

LEARN Board of Directors

March 10, 2022

Minutes

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:01a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance
2. Present: Chester; Dale Bernardoni, East Lyme; Catherine Steel, Groton; Rita Volkmann, Guilford; Kristen Peck LEARN; Kate Ericson, Montville; Robert Mitchell, Norwich; Al Daniels, Preston; Cindy Luty Region # 17; Jen Favalora, Stonington; Craig Esposito, Waterford; Michele Devine

Not Attending and Not Represented: Clinton; Michael Hornyak, Deep River; vacant, East Haddam; Bryan Perry, East Hampton; Amy Ordonez, Essex; Carolyn Rotella, Ledyard; vacant, Madison; Mary Ann Connelly, New London; Jefferey Hart, North Stonington; Phil Mendolia, Old Saybrook; Tara Barros, Region #18; vacant, Salem; Sean Reith, Westbrook; Zack Hayden

Presenters Staff and Other Guests: Michael Belden, Reyes, Christine Pemberton, Andrea Mea, Kristin Gemaly, Stacy Pleau-Guckian, Donna Worst
3. Public Comment: no public comment
4. Reading and of Review of Correspondence: State has provided LEARN with a live scan finger printing device. State would like LEARN to act as a regional resource for finger printing
5. Superintendent's Perspective: **Request to move item 10, Educational Perspective, to the top of the agenda.** Mariana Reyes, Principal, Regional Multicultural Magnet School, presented on the work being done at the International Baccalaureate School with the support of the Magnet School Assistance Program Grant (MSAP) Assisting her was Assistant Principal, Andrea Mea. Teachers, Kristin Gemaly and Stacy Pleau-Guckian, were also present.
6. Consent Agenda Items:
 - 6.1 Approval of the Minutes: Regular Business Meeting—February 10, 2022
 - 6.2 Approval of Budget 2021-2022
 - 6.3 Approval of Grant Applications

Motion: To approve the Consent Agenda by Mitchell, second by Favalora
7. Information from the Executive Director:
 - 7.1 Hiring – New Hires' & Resignations' Data and Trend Reports are included in packet. This year's hiring number is at 149, however resignations have surpassed hiring. Exiting staff are surveyed by HR and data is being collected to review with the Admin. team. Board member Devine suggested hiring an outside company to manage this task which may improve the feedback.
 - 7.2 Distributions –
 - 7.3 Executive Committee meeting minutes – February 25, 2022: HVAC system replacement bid has been approved by the Executive Committee for \$519,000. Work to begin in the Spring. Organizational chart is being developed with a task list associated for each department.
 - 7.4 SSS Building Committee Meeting minutes – special meeting February 15, 2022, and regular business meeting February 25, 2022.
 - 7.5 Legislative update –Lobbying for bills: RESC Alliance is requesting 8% increase in Magnet School funding, Act 5283 would overall benefit districts with balancing school funding sheets to include funding based on per pupil needs. TFS parent and Associate Executive Director testified on behalf of magnet schools. Another bill we are watching is funding Bill #227.
 - 7.6 Agency update –Mask mandate has been dropped. A percentage of staff and students have chosen to continue wearing masks. Department budgeting meetings are on-going with the goal of providing additional services and support to districts. Commissioner of Office of Early Childhood, Beth Bye,

visited The Friendship School. Working with Waterford Police and town leadership to improve traffic flow at the school. Several proposals are being considered. Rebranding meetings will be resumed. Mrs. Ericson sat in on a MSMHS class and received student input on their visions for LEARN as well as challenges.

8. Old Business:

9. New Business:

9.1 National School Lunch Program-Healthy Food Certification Statement for 2022-2023- *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 board of education or governing authority 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, 2022 through June 30, 2023. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately 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 by Luty second by Mitchell

Motion passed unanimously

9.1b Motion 2: For Food and Beverage Exemptions

The board of education or governing authority 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 on 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 by Daniels, second by Mitchell

Motion passed unanimously

9.1c Approval for Executive Director, Katherine Ericson, to sign the Healthy Foods Certification Statement 2022-20232

Motion to approve Katherine Ericson to sign Healthy Foods Certification Statement 2022-2023 by Luty second by Mitchell

Motion passed unanimously

9.2 New Policy #5141.213, Students; “Naloxone (Narcan)”, First Read

9.3 Non-renewals of Non-tenured Certified Staff- (*Executive Director to present 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 2021-2022 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 Connecticut 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.

Chair: request the suggested motion for non-renewal of non-tenured certified staff:

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 2021-2022 school year as recommended by the Executive Director; and ratify, adopt and accept the Executive Director's determination that the contract be non-renewed.

**Fabiana Cannamela
Natasha Costardo
Kathryn Fennelly
Nora Greene
Grecia Poma
Veronica Rollinson
Keren Valle
Alexa Vocalina
Osladia Warner**

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
Abstained by Devine
Motion approved**

10. Educational Perspective: Regional Multicultural Magnet School Principal, Mariana Reyes, to present, *Impact of the Magnet School Assistance program (MSAP) on RMMS.*
11. Roundtable/Future Agenda Items: Regional Expansion of In-School Learning
12. Adjournment: **Motion to adjourn** at 10:26 by Mitchell second by Daniels

Submitted by
Donna Worst
Scribe/Executive Office Coordinator, 3/10/22