

*LEARN Vision: To ensure that every child has access to high quality public education through systems of education, support, and service.*

**LEARN BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR/BUSINESS MEETING  
October 10, 2019**

Present: Tim Hagen, East Lyme; Rita Volkmann, Groton; Kate Ericson, LEARN; Robert Mitchell, Montville; Jefferey Hart, New London; Phil Mendolia, North Stonington; Al Daniels, Norwich; Cindy Luty, Preston; Craig Esposito, Stonington; Christopher Jones, Waterford

Representatives not attending: Michael Hornyak, Clinton; Joanne Barmasse, East Hampton  
Theresa Ann Myers, Chester; Imran Munawar, Deep River; Karin Blaschik, East Haddam;  
Carolyn Rotella, Essex; Emily Rosenthal, Madison; Stephanie Calhoun, Ledyard; Stacey  
Leonardo, Region #18; Suzanne Sack, Region #17; Jan Furman, Old Saybrook; Sean Reith,  
Salem; Dee Adorno, Westbrook

Not Attending and Not Represented:

Presenters, Staff and Other Guests: Dr. Ryan Donlon, Nat Brown, Michael Belden, Donna Worst

**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:** The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

**Public Comment:**

**Reading or Review of Correspondence:**

**Superintendent's Perspective:** Dr. Michael Graner, Groton Superintendent of Schools, expressed his appreciation and value of the partnership with LEARN as an important support to his district. His presentation focused on the challenges faced in their efforts to close two Groton middle schools and relocate those students to a proposed new facility to be built next to the high school. Studies have proven that socio-economic equity within a school improves achievement levels. To achieve this goal, Groton has embarked on a mission to provide additional elementary school locations to ensure socio-economic equity becomes a reality.

**Consent Agenda:**

Approval of Minutes- September 12, 2019

Approval of the Budget for 2019-2020

Approval of grant applications:

**Motion to approve the consent agenda Daniels, second by Mitchell**

**Motion passed unanimously**

**Information from the Executive Director**

The following Information from the Executive Director was included in the packet:

Hiring Updates: a new trending data format was presented which provides a 3 year snapshot of monthly hiring and resignation data for the following job classifications: teachers, administrative

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staff, non-certified school-based staff, and non-certified twelve month staff. In addition to the traditional format, the intent of the trending data is to provide additional insight to assist in staff retention and areas of need.

Executive Committee Minutes – September 27, 2019

Project LEARN Committee minutes for September 27, 2019

Student Support Services Building Committee minutes August 23, 2019

Legislative Update- The RESC Alliance will be meeting with House Majority leader Matt Ritter to discuss the benefits of regionalism and how the alliance is currently working on sharing services for cost savings

Agency Updates- The Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Director of Innovation & Development have been meeting with area superintendents to build relationships and discuss the challenges of their districts. LEARN will host Lee Teitel, of Harvard who will facilitate a series of workshops at LEARN to address Equity. LEARN CFO, Mike Belden, reported that 12 school districts and 3 town business managers gathered at LEARN to create a joint Request for Proposal for a payroll system which resulted in 6 competitive bids and an additional 5% savings over bid award. This effort demonstrates the power of regionalism and working together for a common goal.

**Old Business:** Revised Policy # 4118.2/4218.2, Personnel-Certified/Noncertified Sexual Harassment, Second Read (procedures also included)

**Motion to approve revised policy #4118.2/4218.2 Personnel-Certified/Noncertified Sexual Harassment by Luty second by Daniels**  
**Approved unanimously**

**New Business:** Chairman, Craig Esposito, announced that Joanne Barnasse will be leaving the board and that an election for a new fiscal officer will be held. Nominations are being accepted.

**Educational Perspective:** Dr. Ryan Donlon: School Data Presentation. Dr. Donlon stressed the importance of Growth Data as a tool to assess and assist student achievement in English and Arts Literacy and Math. He provided LEARN and State of CT statistics as well as information on practice tests to assist in student preparation.

**Roundtable/Future Agenda Items:** Vaping, cyber threats. The state appears poised to regulate the growing vaping problem within our schools. As cyber threats are increasingly on the rise, the importance of training on recognizing these threats is paramount. Some districts have been severely compromised by online intrusions. Each district is encouraged to provide internal training and testing which can be provided through their internal IT departments to assure staff is better equipped with the tools to recognize and avert such attacks.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Daniels, second by Mitchell, to adjourn at 11:02 a.m.

**Motion passed unanimously.**