

ELLIS SCHOOL & THE FUTURE COMMITTEE
January 22, 2015 Meeting
6pm, SAU 83

MINUTES

Call to order – 6:03pm, Those present included Leah Kennedy, Larry Dobson, Sharon Polleck, and Betsey Cox-Buteau.

Review of Minutes of January 22, 2015 – The minutes of January 22, 2015 were reviewed and accepted as submitted.

Choice of topic for literature review for the evening

Question 1 - Competency-based education

Why do we level a school? What purpose does it serve?

How to divide up a school in the most effective way for learning? By age? By ability? Etc.

Discussion began in earnest regarding competency-based education, what that means, and what it looks like. Different members of the committee offered their personal experiences and beliefs based upon their experiences to the conversation. Several beliefs statements emerged from the conversation:

BELIEF STATEMENTS:

1. Students are best served when given the instruction and time to learn what they need to learn before moving on, in other words, students move at their own pace of learning and mastery.
2. There needs to be a well-defined mastery scale used to assess the readiness of students to advance along their learning continuum.
3. For number 1 to be successful there must be a learning culture established that support ageless learning and mixed age levels learning together at times.
4. Parents are expected to support the culture and be an active, integral part of such a system.
5. This system might be more effective with some kind of intrinsic student reward structure built into it.

Adjourn –The meeting adjourned at 7:33pm. The next meeting is at 6pm on Thursday, March 12th at the SAU.

Topics for research are:

1. How to level a school in the most effective way for learning? By age? By ability? Etc.
2. How should learning be reported to parents?
3. What is the best, most effective type of parent involvement? What does it look like?
4. How should the school calendar year be structured for students to learn and not lose?
5. Does separating the genders make a difference in learning? If so, at what age is it most effective?
6. What kind of grouping works most effectively for students to learn most efficiently?
7. 1:1 Technology – Is it needed? Is it worth it?

NORMS

Attend all meetings, Start/end on time, No school/no meeting, All voices heard, One person speaks at a time, Do your homework, Stick to the agenda, Be respectful at all times