

**LEARN Board of Directors  
Minutes  
February 8, 2024**

**Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance @ 9:04 am**

Present: Chester; Dale Bernardoni, East Haddam; Terri Garrity, East Lyme; Eric Bauman, Groton; Beverly Washington, LEARN; Kate Ericson, Ledyard; Mary Harris, Madison; Mary Ann Connelly, Montville; Robert Mitchell, Norwich; Greg Perry, Preston; Cindy Luty, Region # 17; Jen Favalora, Region #18; Scott Brown; Waterford; Laurie Wolfley,

Not Attending and Not Represented Clinton; Michael Hornyak, Deep River; vacant, East Hampton; vacant, Essex; Carolyn Rotella, Guilford; Kristen Peck, New London; vacant, North Stonington; Christine Wagner, Old Saybrook; Steven Beeler, Salem; Sean Reith, Stonington; Sara Baker, Westbrook; vacant, Craig Esposito

Presenters Staff and Other Guests: Michael Belden, Joanne Lund, Beth McCaffery, Donna Worst, Nikoleta McTigue

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance
2. Audience and Guests: Introductions
3. Public Comment:
4. Reading and/or Review of Correspondence: Kate's
5. Superintendent's Perspective: Nikoleta McTigue, of accounting firm, CliftonLarsonAllen to present the 2022-2023 LEARN audit
6. Consent Agenda:
  - 6.1 Approval of the Minutes: Regular Business meeting—January 11, 2024
  - 6.2 Approval of 2023-2024 Budget Summary as of January 31, 2024
  - 6.3 Approval of Grant Applications

**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- *New Hires and Resignations update included in packet with accompanying trend report.*
  - 7.2 Distributions- included in packet
  - 7.3 Executive Committee meeting minutes – January 26, 2024
  - 7.4 SSS Building Committee minutes – no meeting
  - 7.5 Legislative Updates – Governor presented his budget plan. The legislature plan is different. Legislators will propose to defer some costs for magnet school tuition. Right to Read Act and universal feeding to be on agenda
  - 7.6 LEARN Agency Updates –Separation of Goodwin University magnet school program and LEARN legally ends on June 30, 2024. Staff notified LEARN of resignations from LEARN by January 31, 2024, and will be hired by Goodwin on July 1, 2024. New hiring process planned for attracting new employees, contracts forwarded to districts for LEARN services for 2024-2025 year, new cyber security testing program to augment cyber security will be instituted at LEARN and available to its districts, OTL continues the Igniting Change Conference planning for May conference. Magnet school lottery opened and is ongoing January 1-March 30. Schools offering open houses and tours. LEARN Administrators visited a dual language school in Cambridge to gain knowledge to assist

in augmenting the LEARN dual language programs. LEARN Leadership Retreat held in January to reflect and discuss ongoing work. Exchange student from China welcomed to LEARN.

8. Old Business: none

9. New Business:

9.1 2022-2023 LEARN Audit

**Motion to approve the 2022-2023 LEARN audit as presented by Bernardoni, second by Brown**

**Motion approved unanimously**

9.2 Revised policy # 3323, Series 3000; Business and Non-instructional Operations, *Purchasing Policy- amount revisions (Regulation included)*

**Motion to approve revised policy #3323, Series 3000; Business and Non-**

**instructional Operations, “Purchasing Policy” as presented by Brown, second by Luty**

**Motion approved unanimously**

9.3 Revised policy # 3301, Series 3000; Business and Non-instructional Operations, *Relations with Vendors-minor revisions*

**Motion to approve revised policy #3301, Series 3000; Business and Non-**

**instructional Operations, “Relations with Vendors” as presented by Brown, second by Bernardoni**

**Motion approved unanimously**

9.4 Revised policy # 4158/4258, Series 4000; Personnel Certified/Non-Certified, *Conflict of Interest-minor revisions*

**Motion to approve revised policy #4158/4258, Series 4000; Personnel**

**Certified/Non-Certified, “Conflict of Interest” as presented by Harris, second by Brown**

**Motion approved unanimously**

10. Educational Perspective: HR Director, Beth McCaffery, to present, LEARN’s Increasing Educator Diversity (IED) District Plan. Ms. McCaffery discussed the process in place to increase diversity per public act, PA 23-167. The District plan must be submitted to BOE by March 14, 2024 for a vote, then to CSDE for approval. The Teacher Residency Program in place has assisted in increasing diversity. Increased benefits have also been introduced to enhance the program’s desirability.

11. Roundtable/Future Agenda Items: Union Negotiations, Building/Facilities Conditions. Schools within districts are being closed to adjust to the new landscape of declining enrollment and reduced budgets. Education budgets need to be increased due to Covid funding ending. Some towns are struggling with how to implement free pre-K programs

12. Adjournment: **Motion to adjourn @ 10:55am by Bernardoni, second by Luty**