

LEARN Board of Directors
May 11, 2023
Minutes

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am
2. Present: Chester; Dale Bernardoni, East Lyme; Jill Carini, Groton; Rita Volkmann, LEARN; Kate Ericson, Ledyard; Mary Harris, Madison; Maryann Connelly, Montville; Robert Mitchell, Norwich; Aaron Daniels, Preston; Cindy Luty, Region #17; Jen Favallora, Waterford; Mindy Stone

Not Attending and Not Represented: Clinton; Michael Hornyak, Deep River; vacant, East Haddam; Bryan Perry, East Hampton; Amy Ordonez, Essex; Carolyn Rotella Guilford; Kristen Peck, New London; Jefferey Hart, North Stonington; Phil Mendolia, Old Saybrook; Steve Beeler, Region # 18; Steven Wilson, Salem; Sean Reith, Stonington; Craig Esposito, Westbrook; Zack Hayden

Presenters, Staff, and Other Guests: Michael Belden, Christine Pemberton, Joanne Lund, Maria Cuadros, Donna Worst
3. Public Comment: none
4. Reading and/or Review of Correspondence:
5. Superintendent's Perspective: LEARN CFO, Mike Belden, to present a preliminary review of the proposed 2023-2024 budget
Motion to move agenda item 9.14 to item 5 on the agenda by Mitchell, second by Luty
Motion passed unanimously.
6. Consent Agenda:
 - 6.1 Approval of the Minutes: Regular Business meeting—April 20, 2023
 - 6.2 Approval of 2022-2023 budget summary as of April 30, 2023.
 - 6.3 Approval of Grant Applications: no grant applications presented.
Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented by Volkmann, second by Bernardoni
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-
 - 7.3 Executive Committee meeting minutes — April 28, 2023
 - 7.4 SSS Building Committee meeting minutes —April 28, 2023
 - 7.5 Legislative Updates were provided HB5003 not fully funded which means that no additional magnet school funding will be available. Special Education bill SB 1200 prohibits seclusion in schools. This is not supported by LEARN but may be passed by the legislature- the prohibition of using seclusion and restraint for the child's safety would result in more unsafe situations in the classroom and ultimately Students not accessing their education. Other bills being presented are SB1216 concerning financial literacy, an act for student meals, and HB6880 Bill of Rights for English language learners.
 - 7.6 LEARN Agency Updates -Additional services requested of LEARN from area districts: Exploring food management system service, back office supports, and curriculum development writing, Staff retention strategies continue to expand benefits such as tuition reimbursement for both undergraduate and graduate courses to provide more support for career pathways within LEARN. HR staff attended a job fair at Southern with positive local student interest. The TFS move to 51 Daniels Avenue has moved through approvals of the Planning & Zoning Committee and will be reviewed by the Conservation Committee in June. Then will be brought before the council for a vote.
8. Old Business:

9. New Business:

- 9.1 LEARN's Transition Academy Lease * Request to enter into Executive Session
Move to enter into Executive Session, per Conn. General Statute Section 1-200(6), to discuss terms of lease for LEARN's Transition Academy by Luty, second by Mitchell
Motion approved unanimously
- Executive Session Began: 10:29am**
Executive Session Ended: 10:39am
- Motion that the Board authorizes Executive Director, Katherine Ericson, to execute The Aly Limited Company lease for the property located at 58 Pennsylvania Ave, Niantic, CT as presented for LEARN's Transition Academy with such changes deemed necessary and/or appropriate by the Executive Director as discussed by Mitchell, second by Bernardoni**
Motion passed unanimously.
- 9.2 Food Service Program Proposals and Recommendations -CFO Mike Belden presented the Food Service RFPs and recommendations for the LEARN Food Service Contract
Motion to approve the recommendation of the food service committee to accept Whitsons as LEARN's new food services vendor as of July 1, 2023, by Bernardoni, second by Mitchell
Motion passed unanimously.
- 9.3 Revised Policy #5115- Students, "*Exclusion from School for Disciplinary Purposes*" (minor revisions)- request a motion to approve
Motion to approve policy 5115, "Exclusion from School for Disciplinary Purposes" as presented by Mitchell, second by Volkmann.
Motion approved unanimously.
- 9.4 Revised Policy # 5119- Students, "*Homeless Children and Youth*" (minor revisions)-request motion to approve
Motion to approve policy 5119, "Homeless Children and Youth" as presented by Bernardoni, second by Luty.
Motion approved unanimously.
- 9.5 Revised Policy #5141.213- Students "*Naloxone (Narcan)*" (minor revisions)- request motion to approve
Motion to approve policy 5141.213, "Naloxone (Narcan)" as presented by Volkmann, second by Mitchell
Motion approved unanimously.
- 9.6 Revised policy #5142- Students, "*Youth Suicide Prevention and Intervention*" (minor revision)-request motion to approve. *revised regulations also included but require no additional vote*
Motion to approve policy 5142, "Youth Suicide Prevention and Intervention" as presented by Bernardoni, second by Luty
Motion approved unanimously.
- 9.7 Revised Policy #5145.511- Students, "*Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention*" (minor revisions)
Motion to approve policy 5145.511, Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and

Prevention as presented by Mitchell, second by Bernardoni
Motion passed unanimously.

- 9.8 Revised Policy #5149-Students, “*On-Campus Recruitment*” (minor revision)
Motion to approve policy 5149, “On -Campus Recruitment” as presented by Volkmann, second by Mitchell
Motion passed unanimously.
- 9.9 Revised Policy # 4129/4229- Personnel- Certified/Non-Certified, “*Graduate Study Reimbursement for Employees in categories of Directors, Coordinators, Managers, Teachers, Therapists, and Nurses*”, **First Read** (regulations included for information but do not need a vote)
- 9.10 New Policy # 4158.1/4258.1- Certified/Non-Certified Personnel, “*Code of Conduct*”
First Read
- 9.11 Presentation of proposed 2023-2024 slate of officers is presented at the May meeting and voted upon in June with nominations including self-nominations taken prior to voting. Currently the Nominating Committee presented the following 2023-2024 slate of officers. Secretary; Dale Bernardoni (Region 4), Vice Chair; Al Daniels (Norwich), Chair; Bob Mitchell (Montville), and Fiscal Officer; Mindy Stone (Waterford).
- 9.12 Authorization of Executive Director to Enter into Contracts. This is an annual request and is needed in order for LEARN to contract with various state agencies/departments and approved vendors.
Motion: Resolved, that Katherine Ericson, Executive Director, is authorized to make, execute, and approve on behalf of LEARN, any or all contract or amendments excluding loans, effective through June 30, by Mitchell, second by Volkmann
Motion approved unanimously.
- 9.13 Approval of Executive Director’s Authority to Draw on Established Line of Credit- This is an annual request and would only be used in an emergency situation to meet payroll expenses. The average bi-weekly payroll is approximately \$1.4 million. This line of credit has never been used to date.
Motion: Resolved, that Katherine Ericson, Executive Director, is authorized to approve and draw on the established line of credit, effective through June 30, 2024 by Luty, second by Bernardoni
Motion passed unanimously
- 9.14 Preliminary review of proposed 2023-2024 budget* moved to agenda item 5
- 9.15 Preliminary discussion of the Evaluation of the Executive Director per policy #2400, “Evaluation of Administrators and Administration” A survey will be forwarded to board members to complete and return to HR Director, Christine Pemberton or Donna Worst

10. Educational Perspective: LEARN Director of Special Services, Sarah Moon, to present an *Overview of LEARN’s role in the CSDE Special Education Contract* was tabled to next meeting
11. Roundtable/Future Agenda Items: Budgets, daycare, before and after school programs
12. Adjournment: **Motion to adjourn at 11:00am**