

**LEARN BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**REGULAR/BUSINESS MEETING**  
*Remote meeting via Zoom*  
**Minutes**  
**February 11, 2021**

Present: Chester; Dale Bernardoni, East Hampton; Amy Ordonez, East Haddam; Nicole Hendry East Lyme; Tim Hagen, Deep River; Lenore Grunko, Groton; Rita Volkmann, Guilford; Kristen Peck, LEARN; Kate Ericson, Ledyard; Naomi Rodriguez, Madison; Katie Stein, Montville; Robert Mitchell, Preston; Cindy Luty, Region 17; Jen Favallora, Region 18; Diane Linderman; Old Saybrook; Jan Furman

Representatives not attending: Clinton; Michael Hornyak, Essex; Carolyn Rotella, New London; Jefferey Hart, North Stonington; Phil Mendolia, Norwich; Al Daniels, Salem; Sean Reith, Stonington; Craig Esposito; Waterford, Amanda Gates-Lamonthe

Guests: Fran Rabinowitz, Mike Belden, Christine Pemberton, Carole Glenn, Donna Worst

Not Attending and Not Represented: Westbrook

1. Call to order: 9:03 am
2. Vice Chairman Hagen 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: No correspondence
5. Superintendent's Perspective: Fran Rabinowicz, Executive Director of CAPSS, to present on CAPSS Blueprint to Transform Connecticut's Public Schools- Ms. Rabinowitz discussed the newly released Governor's proposed state budget resulting in reduced Educational Cost Share funding. As Ms. Rabinowicz has shared this document across the state with state representatives and senators the Blueprint to Transform CT's Public Schools has been broadly accepted. She summarized the intent of the 30 proposed objectives presented in the blueprint, highlighting that this approach is holistic and hoping for a systemic overhaul to school funding model, versus a few quick fixes. Also mentioned in the presentation of the plan, is that the funding model would mean no districts would lose funding. Meaning, the blueprint will require an investment of significant funds to support all students in Connecticut. The Blueprint is a 15 year cohesive plan to include all districts, educators and the legislature working together with well-defined common goals. A gant chart is being built by CAPSS to outline the work of the blueprint over the next 15 years.
6. Consent Agenda Items:
  - 6.1 Approval of the Minutes: Regular Business Meeting—January 14, 2021
  - 6.2 Approval of Budget 2020-2021
  - 6.3 Approval of Grant Applications- *Teacher Resident Program* funded by SE CT Regional Impact, funding agency, Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut (\$25,000, July 1, 2021- December 31, 2022); *Touch the Future*, funded by CT State Department of Education, funding agency, CSDE Interdistrict Cooperative Grant Programs (\$60,498)

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

7. Information from the Executive Director:
  - 7.1 Hiring – New Hires’ & Resignations’ Data and Trend Reports are included in packet.
  - 7.2 Distributions –
  - 7.3 Executive Committee meeting minutes – January 22, 2021
  - 7.4 SSS Building Committee Meeting minutes – January 22, 2021
  - 7.5 Legislative update –
  - 7.6 Agency update – Groton asked LEARN to partner with them in applying for a grant through Department of Defense. Union discussions have led to the development of an MOU to include coordinator positions and stipend allowances in the LEARN’s LEA contract. Executive Director Ericson and Lee Teitel are designing a network program for Executive Directors of Educational Service Agencies across the country in collaboration with AESA. LEARN’s Leadership Team attended a mid-year retreat with a specific emphasis on building an equity lens and operationalizing LEARN’s three agency goals. Sarah Moon, LEARN Director of Related Services, is working with the State Department of Aging and Disabilities to develop a training curriculum for adults with disabilities to increase their ability for employment. This model will be nationally certified and is the first of its kind across the country. The RFQ’s for the Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy’s second floor project have been reviewed and four of the top architecture and construction management proposals will move forward for the request for proposal process.
8. Old Business:
9. New Business:
  - 9.1 Blum Shapiro Contract  
**Motion to approve a 2 year extension of the Blum Shapiro contract through 2022 made by Mitchell, second by Rodriguez**  
**Motion passed unanimously**
  - 9.2 Business Enterprise Fund  
**Motion to establish a Business Enterprise Fund for the Marine Science Magnet High School as presented by Rodriguez, second by Linderman**  
**Motion passed unanimously**
10. Educational Perspective: Director of Young Children & Families, Carole Glenn, to present on the GEER grant. ECE partners with the OEC to support young children and families across the region. The governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund has supported remote learning for early childhood education. Each RESC received 400 iPads to distribute throughout each region as well as Chromebooks for private pre-k teacher’s use.
11. Roundtable/Future Agenda Items: Superintendents discussed the learning loss among the student population and how to assist in improving this loss. Some districts are considering an extended school year to make up the deficit. East Lyme has developed a plan to bring the lower grades back in the classroom 4 days a week with 1 remote day. ESSER funding has been released to districts to support programs with comprehensive approaches for improvement.
12. Adjournment: **Motion to adjourn @ 10:41am By Volkmann, second by Luty.**

**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.