

# Learning Environments and Partnerships (LEAP)

Minutes – Tuesday, September 13, 2016

“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.”

**Meeting Recorder:** Sandy LaValley

**Committee Norms:** Honest and open dialogue

## **Committee Members Present & Position**

Chris Hambuch-Boyle, BOE & Chair

Melissa Greer, Elementary Teacher

Gail Halmstad, Ad Hoc Member

Aaron Harder, BOE

Jeremy Harrison, CV Montessori

Todd Johnson, Co-Chair

Mike Kohls, McKinley Board

Tim Leibham, Administration

Pete Riley, McKinley Head of Instruction/Co-Chair

Absent: Derick Black, Tracy Bush and Kristen Gundry

### **1. Race to Nowhere Documentary**

Superintendent Hardebeck attended the meeting to discuss the showing of the documentary, *Race to Nowhere*. In going to referendum, any discussion on testing elicits a lot of emotion and questions that take many months to answer and resolve. She is concerned it will be a distraction getting the referendum passed, especially showing the forums. After a lengthy discussion, the committee unanimously voted to postpone the showing of *Race to Nowhere*. The message to families and staff will state the postponement will eliminate any potential conflicts staff, families, and community members may have for attending the Referendum Information Sessions scheduled for Monday, October 10, Tuesday, October 18, Monday, October 24 and Thursday, November 3. The LEAP Committee will schedule new dates after the viewing and November 8 election.

### **2. LEAP Committee Structure**

The members discussed committee structure and how to recruit another certified teacher (9 – 12) with Doug Diermeier, McKinley staff, resigning from the group. It was decided to send information via the District Update and also send to secondary principals to share with their staff.

### **3. REVIEW INNOVATION ONE PROPOSALS**

Two proposals were submitted to the committee for consideration. The members split into two subgroups to discuss whether the proposals will go on to Step 2.

- **South Middle School: INFINITY Zone**

Subgroup 1 felt this was similar to the Arctic Zone (Northstar proposal) The INFINITY Zone proposal would emphasize the English Learners, Gifted and Talented and Learning Disabled students with 30 6<sup>th</sup> graders and 30 7<sup>th</sup> graders the first year. After that the 30 6<sup>th</sup> graders would loop and add a new group of 30 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Four lead teachers would be needed. Their goal is to partner with community members and businesses to become participatory citizens through service learning. There would be project based learning, service learning, self-paced learning, student goal setting and flexibility with their middle school schedule with specialty classes at a chunk of the day. This was approved to proceed to Step 2

- **Memorial High School: Imagination Narrative**

Subgroup 2 shared this proposal will integrate the EL class with Improv/Theatre during 7<sup>th</sup> hour, 2<sup>nd</sup> semester with Amber Dernbach as the instructor. The location would alternate among the Little Theatre and distance education lab at Memorial, and occasionally include select learning spaces in the Eau Claire community. This will be a hands on, learn-by-doing and by action, style of absorbing new information and vocabulary for EL students. This was approved to proceed to Step 2

### **4. LEAP Committee Partnerships – CESA 10**

Tim Leibham connected with CESA 10 to discuss providing training for website design for office staff. Electronic/social media presence is a clearinghouse to say/show innovations happening in our school district.

### **5. Other**

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2016, at 4:00 pm, in Room 123B.