

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

*Remote meeting via Zoom*

**Minutes**

**September 10, 2020**

Present: Chester; Dale Bernardoni, East Haddam; Patricia Stricker, East Lyme; Tim Hagen, Groton; Rita Volkmann, LEARN; Kate Ericson, Ledyard; Naomi Rodriguez, 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 Hampton; Amy Ordonez, Essex; Carolyn Rotella, Guilford; Kristen Peck, Madison; Diane Infantine-Vyce, Norwich; Al Daniels, North Stonington; Phil Mendolia, Salem; Sean Reith, Waterford; Craig Merriman

Not Attending and Not Represented: Westbrook

1. Call to Order: The meeting called to order at 9:07 a.m.
2. Audience and Guests: Michael Belden, Nat Brown, Ryan Donlon
3. Public Comment: No public comment
4. Reading Review of Correspondence: None
5. Superintendent's Perspective: LEARN Associate Executive Director, Dr. Ryan Donlon, presented: "2020-2021 Re-Opening Plan for LEARN Magnet Schools".
6. Consent Agenda Items:
  - 6.1 Approval of the Minutes: regular business meeting- June 11, 2020
  - 6.2 Budget - An update is included
  - 6.3 Grant Applications - None to present

**Motion to approve the Consent Agenda by Stricker, second by Hagen. Passed unanimously.**

7. Information from the Executive Director:
  - 7.1 Hiring/Distributions - A hiring update is included in the packet.  
Update and data by Executive Director Ericson regarding reassignments and reductions resulting from the closure of the DLAMMS and Birth to Three school/program.  
Update and data by Director of Human Resources, Nat Brown, regarding summer hiring and COVID-19 related staff inquiries and accommodations.
  - 7.2 Distributions - Distributions will be available at the meeting.
  - 7.3 Executive Committee meeting minutes – August 28, 2020 (included in packet).
  - 7.4 Legislative update – Quiet during summer. Short session may take place.
  - 7.5 Agency update

- SECT schools opened doors September 8 with 30% of families opting for full remote instruction. Staff and school leaders have done a great job.
- Ocean Avenue and Boston Post Road programs opened doors to 67 students. Majority of students are in-person and attending 4 days a week.
- Small group of LEARN Young Children and Family, Office of Teaching and Learning, Students Support Services and Executive Leadership participated in a Business Strategy Framework training. The objective of the 12-hour virtual training is to build staff's capacity to Create, Capture, and Deliver Value to districts.

Update by Chief Financial Officer Belden regarding,

- CARES Act funding @ \$317,000 used primarily for PPE and Interim Coordinator of Online Learning.
- State COVID monies @ 1,451,000 used primarily for increased expenses due to COVID, such as PPE and additional cleaning staff.
- Audit progressing well.
- LEARN implementing universal feeding at all schools through Dec 31 or when federal funds run out.

8. Old Business: None.

9. New Business:

- 9.1 LEARN Teacher of the Year Presentation – As the result of the wonderful performance by all certified staff during the COVID-19 disruptions, ALL certified staff were designated as teachers of the year.
- 9.2 Establish a negotiations committee for LEARN Education Association (LEA) contract. Members of the board to comprise the LEA negotiations committee will be Esposito, Linderman, Luty, and Mitchell.
- 9.3 Establish a negotiations committee for newly formed LEARN Administrator's Organization (LAO) contract. Members of the board to comprise the LAO negotiations committee will be Esposito, Hagen, Rodriguez, and Volkmann.

10. Executive Session: **Motion to enter into Executive Session including Katherine Ericson, Executive Director and Dr. Ryan Donlon, Associate Executive Director, by Mitchell, second by Volkmann. Motion passed unanimously.**

Board enters Executive Session at 10:12 a.m.

Board ends Executive Session at 10:25 a.m.

11. Roundtable/Future Agenda Items: Regional re-opening plans and schedules, one month after reopening status and update.

12. Adjournment: **Motion to adjourn at 10:46am by Mitchell, second by Luty. Motion passed unanimously.**