

LEARN Vision: To ensure that every child has access to high quality public education through systems of education, support, and service.

**LEARN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR/BUSINESS MEETING**

Remote meeting via Zoom

Minutes

May 14, 2020

Present: Chester; Dale Bernardoni, East Lyme; Tim Hagen, Groton; Rita Volkmann, Guilford; Kristen Peck, LEARN; Kate Ericson, Montville; Robert Mitchell, New London; Jefferey Hart, Old Saybrook; Jan Furman, Preston; Cindy Luty, Region # 17; Jen Favalora, Region # 18; Diane Linderman, Stonington; Craig Esposito

Representatives not attending: Clinton; Michael Hornyak ,Deep River; Lenore Grunko, East Haddam; Patricia Stricker, East Hampton; Amy Ordonez, Essex; Carolyn Rotella, Ledyard; Naomi Rodriguez, Madison; Diane Infantine-Vyce, North Stonington; Phil Mendolia, Norwich; Al Daniels, Region #17; Suzanne Sack, Salem; Sean Reith

Not Attending and Not Represented: Waterford, Westbrook

Presenters, Staff and Other Guests: Michael Belden, Nat Brown, Donna Worst

Call to Order: The meeting called to order at 9:01 a.m.

Public Comment: No public comment

Reading Review of Correspondence by the Executive Director: “Memo-Communication with Those Charged with Governance”- Blum Shapiro, currently engaged in the 2019-2020 audit of LEARN, provides this memo per Auditing Standard No. 114. Mrs. Ericson shared a communication from the Connecticut State Department of Education acknowledging the single audit report finding of 2018-2019 and acknowledgment of the corrective action taken re: Procurement and Suspension and Debarment. A third correspondence from the Workman’s Compensation Trust, LEARN’s workers compensation carrier which included a refund check of \$43,835.

Superintendent’s Perspective: none presented

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Minutes- April 9, 2020

Approval of 2019-2020 budget

Approval of Grant Applications- none presented this meeting

Motion to approve the consent agenda by Luty second by Furman

Motion passed: unanimously

Information from the Executive Director

Hiring update: Monthly hiring update included.Mrs. Ericson announced the completion of the principal search process for positions at Marine Science Magnet High School and the Regional Multicultural Magnet School. Brought before the Executive Committee in April, Tara Amatrudo and Mariana Reyes were unanimously accepted as the new principals of the MSMHS and the RMMS respectively.

Executive Committee - Minutes April 24, 2020

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Legislative update: Board member Bob Mitchell and Executive Director Ericson are serving on the Regional Re-Opening Advisory team. Cares Act – federal funding will be distributed to districts who currently receive Title 1 funding. LEARN will have to fill out an application to receive the CARES Act funding. According to the latest CSDE communication, LEARN is eligible to receive \$317,000 in additional Title 1 funding to accelerate learning for gaps in learning caused by the school closure. The Department of Health meeting with superintendents Friday to discuss Graduation.

Agency updates: The DLAMMS certified staff and principal will be moving to the Goodwin campus to oversee the new middle school program. Mrs. Ericson met with Waterford First Selectman Brule and town attorney Avena regarding the lease termination at the 51 Daniels Ave property. The Waterford town leadership requested an end of lease date of June 30 rather than July 31. LEARN has begun this process. Any excess equipment not needed by LEARN schools will be offered, as in the past, to our districts. Re-Opening Hatchetts Hill Committee has been formed and will begin planning the re-opening of central office. District Superintendents continue to meet bi-weekly to continue their regional assessments and planning to make the re-opening decision as a group. They are also reviewing other state's re-opening tools.

Old Business: Request for use of School Facilities- Use of the Marine Science Magnet High School (areas as described in application included) tabled at April meeting. Additional information requested has been addressed: Groton City Parks Director, Mary Hill, stated that the city is planning on holding the Summer Program. The required certificate of insurance has been received and is included in your packet. Ms. Hill noted that their process is as follows; the Mayor of the City of Groton, based upon recommendations by the Governor, would make any needed cancellation.

Motion to approve the Request for Use of the Marine Science Magnet High school facilities located at 130 Shennecossett Road, Groton Ct, as presented by Furman, second by Mitchell. Passed unanimously

New Business:

9.1 Presentation of proposed slate of officers for 2020-2021- Per policy # 9200: Election of Officers (policy included in packet), the Nominating Committee has put forth the following slate of officers available for 2020-2021:

- Chair – Craig Esposito
- Vice Chair – Tim Hagen
- Fiscal Officer – * Bob Mitchell
- Secretary – Rita Volkmann

*From the floor, Volkmann nominated Bob Mitchell for the Fiscal Officer position and to move the slate forward for a vote at the June meeting.

Due to the resignation of Fiscal Officer, Chris Jones,
Esposito moved that Mitchell fill the remaining term through June 30, 2020, second by Volkmann Passed unanimously

9.2 Contract Termination of Certain Certified Staff- Due to the closure of the Dual Language & Arts Magnet Middle School and the Birth to Three Program, the suggested motion is requested (included in packet are the required employee notification letters). Due to a recent resignation, resulting in an additional certified staff position available the amended motion will include the following 5 certified staff contract terminations.

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Motion by Esposito : Move that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 10-151, the LEARN Board of Directors terminate the teaching contracts of those named below at the end of the 2019- 2020 school year as recommended by the Executive Director and resulting from the eliminations of positions during the closure of the Dual Language and Arts Magnet Middle School and the closure of the Birth to Three Program; and ratify, adopt and accept the Executive Director’s determination that the contracts be terminated. Further move that the Executive Director be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to those named below:

**Claudia Bachman-Bouchard
Brittany Bousquet
Lisa England
Michelle Ahlcrona
Lois Davis**

**Motion as presented by Esposito, second by Furman
Passed unanimously**

9.3 Authorization to Enter into Contracts- This is an annual request and is needed in order for LEARN to contract with various state agencies and departments.

Motion: Resolved, that Katherine Ericson, Executive Director, is authorized to make, execute, and approve on behalf of LEARN, any or all contracts or amendments excluding loans, effective until June 30, 2021 by Esposito, second by Furman

Passed unanimously

9.4 Approve Executive Director’s Authority to draw on Established Line of Credit- This is an annual request and would only be used in an emergency to meet payroll expenses. An average payroll is approximately \$1-1.2 million. This line of credit has never been used.

Motion: Resolved that, Katherine Ericson, Executive Director, is hereby authorized to approve and execute on behalf of LEARN a draw on the established line of credit, effective until June 30, 2021 by Furman second by Linderman.

Passed unanimously

9.5 Evaluation of the Executive Director – The Executive Committee’s decision to engage the full board in the preliminary discussions as well as final review in June were discussed. At the June board meeting, LEARN’s annual end of year presentation will provide an overview of the year’s work, goals and accomplishments. To assist in the evaluation, included in the agenda packet are the Executive Director’s 2019-2020 goals and evaluation worksheet which will be reviewed in Executive Session at the June meeting.

9.6 Preliminary Review of 2020-2021 Budget

10. Education Perspective: LEARN CFO, Mike Belden, presented a summary report of the 81 page proposed budget, which was provided with the agenda packet for review.

11. Round Table/Future Agenda Items: Graduation Plans. Virtual graduation via Zoom can provide a more intimate, all-inclusive, family event. Groton will be using a local outdoor parking lot complete with large screen for its June 19 graduation. Many districts are awaiting additional Guidance from the Governor’s office.

12. Adjournment: **Motion to adjourn @ 10:36 a.m. by Luty, second by Linderman**

Motion passed: unanimously

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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.