

LEARN Executive Committee Meeting Summary
November 19, 2021
LEARN, 44 Hachetts Hill Road
Old Lyme, CT 06371

Present: Craig Esposito; Chair, Robert Mitchell; Fiscal Officer, Rita Volkmann; Secretary, Katherine Ericson; LEARN Executive Director, Maryann O'Donnell; Superintendent, Clinton Public Schools,

Guest: Michael Belden, LEARN Chief Financial Officer

Not in attendance: Cynthia Ritchie; Superintendent, New London Public Schools, Aaron Daniels; Vice Chair

Meeting began at 8:33am

1.0 Review November Agenda

2.0 OALA Planning & Zoning Meeting Updates

Kate Ericson informed the Executive Committee that New London's Planning and Zoning Commission has approved the Ocean Avenue Site plan renovations. NL's P&Z Commission also capped student enrollment for OALA at 85 students maximum. NL's P&Z Commission invited LEARN to reapply for an increase in enrollment in a few years.

3.0 Discussion on Tuition Rates

3.1 2022-2023 Magnet School tuitions

Kate Ericson and Michael Belden advised the Executive Committee that the magnet school local district tuitions will need to be increased for next year. Current projections for next year show that school budgets are in the red. LEARN's strategy for filling this gap is to make some cuts to the program, as well as increase local district tuitions by 1.99% at three of the four magnet programs. The Executive Committee agreed to have these rates brought to the Board for a decision.

3.2 2022-2023 Special Education tuitions

Kate Ericson, prefaced this discussion, that LEARN will be proposing a salary increase for all non-certified classroom staff during the January Board meeting. With these salary increases, a portion of the LEARN SSS budget will be increasing by 12%. To offset this projected increase, LEARN is proposing a total of 5% increase in all SSS tuition and service rates. This increase will not completely cover the staffing costs, but will allow LEARN to manage the significant expense increase.

4.0 New Administrative Position—Assistant Director, Accounting and Projects

Kate Ericson explained the rationale for the need for an additional leadership position within LEARN Business Office. This position will have four major functions; leading key projects, customer relationships and products, business office operations, and reporting. This new position will play a role in the development of new products and services at LEARN. The Executive Committee had no objections to it being placed on the December agenda for approval.

Meeting adjourned @ 10:11 am