

**LEARN Board of Directors
Minutes
September 9, 2021**

1. Call to Order: The meeting called to order at 9:06 a.m.

Present: Chester; Dale Bernardoni, Groton; Rita Volkmann, Guilford; Kristen Peck, LEARN; Kate Ericson, Ledyard; Naomi Rodriguez, Montville; Robert Mitchell, Norwich; Aaron (Al) Daniels, Preston; Cindy Luty, Region # 17; Jen Favalora, Region # 18; Diane Linderman, Stonington; Craig Esposito, Westbrook; Michele Brigham

Not Attending and Not Represented: Clinton; Michael Hornyak, Deep River; Lenore Grunko, East Haddam; Nicole Hendry, East Hampton; Amy Ordonez, East Lyme; Tim Hagen, Essex; Carolyn Rotella, Madison; Katie Stein, New London; Jefferey Hart, North Stonington; Phil Mendolia, Old Saybrook; Jan Furman, Salem; Sean Reith, Waterford; Amanda Gates-Lamothe

2. Audience and Guests: Presenters, Staff and Other Guests: Ryan Donlon, Michael Belden, Christine Pemberton, Lisa Cooney, Donna Worst, Tara Amatrudo, Brittany Forshaw, Tricia Lee, Tina Steele
3. Public Comment: No public comment. Request to move agenda item 9.1 (Teacher and Paraeducator of the Year presentations) to the next agenda item.

Motion to move the Teacher of the Year and Paraeducator of the Year presentations to next agenda item by Mitchell, second by Linderman

Motion passed unanimously

Executive Director Ericson announced the 2020-2021 Teacher of the Year and Paraeducator of the Year to the board. Teacher of the Year, Brittany Forshaw, was introduced by Marine Science Principal, Tara Amatrudo and Tina Steele, Paraeducator of the Year, by The Friendship School Principal, Tricia Lee.

4. Reading and of Review of Correspondence: Executive Director Ericson provided the following communications: 1. Correspondence from the U.S. Department of Education lifting special conditions previously attached to the Magnet Schools Assistance Program, 2. Correspondence from the CT State Board of Education regarding Flexibilities for Implementing the CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017 (Flexibilities 2021-2022) for the 2021-2022 School Year, 3. Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut support of the LEARN At Lunch Fall 2021 Literacy In ECE-NAEYC initiative, 4. State Dept. of Education – Interdistrict Cooperative Grant 2020-2021 Award Letter
5. Superintendent’s Perspective: LEARN Associate Executive Director, Dr. Ryan Donlon, presented on the opening of the LEARN magnet schools. Dr. Donlon gave a broad overview of LEARN’s approach to the new year with heightened focus on belonging and academics. Also mentioned was the process and reported the noted difference from previous years was the number of parents driving their students to school creating some localized traffic issues which are being resolved.
6. Consent Agenda:
 - 6.1 Approval of the Minutes: Regular Business meeting- June 10 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 are included in packet- 72 hires, 87 resignations represented a higher-than-normal turnover for this time of year- most in the student support services department. HR Director, Christine Pemberton, informed that the current CT Criminal History Web System online registry requires a payment of \$90 prior to seeking employment was a burden to many seeking entry level positions. After an analysis of previous year’s data, LEARN has put aside \$13,000 to relieve this burden to those most impacted to assist in the recruitment and retaining process.
 - 7.2 Executive Committee meeting minutes – special meetings June 18, 2021, July 30, 2021 & August 20, 2021, and regular meeting August 27, 2021
 - 7.3 Student Support Services Building Committee special meeting minutes- July 30, 2021, and regular meeting August 27, 2021
 - 7.4 Legislative update Associate Executive Director, Dr. Ryan Donlon, provided the legislative updates regarding CT Educator Evaluations. The CSDE reconvened the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC) to begin the process to reimagine CT’s educator evaluation for the 2021-2022 and beyond- beginning with a revision of the 2020-2021 flexibilities.
 - 7.5 LEARN Agency updates- Executive Director Ericson presented the agency updates regarding, The Office of Teaching & Learning- has a new contract with CT Tech School System trainings on effective instruction for English Learners. For the first time, Convocation’s was held as a Live Stream to 7 locations hosted by the Executive staff and included announcing the TOY awards. The theme for all of the LEARN agency was one of belonging. Mrs. Ericson informed the board of the Governor’s Executive order to collect vaccinations as condition of employment. LEARN has developed an app to assist in gathering the data for this process.
8. Old Business: none
9. New Business:
 - 9.1 LEARN Teacher of the Year Presentation (moved to item 3 on the agenda)
 - 9.2 New Administrative Position- *Assistant Superintendent, Pathways and Partnership*, of Goodwin University Magnet Schools.
Motion to accept new Administrative Position, Assistant Superintendent, Pathways and Partnership as presented @ a salary of \$145,000-\$155,000 by Mitchell, second by Linderman
Motion passed unanimously
 - 9.3 State of CT update regarding 2021-2022 teachers’ evaluations – The Associate Executive Director will provide information regarding the Connecticut State Department of Education’s *“Flexibilities for Implementing the CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017 for the 2021-2022 School Year”*
Motion to approve the “Flexibilities for Implementing the CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017 for the 2021-2022 School Year” as presented, by Luty, second by Brigham
Motion passed unanimously
10. Educational Perspective: Miranda Creative presented a discussion to support the creation of a new logo design for LEARN to better represent its evolving dynamic role in serving the region of the southeastern CT RESC with additional services.
11. Roundtable/Future Agenda Items:
12. Adjournment: @ 11:06am
Motion to adjourn by Brigham, second by Mitchell
Motion passed unanimously

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.