

**LEARN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR/BUSINESS MEETING**

Remote meeting via Zoom

Minutes

October 8, 2020

Present: Chester; Dale Bernardoni, East Lyme; Tim Hagen, Groton; Rita Volkmann, Guilford; Kristen Peck, LEARN; Kate Ericson, Montville; Robert Mitchell, Preston; Cindy Luty, Region# 17; Jen Favalora, Region # 18; Diane Linderman, Stonington; Craig Esposito

Representatives not attending: Clinton; Michael Hornyak, Deep River; Lenore Grunko, East Haddam; Patricia Stricker, East Hampton; Amy Ordonez, Essex; Carolyn Rotella, Ledyard; Naomi Rodriguez, Madison; Diane Infantine-Vyce, New London; Jefferey Hart, Norwich; Al Daniels, North Stonington; Phil Mendolia, Old Saybrook; Jan Furman ,Salem; Sean Reith, Waterford; Craig Merriman

Guests: Mike Belden, Sue Iwanicki, Donna Worst

Not Attending and Not Represented: Westbrook

1. Call to order: 9:05 am
2. Inform members that in compliance with Governor Lamont's Executive Order No. 7B, an audio recording of LEARN's monthly virtual board meetings will begin and will be posted on the LEARN website until further notice. Members are asked to identify themselves by name and district prior to speaking. Introduction of board members and guests.
3. Public comment: no public comment
4. Reading Review of Correspondence: Mrs. Ericson shared a letter of support from Alison Woods, Vice President & Chief Development Officer, Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut. which included a donation of \$1655.00 for the purchase of NAEYC publication "*Trauma and Young Children*" to distribute to those who registered for the *LEARN at Lunch* series addressing "Resiliency, Trauma, and Housing Insecurity.
5. Superintendent's Perspective: Dr. Susan Iwanicki, LEARN Director of Curriculum & Instruction, presented "Services that Support On-Line Learning". LEARN to become a credible source through practitioners of work to become masterful and share their involvement and expertise with districts.
6. Consent Agenda Items:
 - 6.1 Approval of the Minutes – regular business meeting- September 11, 2020
 - 6.2 Budget – Monthly update included in packet.
 - 6.3 Grant Applications – *Connecting Through Technology*; funded by Neighbors for Neighbors; funding agency, Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut (\$24,500).

Motion: To approve the Consent Agenda by Luty, second by Hagen
Motion passed unanimously

7. Information from the Executive Director:

- 7.1 Hiring – New Hires’ & Resignations’ Data and Trend Reports are included in packet. Hiring is stable including ten remote teachers supporting LEARN Schools.
- 7.2 Distributions –
- 7.3 Executive Committee meeting minutes – August 28, 2020, September 25, 2020, are included in packet.
- 7.4 Legislative update –Goodwin University has been designated a Local Educational Association.
- 7.5 Agency update –
 - TFS 4 cases of Covid- closed school no additional numbers reported. pandemic
 - Three Rivers Middle College is closed due to Norwich closing Three Rivers Community College in Norwich.
 - CT River Academy on the Goodwin University campus, East Hartford, has reported 1 covid case- no additional cases reported.
 - Norwich students have been asked to stay home at all LEARN schools due to lack of contact tracing and data from Norwich. LEARN continually checking data. School spread not happening within school walls- coming from outside the school.
 - In partnership with Dr. Lee Teitel, LEARN is offering a Leadership Practice Network for Eastern CT Superintendents, “Leading & Learning about Race, Racism, Equity.
 - Residency Programs – Minority Teacher Recruitment Program proposed to begin next academic year.
 - Jack Cross, LEARN’s Director of Innovation & Development, is developing a technology consortium to assist districts with sharing technical staff.
 - Virtual PD is available to districts, Tech talks, Virtual Communities of Practice (funded by the state to come together 4 times a year).
 - Human Resources Director Interviews in second round to fill retiring director in December.
 - Two National Merit Scholars recognized at Three Rivers Middle College.
 - Update on the Student Support Services, Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy second floor renovation project- The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) changed their previous position allowing the roof to be included in the application for the second floor renovation project. LEARN is now being asked to pay for the roof prior to submitting an application for funding support of the second floor renovation project. Another meeting is scheduled for Thursday to discuss this topic further. The lower level renovation project will be closed in November.

8. Old Business: no old business

9. New Business:

- 9.1 New policy # 9314.1: By Laws of the Board, “Remote Meetings”, First Read comments- none will be submitted for vote in Nov- (Executive order to be retired Nov 9, 2020 but CABA Atty. Patrice McCarthy believes the order will continue)

- 9.2 New policy regarding “Face Masks/Face Coverings” will be applicable to the following sections within the LEARN Policy Manual (*procedures are included for your information*) Will be voted
- 9.2a Policy # 4118.237: Certified Personnel, “Face Masks/Face Coverings”, First Read
 - 9.2b Policy # 4218.237: Non-Certified Personnel, “Face Masks/ Face Coverings”, First Read
 - 9.2c Policy # 5141.8; Students, Face Masks/Face Coverings, First Read
- 9.3 Flexibilities for Implementing the “*CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017* for the 2020-2021 School Year”. Executive Director Ericson, presented the flexibilities’ guidelines to LEARN’s Professional Development & Evaluation Committee (PDEC) for review, as directed by the CT State Department of Education (flexibilities to reduce students & teachers stressors during the covid pandemic). PDEC approved the flexibilities and was brought before the board for a vote.

Motion to approve the “Flexibilities for Implementing the *CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017* for the 2020-2021 School Year” as presented by Executive Director Ericson by Luty, second by Lindermann
Passed unanimously

- 10. Educational Perspective: no presentation (*additional time available for Roundtable discussions*)
- 11. Roundtable/Future Agenda Items: District Updates; Challenges & Opportunities regarding the Pandemic- Discussion followed.
- 12. Adjournment: **Motion to adjourn by Volkmann, second by Luty**
Motion passed unanimously
Meeting adjourned 10:45 am

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 regional cooperation.