

LEARN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR/BUSINESS MEETING
Remote meeting via Zoom
Minutes
December 10, 2020

Present: Chester; Dale Bernardoni, East Hampton; Amy Ordonez, East Haddam; Nicole Hendry East Lyme; Tim Hagen, Groton; Rita Volkmann, LEARN; Kate Ericson, Montville; Robert Mitchell, Norwich; Al Daniels, Preston; Cindy Luty, Region# 17; Jen Favalora, Region # 18; Diane Linderman, Stonington; Craig Esposito

Representatives not attending: Clinton; Michael Hornyak, Deep River; Lenore Grunko, Essex; Carolyn Rotella, Guilford; Kristen Peck, Ledyard; Naomi Rodriguez, Madison; Diane Infantine-Vyce, New London; Jefferey Hart, North Stonington; Phil Mendolia, Old Saybrook; Jan Furman, Salem; Sean Reith, Waterford; Craig Merriman

Guests: Patrice McCarthy, Mike Belden, Jack Cross, Nat Brown, Christine Pemberton, Donna Worst

Not Attending and Not Represented: Westbrook

1. Call to order: 9:02 am
2. Inform members that in compliance with Governor Lamont's Executive Order No.7B and 9H, an audio recording of LEARN's monthly virtual board meetings will be posted on the LEARN website until further notice. Members are asked to identify themselves by name and district prior to speaking. Introduction of board members and guests.
3. Public comment: no public comment
4. Reading Review of Correspondence: Correspondence from Worker's Compensation Trust stating that LEARN has qualified for a premium return of \$72,878 that will be distributed one month prior to the scheduled renewal date of the 2021 policy. NEASC letter conveying CTRA 2 year progress post NEASC visit.
5. Superintendent's Perspective: Patrice McCarthy, Deputy Director and General Counsel for the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE)

Legislative session update: Experienced legislators have returned to guide the Education Committee.

Number of bills will be reduced due to the current virtual environment. More opportunities for public participation. Vaccinations will be a topic to be discussed. The intent is that the teaching staff will be in the group directly following first responders and health care workers. A mandate to vaccinate will be decided at the local level. Priorities of the next legislative session will be school funding efforts, which have been challenged by the state's current fiscal condition, professional development guidelines, removal of the cap on special education cost, and support of equity work. Black and Latino studies are to be included in district course offerings.

6. Consent Agenda Items:
 - 6.1 Approval of the Minutes – regular business meeting- November 12, 2020
 - 6.2 Budget – An update is included.
 - 6.3 Grant Applications –

Motion: To approve the Consent Agenda by Daniels, second by Luty
Motion passed unanimously
Abstained: Nikki Hendry

7. Information from the Executive Director:
 - 7.1 Hiring – New Hires’ & Resignations’ Data and Trend Reports are included in packet. Christine Pemberton was introduced as LEARN’s new Director of Human Resources. Need for increased proctors and special education staff was noted.
 - 7.2 Distributions – LEA (teachers) & LAO (administrators) proposed contracts
 - 7.3 Executive Committee meeting minutes – November 20, 2020 (included in packet).
 - 7.4 Student Support Services (SSS) Building Committee special meeting minutes – November 20, 2020 (included in packet).
 - 7.5 Legislative update – RESC’s are advocating for increased funding for magnet schools. School readiness funding to be addressed as funding has been flat for past eight years. Teacher Recruitment Program funding will be requested to increase the number of minority teachers across the state. Through this program, it is expected to increase staff diversity by double the current number.
 - 7.6 Agency Update: GEER program to distribute iPads to region to families enrolled in public and private early childhood programs. RESC Alliance Convention met to promote continued partnerships among the state’s RESCs in sharing resources and expertise. The Bureau of Aging and Disabilities has requested assistance from the RESC Alliance in developing a training program adults with disabilities. Staffing shortages at LEARN continue. After the first of teachers will be asked to return to in-classroom teaching. There is concern regarding resignations and retirements resulting.
8. Old Business:
 - 8.1 Revised Policy, # 5005; “Students, Sex Discrimination, and Sexual Harassment” (*changes in Title IX regulations/procedures are included*), Second Read
Motion to approve revised policy # 5005, “Students, Sex Discrimination, and Sexual Harassment” by Linderman, second by Volkmann
Motion approved unanimously
9. New Business:
 - 9.1 New Policy # 3543.311; Business and Non-Instructional Operations – Office Services/Records and Reports, “*Holds on the Destruction of Electronic and Paper Records*” First read. (*Regulations included*)
 - 9.2 New Policy # 3543.31; Business and Non-Instructional Operations - Office Services/Records and Reports, “*Electronic Communications Use and Retention*”, First read. (*Regulations included*)
 - 9.3 Magnet Tuitions 2021-2022
Motion to approve the 2021-2022 Magnet School tuitions as presented: The Friendship School -0% increase, Regional Multicultural Magnet School- 1.51% increase (\$47); Marine Science Magnet High School - 1% increase (\$61); and Three Rivers Magnet Middle College- 1% increase (\$61) by Daniels, second by Luty
Motion approved unanimously
 - 9.4 Special Education Tuitions 2021-2022
There will be no increase to the 2021-2022 Special Education Tuitions
 - 9.5 Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy Project II- Building Committee & Charter- the building committee will be comprised of voting members: the LEARN Executive officers, Executive director, Kate Ericson and community member, Gary Cymbala. Non-voting members of the committee are Bridgette Gordon-Hickey, Jack Cross, and Mike Belden.
Motion to approve the charter and members of the Student Support Services Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy Project II Building Committee as presented by Volkmann, second by Linderman
Motion approved unanimously

- 9.6 LEARN Administrator's Organization (LAO) Contract review
Motion to approve the LEARN Administrator's Organization Admin. contract by Daniels, second by Mitchell
Motion passed unanimously
- 9.7 LEARN Education Association (LEA) contract review
Motion to approve the LEARN Education Association teacher's contract by Luty, second by Daniels
Motion passed unanimously
10. Educational Perspective: no presentation (*additional time available for Roundtable discussions*)
11. Roundtable/Future Agenda Items: District Updates; challenges & opportunities regarding pandemic
12. Adjournment: **Motion to adjourn by Mitchell, second by Volkmann**
Motioned adjourned at 10:37 am.

Submitted by
Donna Worst
Executive Office Coordinator
December 10, 2020

MISSION STATEMENT: **LEARN** is a Regional Educational Service Center working with, and for, its member districts to improve the quality of public education for all learners. We provide leadership for teaching and learning; We provide high quality, innovative schools and programs; We identify and deliver customized and cost effective programs and services; and, We promote collaborative partnerships and regional cooperation.