

# Learning Environments And Partnerships (LEAP)

Minutes – June 14, 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**

Tracy Bush, Ad Hoc Member

Chris Hambuch-Boyle, BOE & Chair

Gail Halmstad, Ad Hoc Member

Jeremy Harrison, CV Montessori

Todd Johnson, CVM Principal/Co-Chair

Mike Kohls, McKinley Board

Tim Leibham, Administration

Pete Riley, McKinley Head of Instruction/  
Co-Chair

Absent: Derick Black, Doug Diermeier. Melissa Greer, and Rich Spindler

## **1. Davey: Review and Consideration of Board Presentation**

Sam Davey staff are planning to integrate a STEM or STEAM curriculum this fall but will move into this gradually over the next two years in order to help students and families transition from the current course program. Budget-wise, the difficulty may be coming up with \$27,000 for iPads for K-2; however, it is hopeful to look at collaborating with UW-Stout and applying for grants. Motion by Mike Kohls and seconded by Pete Riley to approve this proposal for presentation to the school board members on July 18, 2016. Motion carried

## **2A. Flynn Grades 4 & 5 Teaming: Imagination Narrative Proposals**

The committee members felt additional information is needed, therefore, this proposal is on hold until Tim Leibham can connect with the Flynn group in the fall.

## **2B. Documentary Theatre – Semester II, Memorial High School**

Amber Dernbach, Memorial Teacher, is looking to implement a semester course at Memorial High School that would link English Language (EL) students with Improv/theater students 7<sup>th</sup> hour rather than an afterschool activity/program. This would assist the EL students learning the English language and sharpen students' acting skills. The budget for this proposal would mostly involve transportation to community theater events and possibly a field trip to Madison. The committee approved this proposal move forward to Step 2.

## **2C. Reading Recovery – Longfellow & Putnam Heights**

Two elementary principals have requested training their literacy coaches (two) in the Reading Recovery program starting at the 1<sup>st</sup> grade level (independent from the current reading program). Once trained, the two coaches could use the ECASD as a training site for other school districts around the state and generate revenue. Gail Halmstad shared the history of the district's decision to go with First Steps reading program rather than Reading Recovery, mostly because of the cost of training. After much discussion, the group decided to hold on this proposal until Tim Leibham has an opportunity to talk with both principals.

## **3. LEAP networking, marketing, webpage design**

With the retirement of Sandy LaValley, the administrative assistant job description is being revised to include social media skills in order to assist with the coordination and marketing of the LEAP committee. This will help build capacity internally as well as externally with other school districts. Tim suggested two committee members possibly serve on the interview team.

## **4. Committee Structure and Membership**

Tim Leibham suggested the members meet in July for a half-day retreat (8:30 am – 12:30 pm) to discuss committee structure, committee membership and the IZ proposal process. A Doodle Poll will be emailed to the committee members offering Monday – Thursday, July 11 – 14 and July 18 – 21. The consensus date will be emailed once all committee members have responded.

## **5. Other**

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm. The next meeting will be scheduled in July based on the availability of members (Doodle Poll).