

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

Remote meeting via Zoom

Minutes

March 11, 2021

Present: Chester; Dale Bernardoni,, East Haddam; Nicole Hendry East Lyme; Tim Hagen, Groton; Rita Volkmann, LEARN; Kate Ericson, Ledyard; Naomi Rodriguez, Montville; Robert Mitchell, Preston; Cindy Luty, Region 17; Jen Favalora, Region 18; Diane Linderman; Stonington; Craig Esposito; Westbrook, Michele Brigham

Representatives not attending: Clinton; Michael Hornyak, Deep River; Lenore Grunko, East Hampton; Amy Ordonez, Essex; Carolyn Rotella, Guilford; Kristen Peck, Madison; Katie Stein New London; Jefferey Hart, North Stonington; Phil Mendolia, Norwich; Al Daniels, Old Saybrook; Jan Furman, Salem; Sean Reith, Waterford; Amanda Gates-Lamonthe

Guests: Laurie Pallin, Mike Belden, Christine Pemberton, Donna Worst, Tara Amatrudo, Eric Litvinoff, Michael Guyot

1. Call to order: 9:03 am
2. Chairman Esposito informed 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:
- 5 Superintendent's Perspective; Montville Superintendent of Schools, Laurie Pallin presented
6. Consent Agenda Items:
 - 6.1 Approval of the Minutes: Regular Business Meeting—February 11, 2021
 - 6.2 Approval of Budget 2020-2021
 - 6.3 Approval of Grant Applications-

**Motion: To approve the Consent Agenda by Luty, second by Hagen
Motion passed unanimously**

7. Information from the Executive Director:
 - 7.1 Hiring – New Hires' & Resignations' Data and Trend Reports are included in packet. The Executive Committee appointed Linda Darcy as LEARN's next Director of Teaching & Learning.
 - 7.2 Distributions – RESC Alliance Testimony to the Appropriations Committee, Executive Orders pertaining to education summary document, Superintendent Pallin's PowerPoint presentation
 - 7.3 Executive Committee meeting minutes – February 26, 2021
 - 7.4 SSS Building Committee meeting minutes – February 11 special meeting and February 26, 2021, regular business meeting
 - 7.5 Legislative update –Proposal Bill 948 adding more weight to student learning English language and additional funding for concentrated poverty areas, use pre-Covid 2019 school enrollment numbers for funding, revamping the magnet model regarding magnet funding, RESC Alliance testimony for asking 80% funding for CT Teacher Residency Program for teacher minority recruitment throughout the state. At the Federal level, special education funding to increase from 13% to 15%. USDA has extended the meal program through September 30, 2021.

7.6 Agency update –Executive Committee appointed Linda Darcy as new Director of Teaching & Learning. Distributions to be forwarded: List of Executive Orders pertaining to Education from the Governor. The Marine Science Magnet High School hosted a farmer’s market and welcomed 250 visitors who purchased \$6,000 worth of coral as part of their newly approved coral sales program. The funds will help support their program and future scholarships. Per approval from the Office of School Grants, bids were allowed to be submitted for the Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy. Jack Cross & Mike Belden reviewed over 20 RFQs for the second floor renovation project and provided the 8 finalists for the Architect and Construction Manager’s RFPs with a tour of the facility. 80% funding of the project cost is expected from the state in June. LEARN signed on with Miranda Creative to assist with redefining our core values. RESC Alliance Directors met with incoming CT Commissioner of Education, Charlene Russell Tucker. The Office of Teaching and Learning professional development team will provide coaching on blended learning. The Student Support Services Dept. has been contracted by the state for supporting a new state tool for IEP. Recruitment is ongoing for school enrollment prior to the state lotteries. MSMHS lottery has been completed and full enrollment is in place. Large scale vaccinations ongoing with teaching staff now able to be vaccinated. The capital improvement fund will cover the cost of the new roof for the Hatchetts Hill facility. Attorney Tom Mooney assisted in creating two new Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) to the current Teacher’s contract regarding coordinator positions and the process for stipend positions. USDA expanded school meals through the summer.

8. Old Business:

9. New Business: National School Lunch Program Healthy Food Certification Statement for 2021-2022
9.1a Healthy Food Option

Motion 1: For Healthy Food Option

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. Motion by Hagen, second by Volkmann

Motion to vote: yes or no as presented

Motion passed unanimously

9.1b Food Exemptions

9.1b Motion 2: For Food Exemptions

The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1.) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2). the sale is at the location of the event; and 3). the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held, and must be the same place as the food sales. By Rodriguez, second by Mitchell

Motion to vote yes or no as presented

Motion passed unanimously

9.1c Approval for Executive Director, Katherine Ericson, to sign the 2021-2022 Healthy Food Certification Statement

Motion to approve Executive Director Katherine Ericson to sign the 2021-2022 Healthy Food Certification Statement by Rodriguez, second by Linderman
Motion passed unanimously

.2 Non-renewals of Non-tenured certified staff

Move that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 10-151, the LEARN Board of Directors non-renew the teaching contract of those named below at the end of the 2020-2021 school year as recommended by the Executive Director; and ratify, adopt and accept the Executive Director's determination that the contract be non-renewed.

Further move that the Executive Director be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to those named below, and that the Executive Director be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board of Directors to any requests for a hearing or for other data which may be forthcoming from those named below and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statutes 10-151; and further move that the Executive Director be directed that any response to a request for a hearing, if a hearing is required by law, indicate that such hearing is to be before the Board of Directors.

**Katherine Gilbert
Quiana Johnson
Daniel Simonich**

Motion to accept the non-renewals as presented by Hagen, second by Volkmann
Motion passed unanimously

10. **Educational Perspective:** Marine Science Magnet High School principal Tara Amatrudo and aquaculture teachers Michael Guyot and Eric Litvinoff presented, *Expanding Opportunities through the Sale of Coral*
11. **Roundtable/Future Agenda Items:** Regional Expansion of In-School Learning-Vaccinations playing a positive effect on returning to in-school learning. Several districts have been operating with in-school learning for several months. LEARN will be returning this month
12. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 11:00am by Rodriguez, second by Luty

Submitted by:
Donna Worst
Executive Office Coordinator
3/11/21

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.