

LEARN Board of Directors
December 9, 2021
Minutes

1. Call to Order: The meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m.
2. Present: East Lyme; Catherine Steel, Groton; Rita Volkmann, LEARN; Kate Ericson, Madison; Mary Ann Connelly, Montville; Robert Mitchell, Norwich; Al Daniels, Preston; Cindy Luty, Region # 17; Jen Favalora, Stonington; Craig Esposito, Waterford; Amanda Gates-Lamothe

Not Attending and Not Represented: Chester; Dale Bernardoni, Clinton; Michael Hornyak, Deep River; vacant, East Haddam; Bryan Perry, East Hampton; Amy Ordonez, Essex; Carolyn Rotella, Guilford; Kristen Peck, Ledyard; vacant, New London; Jefferey Hart, North Stonington; Phil Mendolia, Old Saybrook; Jan Furman, Region # 18; vacant, Salem; Sean Reith, Westbrook; vacant-BOE chair Zack Hayden, interim

Presenters Staff and Other Guests: Ian Neviaser, Christine Pemberton, Joanne Lund, Maria Cuadros, Donna Worst
3. Public Comment: no public comment
4. Reading and of Review of Correspondence: Mrs. Ericson shared correspondence from Workers' Compensation Trust to announce that LEARN has qualified for a premium return in the amount of \$65,116. An additional communication from the Department of Administrative Services was received to inform that the final plans submitted to the Office of School Construction Grants and Review (OSCGR) for the Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy were reviewed and approved.
5. Superintendent's Perspective: Superintendent Ian Neviaser, Region 18 (Lyme/Old Lyme), presented on his district's strategic plan.
6. Consent Agenda:
 - 6.1 Approval of the Minutes: Regular Business meeting- November 10, 2021
 - 6.2 Approval of the 2021-2022 Budget
 - 6.3 Approval of Grant Applications- "Public Educational and Governmental Programming and Educational Technology Investment Account" (PEGPETIA) Grant Program FYR 2022 (\$148,086.42), funding source; State of CT, funding agency; Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), Will enable LEARN the ability to distribute recorded and live video content
Motion to approve the Consent Agenda by Mitchell, second by Luty
Motion passed unanimously
7. Information from the Executive Director:
 - 7.1 Hiring – New Hires' & Resignations' Data and Trend Reports are included in packet.
 - 7.2 Distributions- Magnet School and Student Support Services Tuition Rates
 - 7.3 Executive Committee meeting minutes – November 19, 2021
 - 7.4 Student Support Services meeting minutes- September 24, 2021
 - 7.5 Legislative Updates- Mrs. Ericson reported on the RESC Alliance meeting with Commissioner Beth Bye, Office of Early Childhood (OEC), to discuss the outlook of the federal infrastructure bill and its impact on CT birth-8-year-old programming. The forecast looks favorable for CT to receive funding to support universal PreK. The OEC is hoping the RESC Alliance can partner to build out sustainable programming to maximize access.
 - 7.6 LEARN Agency updates- Executive Director Ericson co-presented a 2.5-hour session on "Building Leadership networks to Address Race, Racism, and Equity" with Dr. Lee Teitel and LEARN Director of the Office of Teaching & Learning, Linda Darcy at the annual AESA conference to provide platform for thinking how Educational Services Agencies (ESA) can create learning

opportunities for leaders to discuss and reflect on how they approach their leadership work in the area of equity.

- Executive Director Ericson, Deputy Executive Director, Bridgette Gordon- Hickey, and Associate Executive Director, Dr. Donlon are continuing 6-week check-ins with school leaders on their school development plans and acknowledge the progress being made on each schools' specific goals from hiring new staff, curriculum development, to establishing common language around instruction.
- Working closely with staff and families to provide the necessary supports for the challenges in our schools regarding mental health issues.
- Preparing school/department budgets to identify needs with a focus on funding for the PreK levels.
- Regional Advisory Council for SECT Magnet Schools meeting held to discuss with area superintendents LEARN's tuition proposal to be presented to the board as well as LEARN's positions regarding legislative funding for magnet schools.
- Mrs. Ericson met with new superintendents: Jeffrey Wihbey; Region #17 and Kristina Martineau; Westbrook.
- Teacher Residency Program updates and benefits were presented.
- CFO Belden, business officers, completed the roll out of a new CT Oil Purchasing Consortium This opportunity will be available to all districts/ municipalities across the state.
- The proposed RFP was shared for the replacement of copy machines at several LEARN locations.
- Finger printing services will be enhanced with a scanner to be forthcoming from a state grant award.

8. Old Business:

- 8.1 New Policy, #5145.511; Students, "*Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention*," Second Read
Motion to approve new Policy #5145.511; Students, "Sexual Abuse & Assault Awareness and Prevention as presented by Daniels second by Volkmann
Motion passed unanimously

9. New Business:

- 9.1 Proposed 2022-2023 Magnet School Tuitions
Motion to accept the LEARN 2022-2023 Magnet School Tuitions as presented by Daniels, second by Mitchell
Motion passed unanimously
- 9.2 Proposed 2022-2023 Special Education Tuitions
Motion to accept the LEARN 2022-2023 Special Education Tuitions as presented by Luty, second by Daniels
Motion passed unanimously
- 9.3 New Administrative Position- Assistant Director, Accounting & Projects, presented for review and request for approval
Motion to accept the proposed new administrative position, Assistant Director, Accounting & Projects, and salary, as presented by Daniels, second by Volkmann
Motion passed unanimously

10. Educational Perspective:

11. Roundtable/Future Agenda Items: Due to time constraints, tabled for discussion at the January meeting
District spending plan highlights for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds, discipline in schools

12. Adjournment: **Motion to adjourn @ 11:07am by Steel, second by Luty**
Motion passed unanimously