

Learning Environments and Partnerships (LEAP)

Minutes – Tuesday, May 8, 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	Kristin Gundry, CV Montessori
Gail Halmstad	Chris Hambuch-Boyle, BOE & Chair
Aaron Harder, BOE	Todd Johnson, CV Montessori/Co-Chair
Mike Kohls, McKinley	Tim Leibham, Administration
Katherine Rhoades, Community Member	Pete Riley, McKinley Head of Instruction/Co-Chair

Absent: Melissa Greer, Jeremy Harrison, Michelle Radtke, Amy Traynor

Visitors: Joe Luginbill, Jim Schmitt

1. Public Commentary

No public commentary.

2. Review and Approval of April Minutes

April 2018 Minutes will be approved at the next scheduled LEAP Meeting.

3. LEAP Committee Member Sharing

Derek Black said he will perform Thursday, May 17, at 7pm at the Volume One Gallery and on Friday, May 18, at 8pm at Galaudet Gallery. Stop in for live music!

Katherine Rhoades talked about the possibility of a transition focus for this group on how we might cultivate a culture of innovation or way in which we can support people who want to be in a regular classroom and a mentoring resource bank. She feels the committee has come very far with accomplishments this year. Perhaps draw conversation on how we can cultivate people into action that would like to present or submit a proposal.

Tim Leibham said he and Pete Riley attended the ISN Conference in the WI Dells, May 18 – 20.

At the Every Teacher A Leader Summit, Tim and Pete met with folks from Kettle Moraine looking at that same process and what it would look like. There were 16 teams there and very informational. They would be happy to come and help train. Amy Traynor leads this at the state level.

Derek Black said it feels like that needs to be retaught that it's okay to use your classroom as a research and development arena, which seems to be a sticky area.

Pete Riley attended a meeting at CVTC about adult education/GED and there is a lot of free programming available. Kristen Gundry said she teaches that. There were a series of “boot camps” that he could see partnering with for McKinley Charter students.

Todd Johnson said he attended a Montessori Principals’ meeting in Appleton that was phenomenal. He felt Eau Claire was way ahead in some areas. Currently he is looking for a Montessori teacher and learned there is a shortage of 150 Montessori teachers in Wisconsin. Exploring the Minnesota Executive Function Scale (MEFS), we can start to target and look at interventions, and, one of the interventions is the Montessori environment because of the way it is structured.

Gail Halmstad expressed concern about whether the district was going to support the LEAP Committee going forward and will that person be supportive. If we can go forward with LEAP and do innovating things we will maintain public support and have families wanting to settle in Eau Claire. She loves the focus of empowering teachers and that’s why she enjoys being on this committee. The Sandia Report, developed by the Department of Energy, showed that things were changing in our economy. They found that more kids were graduating but unfortunately, that report was sent back. She really wants LEAP to go forward and this is the opportune time. We need the Board’s support and the Superintendent’s support.

Aaron Harder said he and Chris Hambuch-Boyle met with Dr. Hardebeck about LEAP. LEAP was set up as a separate piece and that needs to change; it needs to be part of the district that we can identify in name and practice. The Performance Agreement is a contract that needs to be written with contractual perspective. That would be one avenue to more strongly define what those are by bringing it out to a larger group.

Chris Hambuch-Boyle said the dialogue will continue. Reflection from the ARCTIC Zone will happen to see where it fits. We can learn from that. But, there is much work to do on the Performance Agreements.

Aaron Harder said the fundamental structure of the Imagination Narrative and Performance Agreement, those are all valid. We need to work it and operationalize it and make it better. He felt we should have a governance board for the ARCTIC Zone.

4. IZ Updates

Tim Leibham said he connected with Sam Davey, Northstar and INDE for an update on how things are going.

INDE was approached by Mondovi School District who had an empty school, but INDE is looking to work with ECASD. Chris Hambuch-Boyle said they’ve broadened their vision on what this could look like in all levels K-12. Aaron Harder would like to take the existing mechanics to create it through LEAP. Tim Leibham said they have their teacher group, 20 staff members and broad.

The ARCTIC Zone expanded for 8th grade this year but will not have an additional teacher added due to budget cuts. The two existing teachers have got their focus and curriculum down pat. Andy is very technical; Ally has an engaging relationship. They have been contacted by other organizations for assistance. Tim Leibham talked with Tim Skutley, Northstar Principal, about Northstar parents who are inquiring about the program going forward. Next year it will be 7th and 8th grade and thirty 6th graders have wanted to join for next year, but another teacher will not be added. We'll see what the future holds.

Sam Davey Principal, Bill Giese, is working on how to move forward. He wants to obtain an Epiphany Learning License and have his staff do this as a K-2 program. He would like to have conversations with families about these students, parents, friends, neighbors, etc., then eventually incorporate that for the upper grades.

Amber Dernbach, Memorial High School, can function with her theater and ELL students with Documentary Theater. An English teacher is interested in helping her incorporate Jr./Sr. Thesis.

Tim Leibham thanked the committee members for their commitment and work on the committee. Chris Hambuch-Boyle thanked Tim Leibham and Sandy LaValley for their dedication and work on the committee. No meeting is planned for June, but if that changes, Tim Leibham will email the committee members.

5. Other/Adjournment

Motion by Katherine Rhoades to adjourn, seconded by Tim Leibham. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5pm.