

Learning Environments and Partnerships (LEAP)

Minutes – Tuesday, February 13, 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	Melissa Greer, Elementary
Kristin Gundry, CV Montessori	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	

Absent: Jeremy Harrison, Mike Kohls and Amy Traynor

Visitors: Anna Rybicki and Jim Schmitt

1. Public Commentary

No public commentary.

2. Review and Approval of January Minutes

Committee members reviewed the January 2018 meeting minutes. Motion by Katherine Rhoades to approve, seconded by Kristin Gundry. Motion carried.

3. Committee Member Sharing

Chris Hambuch-Boyle stated due to a snow day on Monday, January 22, most board agenda items were pushed back. LEAP will present their piece on Monday, February 19. As a board, given what we have heard with alternative learning opportunities taking place in our district, LEAP needs to continue an active role in identifying and supporting innovation in our district. Pete Riley added this committee was also designed to protect LEAP innovation areas by providing time for research and development, taking time from their work schedule to accomplish this.

Kristen Gundry shared alternative pathways, explaining how she delineates this from the conventional program. Tim Leibham shared the Split Screen Strategy (2014) acknowledging that one environment does not work for everyone. Aaron Harder is excited about LEAP developing alternative assessments and ways to fill out the foundation and broaden it around the whole child. How do we create that as a view, not a competition, to provide opportunities for students other than standardized measure? All agreed on the need to engage our staff.

Todd Johnson stated during summer school, students are engaged and excited about learning and feels it is because there is no assessment done over the summer. During the school year the climate is much different. These assessments are fine at identifying students that need assistance,

but each student is different, and how do we assess as a whole child? Kids can learn differently. Summative assessment assesses the end of the target, which is what the state holds us accountable to. Formative is what we do every day in the classroom and adjust.

Gail Halmstad shared her participation as a judge at Northstar Middle School for History Day was very eye opening, noting the top projects were from very diverse groups. She recently attended Family Fest and was excited to share information with the public about the LEAP committee and its efforts to create more innovation in our schools. Another opportunity is coming up in April.

4. LRNC Update/Board Review

The group discussed the February 19 work session/board meeting when the Initiative for New Directions in Education (INDE) group will provide an update on various aspects of the DPI charter grant. Tim Leibham will share the history of LEAP, foundational principles and next steps. Chris Hambuch-Boyle noted some of the INDE group have taken a leave of absence from their profession to work on the proposal and grant.

The board will need to approve the next two meetings to be able to submit the grant by March 9. If there is no vote or majority votes no, then the grant cannot be submitted this year. Tim Leibham shared DPI will have grant funds available for 2018, 2019, 2020 and subsequent three years. There are districts of innovation that are exempt from much of the testing going on. The natural design is personalized learning that reinforces the charge of the committee. Tim feels a conversation needs to happen between LEAP, the Board and Teaching & Learning.

Gail Halmstad shared years ago there was a certain initiative she was implementing in her classroom. She invited the reading specialist to her classroom asking for feedback and felt this was invaluable. Professional development where groups can get together on what is happening in their classroom is crucial to the success of the students and district.

The committee discussed staff not feeling encouraged to attend professional development opportunities about Personalized Learning. Melissa Greer felt some of the proposals that were submitted to LEAP but not approved for the second or third steps may have been approved if staff had been allowed time for research and development.

Pete Riley shared with his position at McKinley Charter School, he has been released from certain mandated trainings to learn more about trauma informed care, etc., which is directly related to the students enrolled at his building that have not been successful in the standard classroom.

5. Other/Adjournment

Motion by Chris Hambuch-Boyle to adjourn, seconded by Tim Leibham. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:06 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, 2018, in Room 123C at the Administration Building beginning at 4:00 pm.