

LEARN Board of Directors  
Minutes  
January 11, 2024

Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance @ 9:03 am

Present: Chester; Dale Bernardoni, East Haddam; Terri Garrity, East Lyme; Eric Bauman, Groton; Beverly Washington, LEARN; Kate Ericson, Ledyard; Mary Harris, Madison; Mary Ann Connelly, Montville; Robert Mitchell, Preston; Cindy Luty, Region # 17; Jen Favalora, Region #18; Scott Brown; Craig Esposito,

Not Attending and Not Represented Clinton; Michael Hornyak, Deep River; vacant, East Hampton; vacant, Essex; Carolyn Rotella, Guilford; Kristen Peck, New London; vacant, North Stonington; Christine Wagner, Norwich; vacant, Old Saybrook; Steven Beeler, Salem; Sean Reith, Stonington; Sara Baker, Waterford; vacant, Westbrook; vacant

Presenters Staff and Other Guests: Michael Belden, Donna Worst, Jacqui Endorf

1. Audience and Guests: All present were introduced
2. Public Comment:
3. Reading and/or Review of Correspondence: none
4. Superintendent Perspective: Executive Director Ericson to present New Board Member Orientation (*PowerPoint will be distributed with board meeting synopsis*)
5. Consent Agenda:
  - 5.1 Approval of the Minutes: Regular Business meeting December 14, 2023
  - 5.2 Approval of 2023-2024 Budget Summary as of December 31, 2023
  - 5.3 Approval of Grant Applications: *Stronger Connections Grant* (\$50,760 for Sept.1, 2023 – September 30, 2026) funded by CT State Dept. of Education, funding agency: CSDE, *Perkins V Consortium Grant* (\$103,970) funded by CT State Dept of Education, funding agency, CSDE. Consortium Members are: East Haddam Public Schools, Nathan Hale-Ray High School, Ledyard Public Schools, Ledyard, High School, North Stonington Public Schools Wheeler High School, Portland Public Schools, Portland Middle School & High School, Region 4, Valley Regional High School, Region 18, Lyme-Old Lyme High School and Westbrook Public Schools, Westbrook High School  
**Motion to accept the consent agenda as presented by Luty, second by Bernardoni**  
**Abstain: Washington**  
**Motion passed**
6. Information from the Executive Director:
  - 6.1 Hiring- *The New Hires and Resignations update was included in the packet with accompanying trend report* with a comment from the Executive Director that resignations have slowed significantly, and that high level talent are joining LEARN
  - 6.2 Distributions – none
  - 6.3 Executive Committee meeting minutes- December 15, 2023 (*were included in packet*)
  - 6.4 SSS Building Committee minutes – December 15, 2023 (*were included in the packet*)
  - 6.5 Legislative Updates: On Dec 15th, LEARN was informed that the Early Childhood School Construction project was placed on DAS's project list. DAS is proposing an 80% reimbursement for the full project that includes the infant/toddler program and the two regional special education classrooms which equates to \$76,589,325 million of the \$95,736,325. On January 24th, the School Construction Funding Committee will convene to discuss and approve DAS' proposed projects. LEARN is hopeful that our legislative

advocates with fight for a higher reimbursement rate, as LEARN does not have the resources to fund a higher than 20%.

No current additional updates-Legislature will convene for the short session in February 2024

- 6.6 Agency Updates : Executive Director Ericson provided information on hiring, services being provided to LEARN Districts, and the finalizing of the LEA & LAO union contracts for teachers and the administrators.

7. Old Business: none

8. New Business:

9.1 Proposed Salaries & Benefits 2024-2025

**Motion to accept 2024-2025 Salaries & Benefits as presented by Esposito, second by Luty**

**Motion passed unanimously**

9.2 Proposed 2024-2025 LEARN Executive Committee & Board of Directors meeting schedules as presented

**Motion to approve 2024-2025 LEARN Executive Committee and Board of Directors meeting schedules as presented by Esposito, second by Bernardoni**

**Motion passed unanimously**

9.3 LEARN Administrators Organization (LAO) 2024-2027 union contract

**Motion to approve the 2024-2027 LEARN Administrators Organization union contract as presented by Esposito, second by Luty**

**Motion passed unanimously**

9.4 LEARN Education Association (LEA) 2024-2027 union contract

**Motion to approve the 2024-2027 LEARN Education Association union contract as presented by Bauman, second by Harris**

**Motion passed unanimously**

9.5 Executive Committee Fiscal Officer

**Motion to approve Jen Favalora to fill the Fiscal Officer vacancy on the Executive Committee until the next election by Harris, second by Bernardoni**

**Motion passed unanimously**

10. Educational Perspective:

11. Roundtable/Future Agenda Items: - Union Negotiations, Facility Conditions, District Facilities Manager's role, responsibilities, and compensation and PreK programs: admission, cost, schedules

12. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn @ 11:10am by Mitchell, second by Favalora**

**Motion passed unanimously**