

ENTHEOS ACADEMY

EXCELLENCE • SERVICE • LEADERSHIP

EL Review Committee Meeting Agenda 4/14/2022

In attendance: Deb Ivie (board), Xazmin Prows (board), Karen Boganschutz (board), Stephanie Gibson (board), Jason Bennion (Director), Esther Blackwell (Executive Director), Dina Wecker (Secretary)

- Future of the EL Education Contract
- Other organizations with which we are interested in connecting
- Filling the gap if we no longer contract with EL
- Expeditions vs. Modules in K-3 - Esther
- Looping in grades 1-2 - Esther

Welcome: Xazmin

Esther - Background - Lost Jamie (EL Designer) but we really haven't had one a solid one in 2 years. We have 16 School Designer Days built up. Contract through August 2022. We are using 3 days in April with an EL consultant. Thurs, Crew, Fri Admin? Sat EL 101. Leadership Cohort has been rescheduled to May 10th so we didn't get to see what was on the agenda.

We hope they will reimburse us the money? But we do't really know?

Consensus we aren't really getting our money's worth out of EL nor have we been for quite some time. Other options that are more aligned to what EL used to be?

National Society of Experiential Learning <https://www.nsee.org/> Conference Sept 26 -28, 2022 Salt Lake City

Association of Experiential Education <https://www.aee.org/> Black Mountain, NC November 10-13, 2022

National Youth Leadership Council <https://www.nylc.org/>

National Service Learning Clearing House
<https://community-wealth.org/content/national-service-learning-clearinghouse>

J.S. could consider her as a district employee or a contract person to be an in house EL school designer and/or literacy specialist. She would be interested in this. Esther will reach out to her and explore more.

She has a lot of trust and respect in the school and would be accepted.

Could we do it without her? Yes, but it would take a larger team and more work and time. With her we could focus on the building the teachers capacity and documentation and without her we would have to build a coaching teams capacity first then move it out to teachers.

Esther to explore what does it look like exactly and what the roles would look like and expectations.

Funding could be Covid for a few years then Land Trust and EL contract funds ongoing.

New legislation was passed for early lit K-3 to have a comprehensive reading program. Evidence based that means that teacher created is not good enough.

Option 1 - a reading program like 95phonics reading or Wonders and expeditions

Option 2 - use the models and expeditionize them. Service Learning, field work, experts, HQW products and CoLearning.

We all like Option 2. Option 1 isn't feasible and is too much on teachers and there isn't enough time. BUT there is resistance to this bill, so wait a little while before we buy or move on it.

Maybe incorporate intensives?

New Acadience Math assessment, with Acadience Reading and progress monitoring there is just so much required testing and with the above curriculum changes, is looping too much for teachers?

We think yes and the data agrees. 5 out of the 6 teachers don't like the pressures of looping.

Anything we can do to make their jobs easier and to be an expert in their grade we should encourage.

Write looping out of charter in Exhibit A process.

Meeting ended. 1 hour 28 minutes.

EL Review Committee Meeting Agenda 2/02/2022

- Appoint committee chair
Xazmin and Deb voted in as co-chair
- Choose committee secretary : because we have a quorum, minutes need to be posted. Deb motioned appointment of Dina as secretary of committee chair. Xazmin seconded, unanimous vote
- Appoint additional members to EL Review committee
Appointed Jason Bennion, Dina Wecker, Esther Blackwell,
Stephanie: would like to have Mat Edvik's opinion because of past EL experience
Dina mentioned that most of the challenges with EL are current.
Esther and Jason: Mat would be good to bring in as an expert for perspective on what we love about EL. Michelle would also be a good expert on what we value about EL.
Xazmin: motion to add Esther Blackwell, Jason Bennion and Dina Wecker to EL committee Stephanie seconded; Unanimous vote
- Overview of EL Direction– Esther Blackwell
 - This is not an exhaustive list. Just a starting point. Brief overview of documents:
 - Link n EL is headed
- Discussion on cost of EL contract
 - What is the support we expect to receive for this cost? With pandemic, have not received on-campus days, no institutes, no national conferences in 3 years. Prior to this, Dina feels like

there have not been institutes that would help with development of expeditions. Prior to this the institutes were very useful. Institutes are disappearing from training and vernacular as they move to modules rather than focusing on expeditions. Also quite expensive venues, locations. A lot of variation in quality of school designers. If we don't have a great designer it is isolating and we don't receive the expertise that is helpful. Relationship with EL is dependent on one person (school designer). In the past Kearns worked really hard to become EL credentialed...lost credentialing because school testing doesn't align with EL system. We cannot become credentialed with current EL system. Currently no school designer

Jason: EL is a great way to teach, hands on etc. However support from EL is very challenging. Did not receive support last year, new school designer this year, but even when designer was here, admin feels that it was not very valuable; could provide higher quality of support, training ourselves. EL documents show that EL Ed is headed in an entire different direction than we are as a school. Attending EL does not help them to prepare for what we are trying to do in the classroom. Virtual isn't helping but they understand the pandemic. However the direction and support for the cost is not not helping.

Stephanie: at the beginning they said that once we were credentialed we could increase/decrease the contract. Esther: we are signed up for the minimal number of days they will allow to remain an EL school (in the 20s) we haven't even been able to receive those days. Finance part is tricky due to pandemic and difficulty of working with EL finance department. A lot of turnover with school designers, regional leadership. It has been very inconsistent. Had institutes available at the beginning of the year, large majority were focused on one specific design principle. When asked they said the organization has now chosen to focus on one area. They are now focusing on large urban school districts. Small schools will be "sites of innovations" focus on pre written curriculums for large urban districts. No longer promoting or supporting PD on expeditions. However individual school designers can support it. Again no PD on it
Dina: Magna is using the models. However they are purchased from open up resources, not part of EL contract. Would not lose access to the modules magna to use. Not even a discount to modules.

Stephanie: strange that they are moving away from teachers developing expeditions

Jason: This makes it difficult for Magna, which is trying to come into doing expeditions again.

Xazmin: school designer can't help us write expedition if they aren't trained in expedition

Stephanie: This is a huge move from what EL was when we started.

Adriane: question on impact of pandemic

Esther: Some of the visits are due to the pandemic, but some things won't change after the pandemic. Support for expeditions won't return. Kinds of institutes will not return to a focus on expeditions

- What is the support we are currently receiving? Esther: 40 direct service days, with a designer on site. over both campuses (typical contact) 4 regional leadership cohort participant spots, several national conference and institute spots. Cannot fall below a certain amount of school designer days and remain a network school.

- Discussion on benefits of contracting with EL, as well as concerns about continuing to contract with EL moving forward
- Deb: what would we lose? Dina: inspired from the outside, see what they are doing. Site seminars, seeing what other schools were doing is very inspiring-come back with big ideas. Are

they continuing site seminars? Dina : even a bad institute you would come back inspired. What else do we lose, terminology, etc. What can we keep the same would lose a leadership cohort, but could buy texts, attend conferences etc. Can access core practices modules are available to everyone. We could use what we wanted. Could not be credentialed, but currently cannot be credentialed in Utah anyway. Staff is committed to the old school model of expeditionary learning. It would be a loss not to have someone bring that in, but that isn't happening now anyway. Possibly could contract independently with an expeditionary learning expert to come in and do it.

Greenwood and Voyage- PHA, venture, promontory no longer el. Esther: potential loss of trust, would need to work on perception; not changing model, working to keep our model because el is moving in a different direction. Xazmin: Expeditionary Learning is gone. we are carrying on those practices

- Update of where we currently are with EL and determine next actions

Current contract expires in august. This year's contract will go largely unfilled. We want to decide no later than May what to do here.

Esther: What are options there?

other organizations? pick and mix? contract with an expeditionary learning expert?

Read through documents, linked documents

Committee members will look at current and past partners, and talk next time about