

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

Remote meeting via Zoom

Minutes

May 13, 2021

Present: Chester; Dale Bernardoni, Deep River; Lenore Grunko, East Lyme; Tim Hagen, LEARN; Kate Ericson, Ledyard; Naomi Rodriguez; Montville; Robert Mitchell, Norwich; Aaron 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: Clinton; Michael Hornyak, East Hampton; Amy Ordonez, East Haddam; Nicole Hendry, Essex; Carolyn Rotella, Groton; Rita Volkmann, Guilford; Kristen Peck, Madison; Katie Stein, New London; Jefferey Hart, North Stonington; Phil Mendolia, Old Saybrook; Jan Furman, Salem; Sean Reith

Guests: Tom Giard, III, Mike Belden, Christine Pemberton, Donna Worst, Joanne Lund, Maria Cuadros, Michele Duthrie

1. Call to order: 9:03am
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: "Memo-Communication with Those Charged with Governance" from LEARN's accounting firm, Clifton, Larson, Allen LLP (CLA) regarding the end of year audit (Blum Shapiro has recently joined the firm of CLA). The CLA audit procedures and audit engagement letters have been received and will be signed by the Executive Director formalizing the agreement between LEARN and CLA. The Workers' Compensation "Trust has selected LEARN as one of their Safety Grant award winners for 2021 and will be awarded \$12,000 to purchase Icy Grippers.
5. Superintendent's Perspective: Waterford Public School Superintendent, Thomas Giard, III, presented his district's work on their journey towards creating equity. His PowerPoint was distributed with the board synopsis.
6. Consent Agenda Items:
 - 6.1 Approval of the Minutes: Regular Business Meeting—April 8, 2021
 - 6.2 Approval of Budget 2020-2021
 - 6.3 Approval of Grant Applications –

Motion: To approve the Consent Agenda by Hagen, second by Mitchell
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 Andrea Simmons the new Director of Interdepartmental Programs, and Dr. Sal Menzo as Superintendent for the Goodwin University Magnet Schools, and J. T. Foster was formally appointed as the Principal of CTRA.
 - 7.2 Distributions –
 - 7.3 Executive Committee meeting minutes- Special meetings April 8, 2021 & April 30, 2021.
 - 7.4 Legislative update – Senate Bill #2-new language around flexibility regarding absences, free lunch program parameters being discussed.

- 7.5 Agency update –Kate Ericson, and Bob Mitchell, LEARN NSBA Virtual Conference. During the conference, there were breakout rooms on Boards of Education and Equity. One district recommended having a outside facilitate during the run of their Board Equity workshops. CTRA was named the #1 Magnet school by Magnet Schools of America. Named U.S. JT Foster was announced, Principal of the Year by Magnet Schools of America. Mrs. Ericson & Bridgette Gordon Hickey met with new Madison Superintendent, Dr. Craig Cooke to welcome into the LEARN region. Two new tech positions will be filled to support the new Tech Consortium to provide tech support to small towns (Salem & Preston) as well as offering PowerSchool support and training to district back offices.
8. Old Business:
9. New Business:
- 9.1 Presentation of Proposed Slate of Officers per policy #9200, Bylaws of the Board; *Election of Officers* Motion to approve the following slate of officer for 2021-2022 will be held at the June meeting. Nominations can also be made from the floor.
Craig Esposito-Chairman
Aaron Daniels- Vice- Chairman
Bob Mitchell- Fiscal Officer
Rita Volkmann- Secretary
- 9.2 Authorization to Enter into Contracts
Motion for the Executive Director to enter into contracts effective to June 30, 2022, by Luty, second Mitchell
Motion passed unanimously
- 9.3 Approve Executive Director’s Authority to draw on Established Line of Credit
Motion for Executive Director to draw on an established Line of Credit on behalf of LEARN effective to June 30, 2022, by Mitchell, second by Daniels.
Motion passed unanimously
- 9.4 Preliminary Discussion- Evaluation of the Executive Director per policy #2400, Administration; *Evaluation of Administrators and Administration*
- 9.5 New Admin Position Recommendation per policy #4100, Personnel-Certified/Noncertified; *Creating Positions*
Motion to create a new Admin position, Assistant Director of Specialized Programs, with a salary range of \$117,00 - \$132,375 by Linderman, second by Mitchell
Motion approved unanimously
- 9.6 Preliminary Review of 2021-2022 Budget
10. Educational Perspective: LEARN CFO, Michael Belden, presented the 2021-2022 proposed Budge. Hard copies of the proposed budget were mailed to board members for review and his PowerPoint presentation was distributed with the board synopsis
11. Roundtable/Future Agenda Items: Regional Expansion of In-School Learning; Re-opening Experiences; Summer School and Remote Learning, Input from students, teachers other staff members invited to board
12. Adjournment: **Motion to adjourn at 11:02 am by Daniels, second by Linderman**