

Meeting: Policy & Governance Committee

Date: October 21, 2019

Time: 8:30am

Location: Administration Building, Room 137

Attendees:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laurie Klinkhammer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Torres	<input type="checkbox"/> Charles Vue
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Guests: Mary Ann Hardebeck, Abby Johnson, Kim Koller, Kay Marks, Jim Schmitt

Notes: Meta Miske

Meeting called to order at 8:34am.

1. Public Comment

- Ms. Sue Bornick, Interim Director of the Eau Claire Public Schools Foundation (ECPSF) thanked the Board for reviewing the proposed MOU at the last P&G meeting. In the three weeks since becoming interim director she has arranged and attended 14 meetings to solicit donations and would like to gather alumni contacts from ECASD to help fundraise for special projects such as solar panels. She also thanked Ms. Abby Johnson and Ms. Meta Miske for answering her questions as she’s transitioned into her interim role.
 - President Torres asked if ECASD graduates are automatically invited to join the Alumni Association. Mr. Jim Schmitt said seniors are asked to provide a personal e-mail address if they wish to continue communication. The Alumni Association shares a Constant Contact account with ECPSF so ECPSF already has access to the alumni contact information that ECASD has.
- Mr. Mike Emberson is a Memorial alumnus and on the ECPSF Board of Trustees. He joined the ECPSF three years ago with the understanding that ECPSF would be the fundraising arm of the ECASD. He said the best foundations in the country are the charitable arm of the district and all contributions go through the foundation. His goal is to raise real money for children, not issue small grants here and there. He thinks ECPSF is at an identity crossroads and the community doesn’t know what ECPSF’s role is with the ECASD. Until ECPSF and ECASD clarify their relationship there will be donor confusion. He is involved with a charitable event in Green Bay that raised \$800,000 in one night. He would like an “All in for Kids” event and a committee is ready to do the work once the relationship between the two organizations is clarified.

2. Passwords

- Ms. Siri Larsen, Technology Secretary, assisted Board members in updating their passwords.

3. Policy 185 – Board and District Committees

- Commissioner Klinkhammer believes there are a few committees who have processes that are working. Therefore, it is time for Board members to step back. She proposed having a Board member on LEAP and Demo & Trends only as a liaison, not as a voting member. EauZone has pulled back their proposal for now and LEAP is questioning their purpose and likely needs to be told it is not their task to discuss the Charter School Policy. She asked if LEAP’s charge includes overseeing charter school renewals.
 - Dr. Hardebeck said Charter School contract renewals are approved by the School Board. The Charter School Principal presents a report and at the following meeting the contract is approved with any necessary changes.

- The vision of LEAP was to have all those programs filter through them, but they've ended up focusing on innovative zones instead. However, sometimes innovative programming goes through a School Improvement Plan (SIP), such as South Middle School's Acres for Joy.
- Commissioner Klinkhammer said with her proposed changes to the policy, LEAP and Demo & Trends would become standing committees, and no longer be committees of the Board.
- Commissioner Klinkhammer would like LEAP's purpose clarified to be for innovation zones only. She would also like there to be a defined process on how non-District staff can go about proposing projects and charter schools, such as INDE's proposals for a nature academy.
- The idea to have Board members as non-voting liaisons on LEAP and Demo & Trends is because they may vote to push an idea forward as a committee member. They may not, however, support the idea as a Board member which gives false impressions and is very awkward.
- President Torres clarified that as a liaison the Board member would then just have more information to bring back to the Board. Commissioner Klinkhammer agreed that was the idea behind the liaison.
- This agenda item will be brought back on November 4 so Commissioner Vue can also share his thoughts on the proposed policy changes.
- Ms. Koller said proposers of innovation zones may not understand that LEAP can vote to approve for a zone to be further explored but isn't voting to give support, resources, or funding. Dr. Hardebeck said it might help to clarify that LEAP isn't asking the Board to invest money when it moves a proposal forward to the Board, but simply asking the Board to explore an idea further.
 - President Torres said he would like it clear to the proposers that there must be clear connections to the SIP.

4. Policy 331 – Charter School Guidelines

- Commissioner Klinkhammer is drafting proposed changes to this policy and will have a draft ready for next time.
- President Torres said when the Board compares the work of a charter school's performance with other elementary schools, he doesn't believe that is a fair representation of what's going on. He said the social composition is different from the other elementary schools, especially in socio-economic status. He would like to compare the performance of charter schools against themselves rather than the District as whole, because they have seen negative achievement in the charter schools' free/reduced populations.
 - Mr. Schmitt said if the Board created a common set of indicators they are looking for that would provide guidance when the principals write their reports.
 - Dr. Hardebeck said CV Montessori's contract is up for renewal. If the Board can tell her what they would like to see in the report, she can share that with the principal for planning his report. She said one issue they've faced is that CVM's students of color ratio is lower than the District. Students then become identifiable.
- A draft of changes to Policy 331 will be presented from Commissioner Klinkhammer at the next meeting.

5. Policy 454 – Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse/Neglect/Trafficking

- Mr. Schmitt said last time they talked about a screener to determine if someone has the predisposition to possibly commit a sexual crime, but the validity and cost of the survey is questionable.
- Ms. Kay Marks said this screener was researched in the last year or two. There are barriers and concerns with implementing the assessment as part of a policy.
 - The assessment must be proctored in house. In the 17-18 school year, her department conducted 2356 criminal background checks between employees, volunteers, student teachers, vendors and more. Assuming this policy encompassed the same amount of people, the HR Department would need more than a full-time person to proctor the assessment.

- It is estimated that 50% of volunteer background checks are last minute with only a day or two to run the background check before a field trip or event. It would not be possible to have the assessment completed in that timeframe.
- It may impact willingness of volunteers due to the inconvenience of taking a proctored assessment.
- President Torres asked about the background checks that are already conducted. Ms. Marks said the background checks include any documentation of sexual crimes. This idea of the assessment is to pre-identify if someone has the aptitude to commit a crime.
 - Mr. Schmitt said there are tools that have shown some reliability, but the science isn't fully developed for this to be considered accurate.
- President Torres asked if the District were to deny someone employment, the opportunity to volunteer, etc., based on the results of the assessment, would that be discriminating? Commissioner Klinkhammer believes so.
- Commissioner Klinkhammer asked if they were to strike the assessment paragraph from the policy, would the other two policy updates work?
 - Mr. Schmitt said yes. They are interested in the first highlight and the last highlight. He has concerns with the last highlight and the word "exclusively." They have some gray areas to make sure they captured the practice. He also didn't know if they would then have problems with faith-based organizations who "adopt" a school.
 - President Torres asked if Mr. Schmitt would propose other language. Mr. Schmitt was unsure.
- Dr. Hardebeck suggested the District's attorney review the language changes.
- Mr. Schmitt said regarding Commissioner Luginbill's comment on the proposed draft about the implementation status of providing parent/student awareness/prevention on the dangers and warning signs of student sex trafficking or exploitation that his team is working towards implementation.

6. **Policy 421 – Early Admission/Early Acceleration**

- Hold for next time.

Dr. Torres asked for an update about the MOU with the ECPD.

Commissioner Klinkhammer asked if Policy & Governance could start at 8:00 moving forward and start on time. President Torres was agreeable to the change. Commissioner Vue was absent and later agreed to the adjusted start time of 8:00.

Motion by Commissioner Klinkhammer, second by President Torres, to adjourn meeting at 9:33am. Motion passed by unanimous voice of approval.