

LEARN Board of Directors
October 14, 2021
Minutes

1. Call to Order: The meeting called to order at 9:01a.m.
 2. Present: Chester; Dale Bernardoni, East Lyme; Tim Hagen, Groton; Rita Volkmann, Guilford; Kristen Peck, LEARN; Kate Ericson, Madison; Katie Stein, Montville; Robert Mitchell, Norwich; Al Daniels, Preston; Cindy Luty, Region # 17; Jen Favalora, Region # 18; Diane Linderman, Stonington; Craig Esposito

Not Attending and Not Represented: Clinton; Michael Hornyak, Deep River; Lenore Grunko, East Haddam; Nicole Hendry, East Hampton; Amy Ordonez, Essex; Carolyn Rotella, Ledyard; Naomi Rodriguez, New London; Jefferey Hart, North Stonington; Phil Mendolia, Old Saybrook; Jan Furman, Salem; Sean Reith Waterford; Amanda Kates-Lamothe, Westbrook; Michele Brigham

Presenters Staff and Other Guests: Dr. Craig Cooke, Catherine Steel, Bridgette Gordon-Hickey, Christine Pemberton, Michael Belden, Lisa Cooney, Ivan Alcantara, Donna Worst
 3. Public Comment: none
 4. Reading and of Review of Correspondence Mrs. Ericson share a communication from the United Way of Southeastern CT announcing the LEARN; The Friendship School, has been awarded the **Equitable Outcomes for Thriving Children** grant (\$22,476) for Project: Books and Beyond through Oct 1, 2022.
 5. Superintendent's Perspective: Madison Public School Superintendent, Dr. Craig Cooke, presented on the district's achievements, school/district development plans, next generation science standards and an upcoming referendum on a new Prek-5 elementary school
 6. Consent Agenda:
 - 6.1 Approval of the Minutes: Regular Business meeting- Sept 9, 2021
 - 6.2 Approval of the 2021-2022 Budget
 - 6.3 Approval of Grant Applications
- Motion to approve the Consent Agenda by Mitchell, second by Luty**
Motion passed unanimously
7. Information from the Executive Director:
 - 7.1 Hiring – New Hires' & Resignations' Data and Trend Reports were included in packet
 - 7.2 Distributions-
 - 7.3 Executive Committee meeting minutes – Sept 24, 2021
 - 7.4 Student Support Services Building Committee meeting minutes- September 24, 2021
 - 7.5 Legislative update- The Executive Directors from the six Regional Education Service Centers met with Shuana Tucker & Christopher Todd, CT State Dept of Education Talent Office, to open lines of communication and the RESC will be hosting forums for educators as an initial step on revising teacher evaluations system (TEVAL). Mrs. Ericson is sitting on the state-wide Educator Evaluator & Support Council to draft a proposal for legislation for 2022 or 2023.
RESC Executive Directors also met with John Scianimanico, Office of the Governor, an advocate for a stable magnet funding formula. He also espoused the benefits of the CT Teacher Residency Program (TRP)
 - 7.6 LEARN Agency updates- Sept 27, 2021- began state mandated testing protocols for all unvaccinated staff- LEARN's numbers: 526/554 vaccinated (95%) and 28 not vaccinated (5%)
LEARN developed a vaccination app to track vaccinations confidentially.

Leadership Team built strategies/practices to address the higher levels of resignations currently affecting many districts to retain staff, especially the school based non-certified support staff, by repurposing federal assistance funds and hosted two “Employment Fairs”.

School staff training in suicide prevention; QPR (Question/Persuade/Refer) which offers practical strategies for everyday people to support someone who may be having suicidal thoughts. LEARN is partnering with Ann Daigle, of the local non-profit, Brian’s Healing Hearts and the Center for Hope and Healing.

Lotteries for LEARN Magnet Schools closed on Oct. 1 and with the exception of the Regional Multicultural School (3 seats unfilled) all schools fulfilled the state enrollment capacity.

8. Old Business:

8.1 LEARN Logo Design discussion- Branding Update- The results from the board and agency wide (*Thoughtexchange*) surveys provided many ideas for LEARN’s rebranding to better reflect its mission. One theme, a commitment to diversity- that all students deserve high quality education and opportunity. Board member, Diane Linderman, has joined the LEARN Rebranding Committee

9. New Business:

9.1 LEARN Service Award- Retiring LEARN board member, Tim Hagen, was recognized for his decade of dedication and exceptional service. He introduced Catherine Steel to the membership as the new East Lyme representative.

9.2 Three Rivers Middle College Scholarship Fund

Motion: To approve the donation of \$20,000 to establish a scholarship fund at Three Rivers Middle College in memory of Joseph Bialczak by Daniels, second by Mitchell

Motion passed unanimously

9.3 Revised Policy, #4112.3/4212.3; Personnel-Certified/Non-Certified “Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco,” First Read

9.4 Revised Policy, #4112.5/4212.5; Personnel-Certified/Non-Certified “Security Check/Fingerprinting” Proposed draft and current policy included. *Due to the minimal language revision, Kate would like to ask for board approval*

Motion to approve revised policy, #4112.5/4212.5; Personnel-Certified/Non-Certified “Security Check/Fingerprinting by Mitchell, second by Linderman

Motion passed unanimously

9.5 Revised Policy, #5004; Students “Non-discrimination” Proposed draft and current policy included. *Due to the minimal language revision, Kate would like to ask for board approval*

Motion to approve revised policy, #5004; Students “Non-discrimination” by Daniels, second by Luty

Motion passed unanimously

9.6 Revised Policy, #4118.11/4218.11; Personnel-Certified/Non-Certified “Non-discrimination” Proposed draft and current policy included. *Due to the minimal language revision, Kate would like to ask for board approval*

Motion to approve revised policy, #4118.11/4218.11; Personnel-Certified/Non-Certified “Non-discrimination” by Linderman, second by Daniels

Motion passed unanimously

10. Educational Perspective: Deputy Executive Director, Bridgette Gordon-Hickey, presented: Expanding LEARN’s Scope of Services for Marginalized Students. Her PowerPoint was well received and a request to forward a copy to all board members was made and a copy will be distributed.

11. Roundtable/Future Agenda Items: Vaccination Verification, School Climate
12. Adjournment: **Motion to adjourn @ 11:03** by Daniels second by Mitchell

MISSION STATEMENT LEARN is a Regional Educational Service Center working with, and for, its member districts to improve the quality of public education for all learners. We provide leadership for teaching and learning; We provide high quality, innovative schools and programs; We identify and deliver customized and cost effective programs and services; and, We promote collaborative partnerships and regional cooperation.