

LEARN Board of Directors  
**February 10, 2022**  
**Minutes**

1. Call to Order: The meeting called to order at 9:02a.m.
  
2. Present: Chester; Dale Bernardoni, East Haddam; Bryan Perry, Groton; Rita Volkmann, Guilford; Kristen Peck LEARN; Kate Ericson, Madison; Mary Ann Connelly, Montville; Robert Mitchell, Norwich; Al Daniels, Old Saybrook; Tara Barros, Region # 17; Jen Favalora, Stonington; Craig Esposito, Waterford; Michele Devine, Westbrook; Zack Hayden  
  
Not Attending and Not Represented: Clinton; Michael Hornyak, Deep River; vacant, East Hampton; Amy Ordonez, East Lyme; Catherine Steel, Essex; Carolyn Rotella, Ledyard; vacant, New London; Jefferey Hart, North Stonington; Phil Mendolia, Preston; Cindy Luty, Region #18; vacant, Salem; Sean Reith  
  
Presenters Staff and Other Guests: Susan Austin, Philip Piazza, Michael Belden, Christine Pemberton, Lisa Cooney, Donna Worst
  
3. Public Comment: no public comment
4. Reading and of Review of Correspondence:
  
5. Superintendent's Perspective: Groton Superintendent, Susan Austin, assisted by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Philip Piazza presented on the *Groton 2020 Plan*
  
6. Consent Agenda:
  - 6.1 Approval of the Minutes: Regular Business meeting—January 13, 2022
  - 6.2 Approval of 2021-2022 Budget
  - 6.3 Approval of Grant Applications: Interdistrict grant; *Lights Learning, Action!* (\$93,986) funding source: CT State Department of Education, funding agency, CT State Department of Education.  
**Motion to approve the consent agenda by Mitchell, second by Volkmann**  
**Motion passed unanimously**
  
7. Information from the Executive Director:
  - 7.1 Hiring-an updated list of resignations & new hires was provided
  - 7.2 Distributions-RESC Alliance Legislative Priorities sheet was distributed and reviewed.
  - 7.3 Executive Committee meeting minutes – January 28, 2022
  - 7.4 SSS Building Committee meeting minutes- December 17, 2021
  - 7.5 Legislative Update RESC Executive Directors met with Representative Filipe who confirmed that the State Legislature is very active in supporting school choice options and listened to the Alliance's legislative priorities and discussed the proposed bill on CT Tech Ed and Career System funding as well as state funding to replace district funding for magnet school tuitions. The Sheff vs O'Neil court settlement resulted in significant funding to go to Goodwin University schools.
  - 7.6 LEARN Agency Update – Associate Executive Director Donlon hosted the mid-year leadership retreat with Mrs. Ericson which provided time for school and department leaders to hear about their leadership work this year.  
Executive Director Ericson is working with Mitchell College president, Dr. Espy and Mitchell College leadership to forge a partnership that will benefit their college students and LEARN's schools and programs through internship programs.

In conversation with Region 17 board chair, Suzanne Sack, regarding a potential Student Support Services additional site in Haddam to serve districts on the southwestern corner of the LEARN RESC. A visit to the site is planned in March.

The Office of Young Children and Families has been contracted with The Global Child to work on curriculum development and Young Children & Families will perform a PreK review for Clinton Public Schools.

The Friendship School will be hosting the Commissioner of Early Childhood in late February to share insights and advocate for support for ECE funding support for programming for children.

The Office of Teaching & Learning has launched a new network for school leaders on equity proposed by the Shoreline Equity Network.

8. Old Business:

8.1 New Policy # 6159; “Special Education /Planning and Placement Team,” Second Read  
**Motion to approve policy # 6159 as presented by Mitchell, second by Connelly**  
**Motion passed unanimously**

8.2 Revised policy # 5149, Students; “On-Campus Recruitment,” Second Read  
**Motion to approve policy # 5149 as presented by Mitchell, second by Volkmann**  
**Motion passed unanimously**

New Business:

9.1 New Policy, # 5141.213, Students; “Administering Medications (Naloxone),” First Read

9.2 LEARN 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan- LEARN CFO, Michael Belden, presented the proposed capital improvement plan for the next five years and how to fund these set-asides.

**Motion to approve LEARN’s 5-year aggressive Capital Improvement Plan as presented by Esposito second by Volkmann**  
**Motion passed unanimously**

9.3 Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy financing proposal  
**Motion to approve the Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy Financing Proposal as presented to use 1.4 million from the existing loan and the remaining 1.6 million from the general fund by Mitchell, second by Connelly**  
**Motion passed unanimously**

10. Educational Perspective:

11. Roundtable/Future Agenda Items: Discussion regarding masking. Members shared their districts’ views from conversations with parents, administrators, and school staff. East Haddam representative, Bryan Perry, conveyed that his district voted for mask choice. Other districts plan to survey their districts prior to making a decision. Many teacher unions are against removing mask mandates while many parents are pro mask removal. LEARN District Superintendents are meeting today to discuss how to move forward if the governor moves forward with removing the mask mandate placing the decision upon the area superintendents

12. Adjournment: **Motion to adjourn @ 11:19 am by Volkmann, second by Mitchell**  
**Motion passed unanimously**