

## **APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

**January 28, 2021**

**Launch Now Demo – Zoom Meeting**

**7:00 p.m.**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting started at 7:00 pm.

In attendance: Chair Deborah Brooks, Vice Chair David Mylott, Member Heather Clark, Member Ben Leavitt, Member Robin O'Day, and Superintendent Furbush.

### **SCHEDEDULED GUESTS**

a. Claudia Tobon, Melorah Bisaillon, and Tyler Nekton – Launch Now Demo

Claudia Tobon, founder of Launch Now, introduced herself and described her background. With this application, she is focusing on experiential learning. She went through the Launch Now prototype and walked the audience through the different steps. She stated that parent consent is needed in order for students to utilize the app. Once consent is given, the guidance counselor will provide the student with a code to create an account. The welcome page on the application gives students the opportunity to peruse the career options before prompting them to answer questions. Melorah said that this is due to the large range of students' ages. Some students may know exactly what they're interested in and may want to search it immediately. On Launch Now, there will be career clusters and subsets with career pathways. Claudia is utilizing consistent terminology throughout the application that is familiar to school districts nationwide. After giving the student time to look around the application, an assessment survey prompt pops up. The survey will assess three different categories: activities, personal qualities, and school subjects. The survey will allow students to swipe right or swipe left depending on their likes and dislikes. She walked the Board through a couple sample questions on the personal assessment survey. There will be 72 questions across the three categories. This is a very typical length for this type of survey. At the end of the survey, the three top matches will be displayed for the student to explore. Students can retake the assessment if they want to. Ben asked if students will purposefully try to get the results they want. Melorah said that it will most likely depend on the specific student. Heather asked if it stores previous data. Claudia said that it purges previous

survey data, but it will save matched career cluster information. Within each career, it shows the job description and necessary skills. The students can sign up to receive notifications of job opportunities for positions that they're interested in. Also, they're able to save jobs to review in the future, and they can delete jobs if they're no longer interested. The students can notify their parents or guidance counselors of what they are interested in and start a conversation about it. The administrative section will be able to see all the listed companies. Claudia is going to continue working on the employer information. In the administrative section, the employer opportunities should be available in the fall at roll out. The students will be able to set filters during their ELO and internship search such as location. The approved employers will be uploaded to the application by Melorah. Epping is the only district in the pilot program. Claudia also discussed student profiles. Internships and other completed options are displayed on their profiles. She also discussed how she realized the importance of looking at both personality and career interests. She briefly discussed the settings section of the application.

### **COMMENTS/OTHER**

Melorah plans on having the students complete the survey in a group setting in the classroom. She is hoping that it will be something that they'll eventually complete on their own. It will be a classroom tool and used for individual exploration.

Tyler noted that there will be other options for students who don't want to opt in.

Robin asked if the employers would receive the student's information who match with that specific career cluster. The guidance counselor will be the middleman. No identifying information is given to the employer. The employer can see the number of students who match the specific career cluster, but then they would need to request that specific information.

Annual documentation for the DOL from employers is needed. There is a recertification process each year.

Deborah asked where the application can be used. It is a web enabled mobile app, so it can be used on the computer and mobile devices.

Heather asked where the data is stored and who has access to it. It is stored in the AWS servers. It is top level security. The student's name and school-based email will be the only visible information. Their information will not be sold or given away. The student owns the data they upload. The data gets purged when the student leaves the system.

Ben asked about the state vetting process, and they said that they are still waiting on the consortium.

Ben asked about the project program and timeline. Claudia wants to get results that are repeatable, and she still needs student feedback. They're planning on having four weeks for debugging. They also need to continue working on employer development.

If a student is interested in a specific position and they go to guidance, Melorah would find that position and create an ELO for them.

Claudia will upload the employers into the database, and Melorah may still need to find additional employers.

Melorah explained what her side of the application looks like.

The connection with employers and attractiveness to students is what differentiates this platform from other career surveys.

The district hasn't had Naviance for about three to five years.

Some of the benefits of Launch Now include career exploration, looking at post-secondary plans, and ELO opportunities.

It was stated that an updated Memorandum of Understanding was created.

David said that this is a great opportunity for the town. He is a big supporter of Launch Now. He asked if there would be any costs to the district. There won't be any since she funded it herself.

Heather is worried that the Epping students are going to be the guinea pigs. She wondered if Launch Now would be better for college aged students. Tyler said that he wished he had this opportunity in high school.

Heather asked Superintendent Furbush if he could try to get a grant in order to hire an ELO employee.

David said that the company he works for would love to be a part of this program. He said that it would be a great opportunity to inform kids about jobs that they may not have learned about otherwise.

Ben asked if they would be grandfathered in if there are additional costs in the future. Claudia said that there will never be any costs, and she will update the Memorandum of Understanding.

Deborah, David, and Ben are in support of Launch Now.

Robin likes that this is an opt-in program.

Launch Now will be briefly discussed at the February 18<sup>th</sup> School Board meeting.

The DOL paperwork is online now and Launch Now will have the link to those resources.

The district could potentially add more classes based on the most popular student interests.

The Board thanked Claudia, Melorah, and Tyler for their time tonight.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Member Ben Leavitt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm. Seconded by Member Heather Clark. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dagny Wilkins

School Board Secretary