

Meeting: LEAP Committee

Date: January 14, 2020

Time: 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Location: Administration Building, Room 137

Committee Members:

<input type="checkbox"/> Amy Al-Hashlamoun	<input type="checkbox"/> Jessica Behrens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melissa Greer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gail Halmstad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aaron Harder***
<input type="checkbox"/> Sarah Jackson	<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Kohls	<input type="checkbox"/> Crystal Ruzicka	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Breana Stanley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> True Vang
<input type="checkbox"/> Laurie Klinkhammer*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Todd Johnson**	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pete Riley**	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kim Koller***	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mackenzie Gabler

*Committee Chair

**Co-Facilitator

*** District Resource Member/Non-Voting

Guest(s):

Notes: Jennifer Knutson

The regular meeting of Learning Environments and Partnerships (LEAP) was called to order by Aaron Harder on January 14, at 4:08 p.m. Quorum was met.

- **Public Comment**
 - Gail resigned.
 - Thank you, Gail, for your service to the committee.
- **Welcoming New Members**
 - The LEAP Committee welcomed Mackenzie Gabler, special education teacher at Northstar Middle School, and True Vang, elementary physical education teacher at Sam Davey Elementary School, to the committee.
- **Approval of Minutes**
 - The minutes from the November 12 meeting were reviewed.

Melissa made a motion to approve the November minutes. The motion was seconded by Breanna. Vote was unanimous.

- **SharePoint Site**
 - Members viewed the LEAP SharePoint site and discussed the existing innovations button which included innovative programs that were not all started through LEAP. The two programs that started through LEAP are:
 - i. Arctic Zone at Northstar
 - ii. Documentary Theatre at Memorial
 - Our purpose with the SharePoint site is to clarify the LEAP brand and what LEAP offers. A place to learn more about LEAP, but also a place for people to connect.
 - How are other innovated programs funded without LEAP? SIP. Some schools use FTE from their annual district allocation. Historically, innovations occurring with and without LEAP have been a challenge. It is a

challenge to bridge the gap. The success of LEAP innovations depends on Teaching & Learning's acceptance, if the innovation fits the criteria, and incubation. We need people to say yes this supports our purpose and that this program meets all criteria to be a LEAP program so it can be successful. Other existing innovations didn't need LEAP for one reason or another and would take away from the purpose of LEAP. There is always going to be other avenues.

- After reading Policy 185 Board and District Committees, it was noted that a committee is to provide guidance and recommendation. It is hard to make recommendations when we do not have any programs being proposed.
- Now we need to figure out how to attract staff and their innovative ideas.
- If I am a teacher, what is the compelling reason to go through LEAP versus going another route?
 - a. Do we create advertising/marketing and make the SharePoint site public? Does everyone agree if this makes a compelling offer? LEAP needs to be appealing if it is going to survive. I don't think it has a good reputation at the moment, and we need to rebuild and rebrand it.
 - b. We need to create a plan and implement it. SharePoint is a good start.
 - c. LEAP is trying to find a way to get students engaged. We need to focus and give our full support and attention to programs that are presented to us. Administrators need to be notified right away as well because their support is needed.
 - d. We learned a lot from the Arctic Zone and Eau Zone. As a committee, we need to fix the process to include the principal, T&L, and the superintendent as it casted an image that LEAP is a dead end. It sounds like we didn't have all of the platforms in place to get a good start going. To break out of the box/mold needed to help this group. Didn't anticipate the support or lack of support. It's a teacher's job to know what happens or what works in the classroom. It's the principal's job to know what is best for the building (space, time, people). We had some growing pains and didn't have a conduit or a place for teachers and administrators to talk/communicate.
 - e. LEAP was first marketed as a way to work autonomy into their innovated program without principal involvement. We need to make LEAP the easiest and best route, but it's not easier right now.
 - f. We need to use the next few meetings to turn this around and to draw-in participants. Teachers want to bring autonomy into their classroom. This is a way to get their principal's support to help teachers make their idea happen.
 - g. We are in full support of our district's programming. We want to continue to do better for our students and offer them even more options.

ACTION ITEM(S)

- Rename LEAP Innovation Programs – ECASD Existing Innovations
- Remove Sam Davey in-Tech-Great from LEAP webpage.
- Document: LEAP Zones and other district innovations.
- Arctic Zone is in the middle of revising their performance agreement. They are working with Teaching & Learning currently and may be ready to present to this committee in February. After the initial agreement, there will just be an annual presentation.

- **Update from Policy and Governance**

- At last Monday's Board meeting, they shared a revised copy of the policy.
- The next step would be a vote from the Board, normalizing the whole committee structure, which should take place after the next abbreviated Board meeting.
- Then Policy and Governance will craft a policy, LEAP can react to it if they are given a charge.

ACTION ITEM(S)

- Kim will check with Lori Bica regarding Charter School Policy 331 and its status and will acquire a copy of the revised policy.

- **Future Agenda Items**

- Marketing and Messaging
- Possible update from Arctic Zone

Melissa moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:34 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mackenzie. All were in favor.