

**Meeting:** Policy & Governance Committee

**Date:** November 4, 2019

**Time:** 8:00am

**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, Kim Koller, Jim Schmitt

**Notes:** Meta Miske

Meeting called to order at 8:01am.

**1. Public Comment**

- Flo Sheridan is an ECPSF Trustee and widow of Terry Sheridan, former ECASD Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Interim Superintendent. They are founding members of the ECPSF. When Terry passed away, she used memorial gifts to create the Terry and Flo Sheridan Fund. She enjoys seeing partnerships created through ECPSF, supporting teachers and students, and helping with the Golden Apple Awards.
- Sue Bornick is Interim Director of the ECPSF. She said she recently met with a rep from the NHS Class of '75 who selected five funds to raise for. ECPSF will provide a flyer and a rep from the Class of '75 Alumni Committee will mail the flyer and donation envelope prior to their upcoming reunion. She noted that in the proposed MOU, ECPSF agrees to serve as a partner will facilitate special fundraisers like the Class of '75 fundraiser. Also, in the proposed MOU the ECASD agrees to provide information, input, and support on all prospective gifts. This will help make sure all donations are realized and utilized effectively. She thanked ECASD Administration for their support as she serves in the interim position.
- Lisa Hedrington is a community member. She previously filed a complaint with the ECASD after her son was victimized by a volunteer at the Eau Claire Children's Theatre (ECCT) by a man who was also working as a substitute para-professional for the ECASD. The DPI revoked the man's license and ECASD terminated their employment of him as a sub. ECCT doesn't conduct background checks for volunteers or have a code of conduct. The man in question is still volunteering there and is in a lead performing role in an upcoming production. She asks ECASD to make sure that whenever there's a contract with a non-profit, everyone has a background check, including employees and volunteers. She thanked the ECASD for their help with this challenging situation.
- Krista Caucutt-Ratz has a child with a birthday on September 6 and would like admission to 4K before age four. She feels passionate about beginning education early. She is hoping for an exception to the policy and is excited about the possible legislative changes regarding 4K. Unfortunately, her daughter would miss those changes which would take effect in 2021. She would like her daughter to start EC4T in September 2020.

**2. Policy 185 – Board and District Committees**

- Commissioner Klinkhammer said she would like all P&G members' input so this item will need to be carried forward. However, she's given further thought to the policy, committees and membership.
  - Currently, Board members vote on LEAP and Demo & Trends. Board members also serve in other places such as the ECPSF Trustees, McKinley Governance Board, etc. She is still considering the structure and would like the input of the other members.
- President Torres said there might be two types of committees.

- A committee that gives advice to the Board by gathering and processing information and preparing an informed professional opinion. LEAP and Demo & Trends are an example of this. A Board member isn't needed in the discussion, but Board members can show up as members of the public.
- The other type is a representation of the Board such as with the ECVS Governance Board. They aren't there to vote or direct decisions, they are there just to be informed first-hand of the issues and ensure everything is done within the frame of the contract.
- Commissioner Klinkhammer said perhaps Ad Hoc are the committees that don't have Board members and perhaps that's the type of committee Demo & Trends and LEAP should be.
  - Ad Hoc Committees should receive direction from the whole Board
- Commissioner Klinkhammer will keep working on the policy and bring forward next time.

### 3. Policy 331 – Charter School Guidelines

- Commissioner Klinkhammer reviewed the policy because LEAP had wanted to revise it, she believes because there isn't a mechanism for people from outside the District to propose a charter school. She thinks the Board should oversee the development of charter schools and the policy is appropriate in that manner.
- President Torres said he agreed. However, the policy states the Board recognizes charter schools as innovative and distinctive educational programs which he disagrees with. Research from the last 30 years shows that charter schools are not performing better than public schools.
- Commissioner Klinkhammer said she doesn't think the policy needs to be overhauled. She agreed there is language in the policy that can be modified and bring a draft of the changes forward next time.
- Dr. Hardebeck said sometimes the District hears about needs. If the policy could speak to data, student achievement, and social emotional issues, it may avoid taking resources from students who need it the most. Eau Claire Virtual School was identified as a need via data as families said in surveys they needed it.

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

- Mr. Jim Schmitt provided an update as Administration is recommending revisions to Commissioner Luginbill's proposed language. Legal counsel advised not to include the online sexual risk assessment.
  - One challenge is the definition of a volunteer. Some of the partner organizations might have adults who are not volunteers or employees working with children but pass who through to do business with that organization. Does the Board want to create restrictive language to ensure everyone with an organization has a background check, even if they aren't associated with the ECASD program occurring there?
- Discussion ensued about who needs background checks and when. Non-employees (volunteers, contractors, etc.) have them every three years. Employees have them upon hire and if there's a gap in employment. Discussion if employees should have background checks regularly (employees licensed through the Wisconsin DPI employees have a background check every 5 years) and updating the Employee Handbook to require employees to have regular background checks.
- President Torres asked if the revised language of the policy gives ECASD authority to decline to collaborate with a partner organization that does not conduct background checks. Mr. Schmitt said yes.
- Agreement between President Torres and Commissioner Klinkhammer to move proposed revisions forward to the School Board on December 2, 2019 for review.

### 5. Policy 421 – Early Admission/Early Acceleration

- Mr. Schmitt checked with several other districts and none of them permit early admission to 4K. Proposed legislation would change the enrollment ages, so Administration is recommending no change to the policy until there is guidance from the State of Wisconsin.
- Commissioner Klinkhammer said there's two issues – the current policy which may or may not need revising once the legislation is voted upon, and if ECASD has a process for making an exception.
  - Mr. Schmitt said the Board could make an exception, but it would be in violation of the policy. The policy is what allows the exceptions which are clearly defined for all other grade levels.

- The proposed legislation creates a new set of challenges by allowing two admission periods and allowing children to enter in the semester in which they turn 4-years old. ECASD doesn't currently have the infrastructure to manage the proposed process and there are many unanswered questions about when a child would be enrolled into kindergarten under the proposed legislation.
- Discussion ensued about the science and benefits to the staggered entrance to 4K.
- Mr. Schmitt was unsure about state funding and if they'd even be able to count a student for funding if it was a 3-year old not in the Head Start program.
- President Torres said P&G is not ready to consider changing the policy, they must wait on the state legislature.

Motion by Commissioner Klinkhammer, second by President Torres, to adjourn meeting at 9:10am. Motion passed by unanimous voice of approval.

Krista Caucutt-Ratz made additional comments about an exception for children with September birthdays. She said state law doesn't require students to be enrolled in school until they are 6 years old, and she thinks parents should have the choice when to enroll children up to age 6.