



Frank Edelblut
Commissioner

Christine M. Brennan
Deputy Commissioner

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Public School Innovation
Division of Education Analytics and Resources
25 Hall Street
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December 2023
State Board of Education Meeting
Innovation School Program Application
Landaff School District – Blue School
Executive Summary

A. Action Needed

A vote is needed by the State Board of Education to either approve or reject the Landaff School District – Blue School innovation plan as submitted by the Landaff School Board.

B. Rationale for Action

Ed 1500.04(e) requires the State Board of Education to either approve or reject the innovation plan based on the elements set forth in RSA -E:2, III-IV.

C. Effects of this Action

Approval of this innovation plan application will allow the applicant to implement the proposed innovations as delineated in the plan.

If the innovation plan is rejected, the Landaff School Board may resubmit an amended innovation plan to the Department of Education at any time after rejection.

D. Possible Motions

I move that the State Board of Education approve the Landaff School District – Blue School innovation plan.

OR:

I move that the State Board of Education reject the Landaff School District – Blue School innovation plan.



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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
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November 28, 2023

State Board of Education
New Hampshire Department of Education
25 Hall Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Department Report to the State Board of Education
Landaff School Board – Blue School Innovation Plan Application

State Board of Education,

This report has been prepared and is being submitted by the New Hampshire Department of Education (NHED) Administrator of Educational Pathways to the New Hampshire State Board of Education (SBOE) to summarize the process followed, and the information provided by, the Landaff School District and the Landaff School Board in requesting SBOE approval of their Innovation School Plan application (application) for the “Blue School”. The application has been prepared and submitted in general accordance with the requirements of NHED rule Ed 1500 – Innovation Schools.

Application and Review Process

- The Landaff School Board submitted its initial application for the Blue School to NHED on November 1, 2023. In accordance with Ed 1501.04(b), NHED completed a review of the application and had two virtual meetings to provide feedback to the School District and a representative of the Landaff School Board. Based on the feedback provided by NHED, the initial application was withdrawn from consideration on November 16, 2023. For purpose of brevity, neither the content nor the reasons for the withdrawal of the initial application will be discussed further.
- In accordance with Ed 1501.02(a), the Landaff School District submitted a revised application to the Landaff School Board for consideration.
- In accordance with Ed 1501.03(a) the Landaff School Board held the required public hearing on October 30, 2023. A copy of the required public hearing notice is attached.

- In accordance with Ed 1501.03(b)(1) the Landaff School Board voted to approve the revised application and to seek designation from the SBOE under Ed 1501.04. A copy of the draft Landaff School Board meeting minutes is attached.
- The Landaff School Board submitted the locally approved revised application to NHED on November 22, 2023. In accordance with Ed 1501.04(b). NHED completed a review of the revised application and offered no additional comments. A copy of the locally approved revised application is attached.

Potential SBOE Actions

In accordance with Ed 1503.04(e), the SBOE shall either approve or reject the locally approved application. If the SBOE approves the application, the Landaff School District may implement the innovation(s) as delineated in the application. If the innovation plan is rejected by the SBOE, the Landaff School Board may resubmit an amended application to NHED at any time after rejection.

Future Performance Review

If the application is approved, Ed 1501.05 requires that two years after the date of approval the Landaff School Board shall a complete performance review of the innovation plan and submit the results of that review to NHED. NHED will also complete a review of the Landaff School Board submittal and provide feedback as necessary. Following completion of NHED's review, the Landaff School Board Chair, or designee, shall provide a presentation to the SBOE at a regularly scheduled meeting.

Closing

Please let our office know if you have any questions or need additional information to inform your recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy C. Carney
Administrator of Educational Pathways

Attachments – Landaff School Board Public Hearing Notice
Landaff School Board Draft Meeting Minutes
Landaff School Board Approved Revised Innovation Plan Application

Landaff School Board Public Hearing Notice



Kate Segal – Superintendent
k.segal@sau35.org

Toni Butterfield – Business Manager
t.butterfield@sau35.org

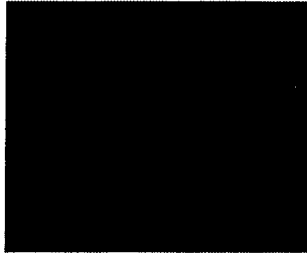
Phone: (603) 444-3925 ♦ 262 Cottage Street, Suite 301 Littleton, New Hampshire 03561 ♦ Fax: (603) 444-6299

**LANDAFF BLUE SCHOOL
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
Tuesday, November 21 2023
Location: Landaff Town Hall
12 Center Hill Rd
Landaff, NH 03585
Time: 5:30 PM
with board meeting to follow.**

The purpose of this public hearing is
to review the Landaff Blue School Innovative Plan

posted at Landaff School, Landaff School website, Town of Landaff, SAU #35 office

Landaff School Board Draft Meeting Minutes



Landaff School Board Location: Landaff Town Hall Draft
November 21, 2023
Public Meeting at 5:30 PM
Board Meeting to follow

Present: Head Teacher Molly Culver, School Board Chair John Barth, School Board Vice Chair Matthew Copithorne, SAU Superintendent Kate Segal, SAU Business Administrator Toni Butterfield, Landaff School Board Clerk/Secretary Jennifer L. Cartwright

I. Call to Order for public meeting: John called the meeting to order at 5:34PM for the follow up public hearing.

Changes and adjustments were made to the plan due to federal laws that needed to be met, to remove personal information and names but add qualifications of head teacher, change lead teacher to head teacher; asking for a waiver due to no certified principal; discussion of need for survey and public input about the plan.

Matt made a motion to approve the revised Blue School Innovation plan as amended with recommendations by Tim Carney; John seconded; the motion carried.

John made a motion to adjourn at 6:03PM; Matt seconded; the motion carried.

Submitted by,
Jennifer L. Cartwright, Landaff School Board Clerk/Secretary

**Landaff School Board Approved Revised
Innovation Plan Application**



Kate Segal – Superintendent
k.segal@sau35.org

Toni Butterfield – Business Administrator
t.butterfield@sau35.org

Phone: (603) 444-3925 760 Main Street, PO Box 780,
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Blue School Innovation Plan

in accordance with N.H. Rev. Stat 194-E:2

First Landaff Public Hearing, Monday, October 30, 2023, 5:30 p.m. at Landaff Town Hall

Approved by the Landaff School Board on October 30, 2023

Follow up Landaff Public Hearing, Tuesday, November 21, 2023, 5:30 p.m. at Landaff Town Hall

Approved by the Landaff School Board at November 21, 2023

Landaff has had a rich history of education dating back to the formation of Dartmouth College which was originally intended to be located in Landaff, to the continual use of our historical Blue School, a one room school house since 1858 currently educating 13 preschool students and 13 students in grades K-4. The mission of the Blue School is “to form a partnership with parents and the community to prepare all students to become lifelong learners in a safe environment with high expectations so that they will become responsible, productive citizens that reach their full potential in an ever-changing society.” Having this unique grade-span, multi-aged one room school house offers social and emotional benefits that do not happen in a regular school setting, including mentoring and academic support from the older students to the younger students, in preschool-first grade. It also allows Landaff’s Head Teacher to target individual instruction according to student ability, not grade or age. The Blue School has and will continue to meet this mission, while ensuring our vision to develop responsible and ethical citizens who are academically, socially, and physically prepared to meet and shape the future of our community and society as a whole.

RSA 194-E:2. III

- (a) The mission of the Blue School is “to form a partnership with parents and the community to prepare all students to become lifelong learners in a safe environment with high expectations so that they will become responsible, productive citizens that reach their full potential in an ever-changing society.” Designation as an innovation school will enhance the Blue’s School’s ability to achieve this mission by forgoing certain staff credentials in an effort to continue hiring effective and engaging employees. The plan will outline how we currently implement creative and inventive strategies to maintain student achievement and reduce targeted gaps, mostly due to Covid-19 Pandemic.

- (b) The innovations in school staffing that are currently in place to meet minimum standards of NH Code Admin.R. Ed 306.15 include:

The Blue School continues to provide the services of a principal by hiring a Blue School Head Teacher, with a Masters Degree in Elementary Education and a license for Elementary Education K-8, Special Education K-12. The current Head Teacher has been the administrator of these duties effectively since 2015, without a N.H. Department of Education Principal’s License, however, with SAU 35 support from the Business Administrator and Superintendent, principal roles and responsibilities have been met. The current Head Teacher holds an Experience Elementary School Educators license, as well as a license in K-12 Special Education, and has earned a Masters in Education K-8.

(c) We are requesting a waiver of the above provision of staff and staff qualifications listed in N.H. Code Admin. Ed 306.15, based on the effectiveness of the Blue School providing innovative, alternative services which meet the needs of our students. Under the leadership and instruction of the Head Teacher, for almost 10 years, Landaff Blue School elementary students have effectively transitioned to Lisbon Regional School, Lafayette Elementary School, Profile School, White Mountain School, Saint Johnsbury Academy and schools in SAU23. Despite the pandemic, the SAS results from 2021-2022 show 100% of our 3rd graders are proficient in math, 60% at level 3 and 40% at level 4; 80% of our 3rd graders are proficient, 40% at level 4. The school did not have any 4th graders during this school year. In the 2022-2023 school year, 100% of all 3rd and 4th graders were proficient in math. 75% of the 3rd grade students were proficient in reading and 72% of the 4th grade were proficient in reading. In addition, during the last ten years, the Landaff resident seniors graduation rate is 100%.

(d) The Blue School programs, operational documents and Landaff School District policies are not affected by this innovative plan.

(e) The 2022 IReport shows that the New Hampshire state average for math in 3rd grade was 51%; and 4th grade was 48%. The 2022 IReport shows that the New Hampshire state average for English Language Arts in 3rd grade was 45% and 4th grade was 48%. The Blue School will continue to show high academic performance, as indicated by the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 NH SAS results. Please refer to the chart below.

SAS Results 2021-2022 School Year

	Blue School	N.H. Average	
3rd Grade Math	100% proficient	51% proficient	
4th Grade Math	N/A*	48% proficient	*No 4th graders at Blue School
3rd Grade ELA	80% proficient	45% proficient	
4th Grade ELA	N/A*	48% proficient	*No 4th graders at Blue School

SAS Results 2022-2023 School Year

	Blue School	N.H. Average	N.H. state average not available for 2023 on https://dashboard.nh.gov/t/DOE/views/iReport-State/Achievement
3rd Grade Math	100% proficient	N/A	
4th Grade Math	100% proficient	N/A	
3rd Grade ELA	75% proficient	N/A	
4th Grade ELA	72% proficient	N/A	

2022-2023 Landaff Blue School Fall to Spring Benchmark Growth Comparison

DIBELS Assessment- DIBELS 8th Edition literacy assessment is used to identify children who may need extra help to become good readers and check up on those children while they receive the extra help to make sure they are making progress.

- Letter Naming Fluency (LNF) now accounts for how frequently letters appear in both upper- and lower-case forms.
- Phonemic Segmentation Fluency (PSF) now accounts for both word frequency and the number of phonemes in a word.
- Nonsense Word Fluency (NWF) now accounts for the frequency of spelling patterns.
- Word Reading Fluency (WRF) is now part of the DIBELS assessment system.
- Oral Reading Fluency (ORF) only requires one passage per benchmark period and passages are now written by experienced authors.
- Maze passages are now written by experienced authors and include several other improvements.
 - 80%-100%-At or Above Average
 - 40%-60%-Below Average
 - 10%-40%-Well Below Average
- Students also complete reading level assessments using the Fountas and Pinnell Literacy program.

Grade	Math Fall	Math Winter	Math Spring	Read Fall	Read Winter	Read Spring
Kindergarten	100%	100%	100%	20%	95%	100%
First Grade	85%	100%	Number Fluency 20% at benchmark 60% above Quantity Discrimination 100% on or	40%	80%	80%

			above Missing Number 100% on or above			
Second Grade	N/A	90%		90%	95%	NA
Third Grade	70%	90%		95%	100%	100%
Fourth Grade	70%	90%		95%	100%	100%

Acadience Assessment- Acadience measures the indication of academic success. It helps teachers and schools determine how students are performing on important reading skills. These measures are designed for students in grades K-6. DIBELS is used to identify children who may need extra help to become good readers and check up on those children while they receive the extra help to make sure they are making progress. **Acadience is a timed assessment.**

2023-2024 Landaff Blue School Fall to Spring Benchmark Growth Comparison

Aimswest Assessment- DIBELS 8th Edition literacy assessment is used to identify children who may need extra help to become good readers and check up on those children while they receive the extra help to make sure they are making progress.

- Letter Naming Fluency (LNF) now accounts for how frequently letters appear in both upper- and lower-case forms.
- Phonemic Segmentation Fluency (PSF) now accounts for both word frequency and the number of phonemes in a word.
- Nonsense Word Fluency (NWF) now accounts for the frequency of spelling patterns.
- Word Reading Fluency (WRF) is now part of the DIBELS assessment system.
- Oral Reading Fluency (ORF) only requires one passage per benchmark period and passages are now written by experienced authors.
- Maze passages are now written by experienced authors and include several other improvements.
 - 90-99%- Well Above Average
 - 75-89%- Above Average
 - 26-74%-Average
 - 11-25%- Below Average
 - 1-10%- Well Below Average

- Students also complete reading level assessments using the Fountas and Pinnell Literacy program.

Aimswest Assessment-Math:

Math Domain and Skills Assessed:

- Geometry
- Measurement and Data
- Number and operations- Base 10
- Numbers and Operations Fractions
- Operations and Algebraic Thinking
- 90-99%- Well Above Average
- 75-89%- Above Average

- 26-74%-Average
- 11-25%- Below Average
- 1-10%- Well Below Average

Grade	Math Fall	Math Winter	Math Spring	Read Fall	Read Winter	Read Spring
Kindergarten	94.5%			66.5%		
First Grade	100%			100%		
Second Grade	100%			100%		
Third Grade	100%			100%		
Fourth Grade	100%			100%		

(f) By implementing these innovations the district has had a cost savings in the General Budget under function code 2410 School Administration Salary and Benefits. Despite these cost savings, the Blue School cost per pupil on 2022 was \$33,114.00, over \$10,000.00 more than the average New Hampshire cost per pupil. Hiring additional staff would further increase that per pupil cost. The average Elementary School Principal salary in New Hampshire is \$78,688 as of October 25, 2023, but the range typically falls between \$69,954 and \$89,242.

(g) Landaff Blue School is blessed to have an extremely high level of support from the small rural community with a total population under 500. For the last ten years, the Landaff School District has voted to raise and appropriate funds asked to support the Blue School for the payment of salaries and statutory obligations of the district. In addition, other school warrant articles, including appropriating funds for Technology, Tuition, Building and Special Education Trust Funds have also been supported by the taxpayers present at the District Annual Meeting.

(h) Landaff Blue School does not have a collective bargaining agreement.

(i) Additional information is not required by the local school board of the Landaff School District to implement this Blue School Innovation Plan. However, multiple verbal conversations by community and parents with school board members, as well as the Blue School Head Teacher, indicate overwhelming support for this Innovation Plan as it allows the Landaff Blue School, built in 1858, to continue to educate the children of Landaff, in the only one of six remaining one-room school house.