

LEARN Board of Directors

May 12, 2022

Minutes

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:02am by Vice Chair, Aaron Daniels, and began with the Pledge of Allegiance
2. Present: Groton; Rita Volkmann, LEARN; Kate Ericson, Montville; Robert Mitchell, Norwich; Al Daniels, Old Saybrook; Trevor Nichols, Preston; Cindy Luty Region # 17; Jen Favalora,

Not Attending and Not Represented: Chester; Dale Bernardoni, Clinton; Michael Hornyak, Deep River; vacant, East Haddam; Bryan Perry, East Hampton; Amy Ordonez, East Lyme; Catherine Steel, Essex; Carolyn Rotella, Guilford; Kristen Peck, Ledyard; vacant, Madison; Mary Ann Connelly, New London; Jefferey Hart, North Stonington; Phil Mendolia, Region #18; vacant, Salem; Sean Reith, Stonington; Craig Esposito, Waterford; Michele Devine, Westbrook; Zack Hayden

Presenters Staff and Other Guests: Michael Belden, Christine Pemberton, Maria Cuadros, Jack Cross, Justin Hopkins, Donna Worst
3. Public Comment: no public comment
4. Reading and of Review of Correspondence: Mrs. Ericson shared a letter from Workers Compensation Trust notifying LEARN that it has been selected to receive a Safety Grant award of \$14,985 for gloves, body shields, chairs & desks for Special Ed Programs. She thanked the HR department for their work on securing this award.
5. Superintendent's Perspective: ***Request to move agenda item 9.4, Proposed 2022-2023 Budget to top of agenda in place of item 5 Superintendent Perspective by Mitchell, second by Luty Motion passed unanimously.**
LEARN CFO, Michael Belden, presented the Proposed 2022-2023 Budget (*copy of budget forwarded with the agenda packet for review.*)
6. Consent Agenda Items:
 - 6.1 Approval of the Minutes: Regular Business Meeting—April 14, 2022
 - 6.2 Approval of Budget 2021-2022
 - 6.3 Approval of Grant Applications: "*Leaders for Equity & Achievement Through Partnerships*" (LEAP) grant (\$13,881,323), funded by the Magnet Schools Assistance Program, funding agency; U.S. Dept. of Education
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 – Proposed 2022-2023 Budget PowerPoint & Budget book, Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy FF&E PowerPoint, and Executive Director Evaluation Rubric
 - 7.3 Executive Committee meeting minutes- April 29, 2022
 - 7.4 SSS Building Committee Meeting minutes – April 29, 2022.
 - 7.5 Legislative Updates: Bill # 5283 did not pass. There will be no increase in magnet funding \$1.2 million dollars allocated for the RESC Alliance to increase mental health supports across the state.
Increased funding for Bilingual state grant
Extension of validity for professional certificates from 5 to 10 years
Magnet bill that states the state will pay for a number of towns/cities' magnet tuitions.
Regionally, this benefits New London. Their magnet tuition bill will be covered by the state.

- 7.6 Agency Updates: LEARN Executive leadership met with many newly hired staff and noted their quality, experience, and skill level align closely with LEARN’s vision of ensuring high quality education to all students.
LEARN leadership continues to connect with Mitchell College leadership to support the placement of Mitchell students in LEARN schools/programs as well as becoming future hires
LEARN schools and the agency leadership continue to work on equity and bias to build upon belonging for students and staff
LEARN team attending AESA training provided by MIT professor, Duncan Simester, on Business Strategy Framework with the goal of designing new products/services for the region
Mrs. Ericson attended the Teacher of the Year presentation in Hartford for Brittany Forshaw
The Eastern CT Health & Medical Cooperative continues to report strong support and savings for its four district members. LEARN will continue to participate as it has seen a reduction in its healthcare costs

8. Old Business:

- 8.1 New Policy # 3542.22- Business/Non-Instructional Operations; “*Food Services -Code of Conduct*,” Second Read
Motion to approve new policy # 3542.22- Business/Non-Instructional Operations; “*Food Services -Code of Conduct*” by Mitchell, second by Volkmann.
Motion passed unanimously
- 8.2 Revised Policy # 3605 changed to #3542.43- Business/Non-Instructional Operations; “*Food Services Charging Policy*,” Second Read
Motion to approve revised policy # 3605 changed to #3542.43- Business/Non-Instructional Operations; “*Food Services Charging Policy*” by Mitchell, second by Luty.
Motion passed unanimously
- 8.3 New Policy, # 4115.3, Personnel/Certified; “*Athletic Coaches*,” Second Read (*procedures are included*)
Motion to approve new policy, # 4115.3, Personnel/Certified; “*Athletic Coaches*” by Luty, second by Mitchell.
Motion passed unanimously

9. New Business:

- 9.1 Presentation of Proposed 2022-2023 Slate of Officers as follows: (per policy #9200, Bylaws of the Board: *Election of Officers*)
Chair; Craig Esposito, Vice Chair; Aaron Daniels, Fiscal Officer; Robert Mitchell Secretary; Rita Volkmann
The vote will be conducted at the June meeting- any additional nominations from the floor are to be considered prior to the vote.
- 9.2 Authorization for Executive Director to Enter into Contracts
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 made by Mitchell, second by Luty
Motion passed unanimously.
- 9.3 Approve Executive Director’s Authority to Draw on Established Line of Credit
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, 2023, made by Mitchell, second by Favalora.

Motion approved unanimously

9.4 *Preliminary review of the Proposed 2022-2023 Budget as presented to be voted upon at the June meeting. (*Request to move to the top of the agenda*).

9.5 Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FFE) & Technology approval requested. Tecton Architects, Justin Hopkins, presented.
Motion 1: Resolved, that the Board of Directors authorizes the Student Support Services Building Committee’s proposal for furniture & fixtures and equipment (FFE) of \$182,056. for the Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy- state project 245-0089 SP/A. Motion made by Mitchell, second by Nichols.
Motion passed unanimously.

Motion 2: Resolved, that the LEARN Board of Directors authorizes the Student Support Services Building Committee’s proposal for Technology of \$111,958 for the Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy-state project 245-0089 SP/A. Motion made by Nichols, second by Favalora.
Motion passed unanimously.

9.6 Preliminary Discussion: Evaluation of the Executive Director (per policy #2400, Administration; “*Evaluation of Administrators and Administration*”). The Executive Committee wishes to provide Mrs. Ericson’s year-end reflection and hold a preliminary discussion regarding her evaluation with the full board prior to the final evaluation to be held in Executive Session at the June meeting.

10. Educational Perspective: Preliminary Discussion of the Evaluation of the Executive Director- A rubric was provided as a preview of the survey created to evaluate the Executive Director.

11. Roundtable/Future Agenda Items: Regional Expansion of In-School Learning, Summer School, and Remote Learning. Summer school is available in many districts reporting a positive response to these programs. Many districts plan to continue as they also play an important role in closing the gap created by Covid

12. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn @ 11:02am by Mitchell, second by Luty

Motion approved unanimously

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 reg