

LEARN Board of Directors  
**March 9, 2023**  
**Minutes**

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am
2. Present: Chester; Dale Bernardoni, East Haddam; Bryan Perry, East Lyme; Catherine Steel, Groton; Rita Volkmann, LEARN; Kate Ericson, Ledyard; Mary Harris, Madison; Mary Ann Connelly, Montville; Robert Mitchell, Norwich; Al Daniels, Region # 17; Jen Favalora, Stonington; Craig Esposito  
  
Not Attending and Not Represented: Clinton; Michael Hornyak, Deep River; vacant, East Hampton; Amy Ordonez, Essex; Carolyn Rotella, Guilford; Kristen Peck, New London; Jefferey Hart, North Stonington; Phil Mendolia, Old Saybrook; vacant, Preston; Cindy Luty, Region # 18; Steven Wilson, Salem; Sean Reith, Waterford; Michele Devine, Westbrook; Zack Hayden  
  
Presenters, Staff, and Other Guests: Brian Reas, Joanne Lund, Christine Pemberton, Maria Cuadros, Donna Worst
3. Public Comment: none
4. Reading and/or Review of Correspondence: Executive Director Ericson shared correspondence from CSDE Special Education Division Director, Bryan Klimkiewicz, thanking the RESC Alliance for their previous work and ongoing support for potential future initiatives.
5. Superintendent’s Perspective: East Haddam Superintendent, Brian Reas, shared his district’s strategic approach towards curriculum engaging all staff in the ongoing development and refining of curricula as a collaborative, agency effort -
6. Consent Agenda:
  - 6.1 Approval of the Minutes: Regular Business meeting—February 9, 2023
  - 6.2 Approval of 2022-2023 budget summary as of February 28, 2023.
  - 6.3 Approval of Grant Applications: no grant applications presented.

**Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented by Mitchell, second by Daniels**  
**Motion passed unanimously.**
7. Information from the Executive Director:
  - 7.1 Hiring- New Hires and Resignations summary update included in packet with accompanying trend reports.
  - 7.2 Distributions- LEARN’s Five Year Capital Improvement Plan and LEARN’s Services were distributed.
  - 7.3 Executive Committee meeting minutes — February 24, 2023
  - 7.4 SSS Building Committee meeting minutes —January 27, 2023 & February 24, 2023
  - 7.5 Legislative Updates
  - 7.6 LEARN Agency Updates
8. Old Business: Revised Policy #5007 – Students series; *Bullying*, Second Read  
  

**Motion to approved revised policy #5007 – student series, “*Bullying*” as presented by Mitchell second by Daniels**  
**Motion approved unanimously.**
9. New Business: National School Lunch Program- Healthy Certification Statement for 2023-2024  
*To participate in the program, the Connecticut State Department of Education requires all district governing boards to vote “yes or no” on the following 2 motions as written by the State:*

9.1a Motion 1: For Healthy Food Option

**Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 10-215f, the LEARN Board certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations & groups.**

**Motion to vote yes or no as presented by Daniels, second by Mitchell.**

**Voted yes - all**

**Motion approved unanimously.**

9.1b Motion 2: For Food and Beverage Exemptions

**The LEARN Board will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsal, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.**

**Motion to vote yes or no as presented by Mitchell, second by Favalora.**

**Voted yes – all**

**Motion approved unanimously.**

9.1c Approval for Executive Director, Katherine Ericson, to sign the 2023-2024 Healthy Food Certification Statement

**Motion to approve LEARN Executive Director, Katherine Ericson, to sign Healthy Food Certification Statement 2023-2024, by Volkmann, second by Bernardoni.**

**Voted yes – all**

**Motion approved unanimously.**

9.2 Non-renewals of Non-tenured Certified Staff- The Executive Director read the following:

“Per Article IV of the LEARN Membership Agreement & Constitution; In my capacity as Executive Director, I recommend that the Board of Directors non-renew the teaching contracts of those named in the motion below at the end of 2022-2023 school year, in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes 10-151, and that the Board accept, adopt, and ratify my determination that the contracts be non-renewed. I am making this recommendation for the following reason(s), any one or all of which I view to be a sufficient basis for the recommended action:

1. Elimination of position or loss of position to another teacher.
2. Other- due and sufficient cause
  - a. budget considerations
  - b. contract reduction in force procedures
  - c. legal requirements in accordance with 10-151 of the CT General Statutes
  - d. failure to meet our minimum standards for continued employment

Any requested hearing on the non-renewal of a non-tenured teacher must be held before the Board of Directors, unless the teacher and the Board both agree to have this hearing held before an impartial hearing panel. It is my recommendation that you vote to have the hearing held before the Board so there will be no procedural misunderstandings in the event a hearing is necessary. I also recommend that I be authorized and instructed to communicate notice of this action in writing to the affected party and to respond for the Board to any appropriate requests which may be forthcoming from the teacher or his/her representatives as provided in the Teacher Tenure Law.”

**Move that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 10-151, the LEARN Board of Directors non-renew the teaching contract of those named below at the end of the 2022-2023 school year as recommended by the Executive Director; and ratify, adopt, and accept the Executive Director’s determination that the contract be non-renewed.**

1. Lyons, Brittany
2. Peel, Matthew
3. Poma, Grecia
4. Tellez, Kim
5. Troutman, Merin
6. Valle, Keren
7. Veilleux, Noah
8. Ward, Emily

**Further move that the Executive Director be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to those named above, and that the Executive Director be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board of Directors to any requests for a hearing or for other data which may be forthcoming from those named above and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statutes 10-151; and further move that the Executive Director be directed that any response to a request for a hearing, if a hearing is required by law, indicate that such hearing is to be before the Board of Directors.**

**Motion to accept the non-renewals as presented by Daniels, second by Mitchell  
Motion approved unanimously.**

- 9.3 Capital Improvement Fund Plan- *The comprehensive 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan documents to be distributed at the meeting. The Capital Improvement Plan Fund Balance Appropriation for the year 2022-2023 is included in your packet. As was presented last year by CFO Mike Belden, this year it is recommended that \$610,000 be transferred from the general fund balance to the 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan Fund*

**Motion to approve the transfer of \$610,000 from the general fund balance to the 5 Year Capital Improvement Fund by Bernardoni, second by Favalora  
Motion approved unanimously.**

- 9.4 Goodwin University Magnet School System & LEARN New Administrative Positions *Executive Director Ericson will discuss (job descriptions are included in packet for all of the following positions)*
- 9.4a Assistant Superintendent for Personnel

**Motion to approve new Goodwin University Magnet School position, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel at a salary range of \$165,000 - \$185,000 as presented by Daniels, second by Volkmann  
Motion approved unanimously.**

9.4b Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

**Motion to approve new Goodwin University Magnet School position, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction at a salary range of \$165,00 - \$185,000 as presented by Daniels, second by Mitchell**

**Motion approved unanimously.**

9.4c Assistant Superintendent for Special Education

**Motion to approve new Goodwin University Magnet School position, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education at a salary of \$165,000 - \$185,000 as presented by Mitchell, second by Daniels**

**Motion approved unanimously.**

9.4d Assistant Director of the Connecticut River Academy Middle Level Program

**Motion to approve new Goodwin University Magnet School position, Assistant Director of the Connecticut River Academy Middle Level Program at a salary range of \$107,000 - \$121,061 by Harris, second by Favalora**

**Motion approved unanimously.**

9.4e LEARN Multi Language Education Consultant Supervisor for the Office of Teaching and Learning, a twelve-month shared position and shared cost with Waterford Public Schools

**Motion to approve new LEARN position, Multi Language Education Consultant Supervisor for the Office of Teaching and Learning at a salary range of \$105,473 - \$119,333 by Daniels, second by Bernardoni**

**Motion approved unanimously.**

9.5 New Policy #6141- Series 6000; Instruction, “*Challenging Curriculum and Advanced Courses*”, **First Read**

9.6 New Policy #6148 - Series 6000; Instruction, “*Completion of FAFSA*”, **First Read**

9.7 Revised Policy #6119 – Series 6000; Instruction, “*Physical Education: Health and Fitness Curriculum (minor revisions-update legal references and gender-neutral language)*”

**Motion to adopt revised policy #6119, Physical Education: Health and Fitness Curriculum by Mitchell, second by Daniels**

**Motion approved unanimously.**

9.8 Revised Policy #6121- Series 6000; Instruction, “*Virtual High School; Online Coursework,*” **First Read**

9.9 Revised Policy #4118.11/4218.11 - Series 4000; Personnel- Certified/Non-Certified, “*Non-Discrimination*” (minor revisions) Revised regulations also are included in packet for information but do not require a vote)

**Motion to adopt revised policy #4118.11/4218.11-Non-Discrimination for Certified and Non-Certified Personnel as presented by second Daniels, second by Mitchell**

**Motion approved unanimously.**

9.10 Use of LEARN Facility- Per policy # 1333; Community Relations- The Learn Education

Association (LEA) requests permission to allow the CT Education Association (CEA) to present a “Teachers and the Law” presentation in the Regional Multicultural Magnet School cafeteria on March 29, 2023, 4:30 - 6:30pm

**Motion to permit the use of the RMMS cafeteria requested by the LEA union for the presentation, “Teachers and the Law” on March 29, 2023, 4:30-6:30pm by Mitchell second by Bernardoni**  
**Motion approved unanimously.**

10. Educational Perspective: *No Educational Perspective due to time constraints*
11. Roundtable /Future Agenda Items: Continued discussion on district budgets which continue to be a challenge: averaging 5.1%- 8% proposed increases to maintain and in most cases cut services.
12. **Motion to Adjourn @ 11:04 am by Daniels, second by Mitchell**  
**Motion Passed Unanimously.**

March 9, 2023, minutes submitted by  
Donna S. Worst  
Executive Office Coordinator/Scribe  
For approval: April 20, 2023