

**LEARN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR/BUSINESS MEETING
September 14, 2017**

Present: Charlene Fearon, Chester; Joanne Barmasse-Alt., East Hampton; Tim Hagen, East Lyme; Rita Volkmann, Groton; Dr. Eileen Howley, LEARN; Philip Broadhurst, Old Saybrook; Cindy Luty, Preston; Elaine Fitzgibbons, Region #4; Suzanne Sack, Region #17; Craig Esposito, Stonington; Dee Adorno, Westbrook

Representatives not attending: Doug Traynor, Clinton; Hadley Kornacki, Deep River; Karin Blaschik, East Haddam; Christopher Goff, East Hampton; Carolyn Rotella, Essex; Christopher Moore, Guilford; Stephanie Calhoun, Ledyard; Katie Stein, Madison; Colleen Rix, Montville; Scott Garbini, New London; Christine Wagner, North Stonington; Susan Thomas, Norwich; Mimi Roche, Region #18; Michael Siebert, Salem; Craig Merriman, Waterford

Not Attending and Not Represented: N/A

Presenters, Staff and Other Guests: Christina Chamberlain, Michael Rivera, Kate Ericson, Richard Napoli, Lynn Nenni, Jack Cross and Donna Worst

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Public Comment:

Dr. Howley entertained the motion to move the teacher of the year (item 9.1 on the agenda) to allow teacher of the year, Mike Rivera, and DLAMMS Principal, Christina Chamberlain, to return to work at the Dual Language & Arts Magnet Middle School.

Motion to move item 9.1 on the agenda to the beginning of the meeting by Broadhurst, second by Luty

Motion approved unanimously

Dual Language & Arts Magnet Middle School Principal, Christina Chamberlain, introduced special education teacher, Michael Rivera, as the 2017-2018 LEARN teacher of the year.

Reading or Review of Correspondence: The following correspondence was shared:

Letter from Magnet School of America announcing that the Connecticut River Academy has been recognized as a National Certified School of America, a national recognition of accomplishment

Letter from the U.S. Dept. of Civil Rights- regarding complaint based upon the allegation of poor air quality in an off- site Student Support Services special education classroom 4 years ago. OCR determination: no finding of fault and LEARN negotiated an agreement for policies and procedures moving forward.

Educational Perspective, Associate Executive Director, Kate Ericson discussed the 2017-2018 school openings and presented “Deeping our Work - 2017-2018” regarding system development. Richard Napoli, Director of Executive Services and Talent Management reported on hiring, retention and creating a new staff induction program.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of the Budget for 2017-2018

Approval of Grant applications- “DLAMMS After School Happenings (DASH)” funding source: Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services & Adult Education–funding agency: Connecticut State Department of Education

Motion to accept the consent agenda by Hagen, second by Volkmann

Motion approved unanimously

Information from the Executive Director

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

Hiring Update

Executive Committee Minutes- June 22, 2017, July 26, 2017 and August 24 (note June 8, 2017 Board minutes included were approved by the Executive Committee to meet state’s requirement for the SSS Building project grant application).

Legislative Update- Meeting with Commissioner of Education & members from lobbying firm, Rome Smith, Lutz regarding funding- nothing to report regarding funding to magnet schools. State budget has not been adopted.

Attorney Tom Mooney, Shipman & Goodwin LLP, has been retained for the upcoming teacher negotiations

Student Support Services (SSS) Building Committee Minutes-July 26, and August 17, 2017
Proposed SSS Building Project time line and meeting schedule with latest revisions

Old Business: Discussion of Authorization for Financing –LEARN CFO, Lynn Nenni presented an additional option for financing the SSS Building project: a tax exempt bond and requested that she have permission to look into this option and offer her findings to compare a tax exempt bond and a fixed mortgage as financing options to the board

Motion by Esposito, second by Volkmann to authorize Lynn Nenni to negotiate pricing for bond issuance pursuant to final board approval

Motion approved unanimously

New Business:

Moved to first agenda item: Christina Chamberlain, Principal of the Dual Language & Arts Magnet Middle School- to introduce the new LEARN Teacher of the Year, Special Ed Teacher, Michael Rivera

Revision to LEARN Membership Agreement and Constitution- Replace “Project LEARN” with “LEARN” -**Motion by Broadhurst, second by Luty to revise LEARN Membership**

Agreement as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

Policy # 5145: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. First Read- To be voted upon at next business meeting

Superintendent’s Perspective: There was no Superintendent’s Perspective this month.

Roundtable/Future Agenda Items: Suggestion to invite Guilford Superintendent to discuss his experience proposing a later start time for high school students, strategizing for state budget

Adjournment: **Motion by Hagen, second by Barmasse, to adjourn at 11:00 a.m. Motion approved unanimously.**