemented right now. Chris Hambuch-Boyle asked T&L staff if we could correlate the DOL to achievement. Yes, there are lots of different models, but they overlap. Again, any model has its strengths, etc. To have a good indicator is determining what it means for each of those areas, so people are scoring similar. Tim talked about indicators that we can use; we currently are using Epiphany Learning.
- Relevance: The case for LEAP in today's ECASD: choice is desired, teacher-led has value, value of personalized learning, etc.
- LEAP Challenges: Challenges, PD, LEAP Outreach, Who is authorized to initiate and to halt?, If a principal is the instructional leader in a school what is his involvement, report card, LEAP Members, Horizontal and vertical alignment: how to address?
- Adding the definition of At Risk noting more kids are at risk about living/survival vs. at risk of graduating.
- Eau Claire being a destination district; we need to look to the future and go forward with this and do it to the best of our ability.

The meeting ended with a lengthy discussion on split screen and project-based learning (PBL) followed by the universal program vs. pilot programs.

Tim Leibham asked Aaron Harder, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Pete Riley, Todd Johnson and Amy Traynor to frame up questions and send out for review. Annually, the LEAP Committee must be reviewed for the sustainability of the committee.

6. Other/Adjournment

Motion by Tim Leibham to adjourn, seconded by Katherine Rhoades. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2018, in Room 123C at the Administration Building beginning at 4:00 pm.