

**LEARN BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**REGULAR/BUSINESS MEETING**  
*Remote meeting via Zoom*  
**Minutes**  
**January 14, 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, Preston; Cindy Luty, Region# 17; Jen Favalora, Region # 18; Diane Linderman, Stonington; Craig Esposito

Representatives not attending: Clinton; Michael Hornyak, Essex; Carolyn Rotella, Montville; Robert Mitchell, New London; Jefferey Hart, North Stonington; Phil Mendolia, Norwich; Al Daniels; Old Saybrook; Jan Furman, Salem; Sean Reith, Waterford; Craig Merriman

Guests: Mike Belden, Christine Pemberton, Donna Worst

Not Attending and Not Represented: Westbrook

1. Call to order: 9:04 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: No correspondence
5. Superintendent's Perspective: LEARN Chief Financial Officer presented "The Fiscal State of the Agency"
6. Consent Agenda Items:
  - 6.1 Approval of the Minutes – regular business meeting- December 10, 2020
  - 6.2 Budget – An update is included.
  - 6.3 Grant Applications –  
**Motion: To approve the Consent Agenda by Luty, second by Peck**  
**Motion passed unanimously**
7. Information from the Executive Director:
  - 7.1 Hiring – New Hires' & Resignations' Data and Trend Reports are included in packet. Christine Pemberton was reintroduced as LEARN's new Director of Human Resources. Director of Office of Teaching & Learning, Dr. Susan Iwanicki, will be leaving LEARN. A ThoughtExchange question was distributed to regional educators' districts to support LEARN's formation of a leadership profile for the position. There was a healthy level of participation across roles, and districts. A new Assistant Principal has been hired for The Friendship School, Mrs. Tricia Lee. District superintendents are hosting a legislative forum tomorrow, on January 15, 2021, to discuss educational needs throughout the state. The CT Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPPS) has produced a Blueprint to Transform Connecticut's Public Schools as part of this meeting.
  - 7.2 Distributions –
  - 7.3 Executive Committee meeting minutes – Special meeting, December 10, 2020 & regular business meeting, December 18, 2020 (included in packet).

- 7.4 Legislative update – Goals of the Commissioner of Education and Governor is to increase the diversification of Connecticut Educators. The RESC Alliance expansion of the Teacher’s Residency Program will play an important role in the state’s efforts.
- 7.5 Agency Update – Mrs. Ericson provided a short overview of the CT Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) *Blueprint to Transform Connecticut’s Public Schools*. The Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy has submitted the application for the state building project grant for the renovation of the upper level of the facility to increase capacity. The state has included this application on the consideration list for the next round of funding. MSMHS is poised to begin to sell its “homegrown” coral through the Project LEARN 501c3 tax exempt entity.
- 8.0 Old Business:
- 8.1 New Policy # 3543.311; Business and Non-Instructional Operations - Office Services/Records and Reports, “*Holds on the Destruction of Electronic and Paper Records*” Second read. (*Regulations included*)  
**Motion to approve policy # 3543.311, Holds on the Destruction of Electronic and Paper Records by Linderman, second by Volkmann**  
**Passed unanimously**
- 8.2 New Policy # 3543.31; Business and Non-Instructional Operations - Office Services/Records and Reports, “*Electronic Communications Use and Retention*”, Second read. (*Regulations included*)  
**Motion to approve policy # 3543.31, Electronic Communications Use and Retention by Luty, second by Rodriguez**  
**Passed unanimously**
9. New Business:
- 9.1 Salary & Benefits  
**Motion to approve the proposed 2021-2022 Salary and Benefits as presented by Rodriquez, second by Volkmann**  
**Passed unanimously**
- 9.2 Proposed 2021-2022 Executive Committee and Board meeting dates  
**Motion to approve the 2021-2022 meeting schedules for the Board of Directors and Executive Committee with revisions presented by Hagen, second by Linderman**  
**Passed unanimously**
10. Educational Perspective: Executive Director’s Mid-year Review. Mrs. Ericson presented her 5 year strategic plan.
11. Roundtable/Future Agenda Items: Lessons from Covid-19: Regional Efficiencies; Tracking Learning Loss Regionally; In-person Education
12. Adjournment: **Motion to adjourn @ 11:08** by Luty, second by Volkmann

**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.

Submitted by  
Donna Worst  
Executive Office Coordinator  
January 14, 2021

