

LEARN Board of Directors

October 13, 2022

Minutes

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:02am
2. Present: Chester; Dale Bernardoni Groton; Rita Volkmann, LEARN; Kate Ericson, Ledyard; Mary Harris, Madison; Mary Ann Connelly, Montville; Robert Mitchell, Old Saybrook; Trevor Nichols & Lee Ann, Preston; Cindy Luty Region # 17; Jen Favalora, Stonington; Craig Esposito

Not Attending and Not Represented Clinton; Michael Hornyak, Deep River; vacant, East Haddam; Bryan Perry, East Hampton; Amy Ordonez, East Lyme; Catherine Steel, Essex; Carolyn Rotella, Guilford; Kristen Peck, New London; Jefferey Hart, North Stonington; Phil Mendolia, Norwich; Al Daniels, Region #18; Steven Wilson, Salem; Sean Reith, Waterford; Michele Devine, Westbrook; Zack Hayden

Presenters Staff and Other Guests: Dr. Linda Darcy, Bridgette Gordon- Hickey, Tianna Hill, Joanne Lund, Donna Worst
3. Public Comment: none
4. Reading and/or Review of Correspondence: Executive Director Ericson shared the following Correspondence: 1. Letter from CSDE approving LEARN's request for adopting the *CT Guidelines for Education Evaluation 2017 described in the April 7, 2022, Memo from the Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker and implementation for the 2022-2023 school Year.* 2.) *Communications from CSDE's Susan Fiore approving LEARN's Healthy Food Certification Statement for school year 2022-2023* 3.) *LEARN has been selected to receive a \$55,000 grant for fresh fruit and vegetables for the Regional Multicultural Magnet and the Riverside Magnet elementary schools.*
5. Superintendent's Perspective: LEARN's Director of Teaching and Learning, Dr. Linda Darcy, presented on Equity at the *Courageous Conversations National Conference* held in Washington DC
6. Consent Agenda:
 - 6.1 Approval of the Minutes: Regular Business meeting—September 8, 2022
 - 6.2 Approval of 2022-2023 Budget *included in packet*
 - 6.3 Approval of Grant Applications-
Motion to approve the Consent Agenda by Luty, second by Mitchell
Motion approved unanimously
7. Information from the Executive Director:
 - 7.1 Hiring-included in board packet
 - 7.2 Distributions- LEARN's Annual Report (copies will be mailed to members who were unable to attend meeting)
 - 7.3 Executive Committee meeting minutes - September 23, 2022
 - 7.4 SSS Building Committee meeting minutes- September 23, 2022
 - 7.5 Legislative Update- The CSDE Talent Office is working with a state sub-committee to recommend permanent change to Teacher Evaluation (TEVAL). Executive Director Ericson is representing the RESC Alliance on this committee. Additional members of the committee represent the CT Association of Public-School Superintendents (CAPSS), the CT Association of Boards of Ed (CABE), American Federation of Teachers (AFT), CT Education Association (CEA), and the CT Association of Schools (CAS). Through the School and State Finance Project, Lisa Hammersley -discussion in progress on the legislative approach to school funding for the upcoming year.

- 7.6 LEARN Agency Updates –the Executive Director informed the board that the auditor’s one year extension was in place at a 5% increase. LEARN will be partnering with the Children’s Museum in Niantic for a grant to provide the Friendship School students with opportunities to attend *Discovery Mondays*. MSMHS updates included teachers participating in the Marine Aquarium Conference of North America as a vendor for coral sales and networked for potential new opportunities to expand programming to benefit students as well as having two students awarded Martin Luther King Jr scholarships and another a National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist. A Three Rivers Middle College student also received a MLK Scholarship award. Districts from the LEARN region have been meeting to discuss pressure points and strategies for potential opportunities for regional programming. District Principals/Directors are drafting plans to support continuous improvement efforts at each school using equity upon which the work is built targeting academic and social emotional goals at each of their sites. The Coast Guard Academy Museum has reached out to LEARN to provide educational consulting for a funding source with this partnership providing both short and long term potential. Two large school districts in the LEARN region have requested that LEARN design, build, and operate a regional alternative school. Bridgette Gordon-Hickey and Kate Ericson are working with districts to design a model. LEARN schools are participating in the CSDE Science of Reading State Master Class Pilot. Members of the board attended a tour of the Ocean Ave LEARNing Academy finishing touches on Phase I of the renovation project noting that the cafeteria was a welcome and very popular addition for the students.
8. Old Business: none
9. New Business:
- 9.1 Regulations for Policy #5005; Students, “*Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students)*” Included in packet for information no vote required on procedures and regulations
- 9.2 Approval of New Administrator Positions
- 9.2a Assistant Director of Technology (LEARN). *Job description included in packet.*
Motion to approve new position, Assistant Director of Technology, as described, at a Salary of \$110,000, by Bernardoni, second by Mitchell
Motion approved unanimously
- 9.2b. Director of Educational Technology Services (Goodwin). *Job description included in Packet.*
Motion to approve new administrator position, Director of Educational Technology Services, at Goodwin University as described at a salary range of \$117,000 - \$132,375 by Bernardoni, second by Flynn
Motion approved unanimously
10. Educational Perspective: LEARN Deputy Executive Director, Bridgette Gordon –Hickey introduced the new Regional Trauma Coordinator, Tianna Hill, and presented the vision and scope of work for the Team. (PowerPoint available)
11. Roundtable/Future Agenda Items: Teacher salaries, negotiations status- Stonington completed teacher negotiations, waiting for ratification vote for a 12% increase over 3 years, Old Saybrook @11.5% and the state average @11/6%. One district up to 20%. This year’s negotiations seemed to involve a more positive approach for agreement on the needs of both sides, teachers feel respected and valued. Groton entered into a 4-year contract with a 10% salary increase and looked at health benefits as well. Requests for future roundtable items: Next Generation Science Standards and Critical Race Theory
12. Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn
Motion to adjourn @ 10:57 am by Mitchell, second by Luty

Motion approved 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 reg