

## Learning Environments and Partnerships (LEAP)

Minutes – Tuesday, March 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	Jeremy Harrison
Chris Hambuch-Boyle, BOE & Chair	Aaron Harder, BOE
Todd Johnson, CV Montessori/Co-Chair	Tim Leibham, Administration
Katherine Rhoades, Community Member	Pete Riley, McKinley Head of Instruction/Co-Chair

Absent: Gail Halmstad, Mike Kohls, Michelle Radtke and Amy Traynor

Visitors: Katherine Duax, Elizabeth Harder, Anna Rybicki, Jim Schmitt, and Erica Zerr

### 1. Public Commentary

No public commentary.

### 2. Review and Approval of February Minutes

Committee members reviewed the February 2018 meeting minutes. One correction was made to the minutes. Motion by Katherine Rhoades to approve, seconded by Aaron Harder. Motion carried.

### 3. Committee Member Sharing

Jeremy Harrison shared information about CV Montessori Charter School’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Film Festival. Films submitted by students will be shown in one theater at Micon Theater in Chippewa Falls on Thursday, May 24, 2018. A Regional panel will observe all entries on May 1, narrowing down to approximately 20 films to be shown.

Tim Leibham shared the Project Based Learning Conference (PBL) held at Prairie Ridge on March 8 was very appreciated by the attendees. The location was great, and attendees enjoyed the energy of the students and invitation to visit classrooms.

Kristen Gundry shared information about the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) that will be held in Chicago June 24 – 27, 2018. There is innovation for all students adding Chippewa Falls School district used this for their Art program K – 12. More information can be found here: <https://conference.iste.org/2018/>.

#### 4. LRNC Update

Erica Zerr and Elizabeth Harder shared INDE (Initiative for New Directions in Education) has informed the school board the decision to delay the application of the DPI Planning Grant one year to allow more time to gather information about staffing and the Little Red location. The group is working closely with LEAP and various middle school staff to develop a plan. The plan is to become more collaborative and build relationships within the school district. The INDE group has received great feedback from teachers, principals and superintendents and will continue to establish powerful connections with staff that have expressed interest in working with them on this project.

INDE will look to link with various organizations in Eau Claire, i.e., Boys & Girls Club, etc., to build partnerships in the community. The INDE group advertised to middle school principals to share with their staff for interest in developing the program. Guidelines will be developed on what they are looking for and how to establish contact with teachers. The group expressed interest in meeting with students and staff during lunch time to gather feedback. More information on INDE can be found at: <https://www.inde-ec.org/>.

The LEAP members discussed diversity in relation to the startup of the CV Montessori Charter School. Initially it could have been offered to the students in that neighborhood with them choosing to attend or go to another school. The group talked about having neighborhood students attend Little Red from the start because you can't go back and change that. For the Planning Grant, the intended population needs to be included. It was recommended to look at the application process and not the lottery.

#### 5. LEAP NEXT STEPS

Tim Leibham talked about the past two months' work putting a PowerPoint together for the board, sharing history of LEAP, structure of the program, educational research and relevance the committee brings to the district. Also shared with the board was the educational program and how it works with the strategic plan, dimensions of holistic learning, three core components, and the purpose behind all the work/framework. The current need is for our school board and Superintendent to have a better understanding of what LEAP is with possibly a work session only about LEAP to help with misunderstandings.

Aaron Harder shared we need to think about LEAP. LEAP as a district-wide initiative and imminent potential in every school. Focus on students with educational disadvantages and keeping that question front and center. When we look at filtering effects of a charter school, the question becomes what if it's in every school? The committee members discussed expanding to all schools and what that might look like relating back to the split screen approach founded on the idea the universal program is strong and good for most children. There should be avenues or space for teachers to explore to reach kids we aren't reaching with the conventional program.

The members discussed Option 1: to build on what we've created; or, Option 2: starting all over. We need a recommendation from this committee to work with the executive team, superintendent and school board. Majority of the committee members voted Option 1 as the base with an opportunity to redefine and focus what we're about; students with educational

disadvantages needs to be elevated and add work/conversation with Teaching & Learning . Tim Leibham will email the working document to committee members on next steps.

**6. Other/Adjournment**

Motion by Katherine Rhoades to adjourn, seconded by Aaron Harder. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:58 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 10, 2018, in Room 123C at the Administration Building beginning at 4:00 pm.