

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

Remote meeting via Zoom

Minutes

April 8, 2021

Present: Deep River; Lenore Grunko, East Haddam; Nicole Hendry East Lyme; Tim Hagen, LEARN; Kate Ericson, Ledyard; Naomi Rodriguez, Madison; Katie Stein, Montville; Robert Mitchell, Norwich; Al Daniels Preston; Cindy Luty, Region 17; Jen Favalora, Region 18; Diane Linderman; Stonington; Craig Esposito; Stonington, Waterford; Amanda Gates-Lamothe Westbrook, Michele Brigham

Representatives not attending: Chester; Dale Bernardoni, Clinton; Michael Hornyak, East Hampton; Amy Ordonez, Essex; Carolyn Rotella, Groton; Rita Volkmann, Guilford; Kristen Peck, New London; Jefferey Hart, North Stonington; Phil Mendolia, Old Saybrook; Jan Furman, Salem; Sean Reith

Guests: Bridgette Gordon-Hickey, Christine Pemberton, Donna Worst, Joanne Lund, Mike Marchewka

1. Call to order: 9:05 am
2. Chairman Esposito informed members that in compliance with Governor Lamont's Executive Order No.7B and 9H, an audio recording of LEARN's monthly virtual board meetings 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: Correspondence from the CSDE; pursuant to Section 10-264(n)(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner must randomly select one interdistrict magnet school operated by a Regional Educational Service Center each year for a comprehensive financial audit. This year, the Regional Multicultural Magnet School has been randomly selected. The CSDE has selected the accounting firm, O'Connell Pace & Company, to conduct the audit. Correspondence from John Spang, Business Administrators of Southeastern Connecticut (BASIC) to thank Joanne Lund for her training presentation to district business administrators on the new EGMS software to be used for state grants. Working knowledge of this software is critical to districts receiving state grants.
5. Superintendent's Perspective: Deputy Executive Director, Bridgette Gordon-Hickey, and Human Resources Director, Christine Pemberton, to present *Strategies to Address Recruitment, Hiring, and Retention of Student Support Services Staff*
6. Consent Agenda Items:
 - 6.1 Approval of the Minutes: Regular Business Meeting—March 11, 2021
 - 6.2 Approval of Budget 2020-2021
 - 6.3 Approval of Grant Applications – submitted application for *Workers Comp Safety Grant*, funded by the Workers Compensation Trust (\$15,000) to reduce incidences of employee leave due to slips and falls during the winter months
Motion: To approve the Consent Agenda by Mitchell, second by Daniels
Motion passed unanimously
7. Information from the Executive Director:
 - 7.1 Hiring – New Hires' & Resignations' Data and Trend Reports are included in packet. The Executive Committee appointed Linda Darcy as LEARN's next Director of Teaching & Learning.
 - 7.2 Distributions –
 - 7.3 Executive Committee meeting minutes March 26, 2021.
 - 7.4 Legislative update – Remote Learning bill under consideration to allow students to continue remote learning next school year.

7.5 Agency update –LEARN is currently hiring due to retirements and the expansion of the leadership team and has attended the RESC minority recruitment job fair as well as the UCONN job fair. Continue to work with the superintendent’s network on Race, Racism, and Equity which will continue the work through next year, CAPSS has organized a separate group to begin work in this area as well. Mrs. Ericson & Dr. Lee Teitel will be coordinating with Dr. Peter Cummings of Rhode Island to assist in creating a similar network group in Rhode Island to address this issue. GEER funding and LEAP programs have distributed IPADS to all students and are focused on meeting one on one with students and families to determine what issues they face and need to overcome to return to school. LEARN has received \$450, 000 to assist Norwich and New London to reach out to disengaged students through more home visits and training with additional resources to support this group in re-engaging. Another \$10 million has been provided to the RESC Alliance to fund and expand summer programs to promote reconnecting with students and their communities and accelerate student engagement. The Ocean Avenue renovation project architect and construction manager have been selected: Tecton Architects and O & G Construction. Planning meetings are ongoing for the work anticipated to begin at the announcement of the award from the state in June. LEARN Magnet schools are now back at 4 days a week. Most LEARN schools have a high percentage of students returning to in-school learning. Some students remain remote-Three Rivers Middle College seniors participating in college level courses online remain remote. The Goodwin Schools have a higher level of remote work which is being addressed. The Eastern CT Health & Medical Cooperative has been able to reduce the employee premium cost share by 15%. Mrs. Ericson has been elected to the Eastern CT Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. State Education Talent office has asked Mrs. Ericson to serve on the Education Evaluation & Support Committee. Last year’s enrollment numbers were down but this year the numbers are improving. Lotteries have been conducted for the schools and the application numbers have increased so that full enrollment is anticipated.

8. Old Business:

9. New Business: Establish Nominating Committee to submit a slate of officers for the following year. (per policy #9200, By-Laws of Board; *Election of Officers*)

Motion to approve the following members to the 2021-2022 Nominating Committee. Nominations from the floor may be accepted at this time. The following members will comprise the Nominating Committee: Tim Hagen, Bob Mitchell, Craig Esposito, Aaron Daniels by Brigham, second by Favalora
Motion passed unanimously

9.2 Use of Facilities-Application submitted per policy #1333, Community Relations; *Use of LEARN Facilities* by Kathy Gallup for the Thames Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra to use the Regional Multicultural Magnet School parking garage for orchestra practice sessions on Sundays as needed during inclement weather for the period 4/18/21-6/13/21.

Motion to approve the use of the Multicultural Magnet School parking garage by the Thames Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra as needed on Sundays, 4/18/21-6/13/21 for orchestra practice during inclement weather by Linderman, second by Rodriguez
Motion passed unanimously

10. **Educational Perspective:**

11. **Roundtable/Future Agenda Items:** Regional Expansion of In-School Learning; Re-opening Experiences; Summer School and Remote Learning

12. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 10:57am by Luty, second by Daniels