

**LEARN Board of Directors
Minutes
October 12, 2023**

1. **Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance @ 9:02 a.m.**

Present: Chester; Dale Bernardoni Groton; Rita Volkmann, LEARN; Kate Ericson, Ledyard; Mary Harris, Madison; Mary Ann Connelly, Montville; Robert Mitchell, Norwich; Al Daniels, Preston; Cindy Luty, Region # 17; Jen Favalora, Stonington; Craig Esposito, Waterford; Mindy Stone

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

Presenters Staff and Other Guests: Dr. Roy Seitsinger, Michael Belden, Lisa Dean, and Donna Worst

2. Audience and Guests: Introductions

3. Public Comment: Executive Director Ericson took this opportunity to thank three extraordinary individuals whose unwavering dedication and commitment have shaped the course of LEARN. With a combined tenure of over 30 years on LEARN's Board of Directors, Aaron (Al) Daniels, Craig Esposito, and Rita Volkmann have contributed to some of the most significant milestones in LEARN as well as in their respective districts. They were each presented with a desktop captain's clock in acknowledgement and appreciation of their dedication to education.

4. Reading and/or Review of Correspondence: The Executive Director shared receiving a letter from the U.S. Secretary of Education, Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, congratulating the Marine Science Magnet School's achieving recognition as a 2023 Exemplary High Performing National Blue Ribbon School. *(Copy of letter to be shared with post meeting synopsis)*

5. Superintendent's Perspective: Dr. Roy Seitsinger, Preston Superintendent of Schools, presented and discussed a detailed PowerPoint on his team's focus on transformational approaches to meeting the needs of present and future students in the new landscape ahead for educators and students. *(PowerPoint will be distributed with the synopsis)*

6. Consent Agenda:

6.1 Approval of the Minutes: Regular Business meeting, September 14, 2023

6.2 Approval of 2023-2024 Budget Summary as of September 30, 2023

6.3 Approval of Grant Applications: *(grant summaries were included in packet)* 1.) Title I, funded by (ESSA) Every Student Succeeds Act (\$330,584 for July 1, 2023-June 30, 2025), funding agency, CT Dept. of Education, 2.) Title II, funded by ESSA (\$29,900 for July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025) funding agency; CT Dept. of Education, 3.) Title III, English Language Acquisition & Language Enhancement, funded by CT State Dept. of Education (\$50,824/\$12,740 to LEARN schools for 2022-2024), funding agency CT State Dept. of Education.

**Motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented by Luty, second by Bernardoni
Motion passed unanimously**

7. Information from the Executive Director:

7.1 Hiring- *The New Hires and Resignations update was included in the packet with accompanying trend report.* Mrs. Ericson announced that Elizabeth (Beth) McCaffery has been appointed LEARN's new Director of Human Resources and Amy LeQuire, another

LEARN veteran, has been promoted to be LEARN's Director of Behavioral Services.

- 7.2 Distributions –CABE 2023 Educational Law Summaries
- 7.3 Executive Committee meeting minutes- September 22, 2023 (*were included in packet*)
- 7.4 SSS Building Committee minutes – *placeholder*- no meeting in Sept.
- 7.5 Legislative Update: no new updates
- 7.6 LEARN Agency Updates: Mrs. Ericson provided updates on the following departments:
Business Office - continues to provide back-office support to LEARN districts and recently received a call for support from a small district's new Food Service Director to support the individual through a state audit and coach throughout the year. **IT Department, Regional Technology Services** - the team was again called upon by a district to support their district's PowerSchool needs. **Office of Teaching and Learning (OTL)** - the RESC Alliance (comprised of the 6- state regional educational service centers; ACES, CES, CREC, EASTCONN, EdAdvance, and LEARN) hosted the 3rd annual "Igniting Change Conference" at the Hartford Convention Center with over 400 educators from across the State of CT attending. OTL is also piloting a small regional music curriculum writing cohort to assist small districts with their elective courses to provide a strong curriculum to support teachers and elevate the experience for all.

8. Old Business: none

9. New Business:

- 9.1 Revised Policy #5141.10, Series 5000: Students, "*Administering Medicines to Students*" (*minor revisions*)
Motion to adopt revised policy #5141.10, Series 5000; Students, "Administering Medicines to Students" by Connelly, second by Volkmann
Motion passed unanimously
- 9.2 Revised Policy #5157, Series 5000; Students, "*Assessments and Immunizations*" (*revisions per legal statutes*)
Motion to adopt revised policy #5157, Series 5000; Students, "Assessments and Immunizations" as presented by Daniels, second by Bernardoni
Motion passed unanimously
- 9.3 Revised Policy #5159, Series 5000; Students, "*Health Screenings*" (*minor revisions*)
Motion to adopt revised policy #5159, Series 5000; Students, "Health Screenings" as presented by Luty, second by Volkmann
Motion passed unanimously

10. Educational Perspective: Lisa Dean presented on the Madison-based community organization, "Demand Zero" and provided insight into her family's personal journey with the opioid crisis and her team's advocacy and work across multiple agencies and organizations to combat this growing crisis in Connecticut.

11. Roundtable/Future Agenda Items: *to be continued next week due to time limitations*- On-going discussions regarding childcare programs (a.m. & p.m.) union negotiations, and building conditions

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn @ 11:05 am by Luty, second by Bernardoni
Motion passed unanimously