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**Board of Directors  
Regular Business Meeting  
November 10, 2022  
Minutes**

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:03a.m.
2. **Audience and Guests:**

**Present.** Stonington, Craig Esposito; East Lyme, Catherine Steel; Region #17, Jen Favallora; Chester, Dale Bernardoni; Groton, Rita Volkmann; Montville, Robert Mitchell; Old Saybrook, Lee-Ann Flynn; Ledyard, Mary Harris; LEARN, Kate Ericson

**Zoom Participants.** Madison, Mary Ann Connelly; Region #18, Steve Wilson; Michele Devine, Waterford

**Not Attending and Not Represented.** Clinton, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Guilford, Madison, New London, North Stonington, Preston, Salem, Westbrook, Norwich

**Guest Presenter.** Jeffrey Newton, East Lyme Superintendent of Schools

**LEARN Staff Presenters.** Bridgette Gordon-Hickey, Deputy Executive Director; Dr. Nick Gelbar, Psychologist

**Other Attendees.** Christine Pemberton, LEARN Chief Human Resources Officer; Mike Belden, LEARN Chief Operating Officer; Lisa Cooney, LEARN Communications; Amy LeQuire, LEARN BCBA, LBA; Annie McDonnell, LEARN BCBA, LBA; Dr. Nicholas Gelbar, PhD, BCBA, NCSP, LEARN District-Wide Team; Yolanda Robinson, M.Ed., LEARN Special Education Coordinator; LEARN Melissa Graffan, M.S. 6<sup>th</sup> Year, LEARN Learning and Behavior Specialist
3. **Public Comment:** None
4. **Reading and/or Review of Correspondence:** None
5. **Superintendent's Perspective:** Jeffrey Newton, East Lyme Superintendent of Schools, presented an overview of East Lyme Public Schools.
6. **Consent Agenda:**
  - 6.1 Approval of Minutes: Regular Business Meeting, October 13, 2022
  - 6.2 Approval of 2022-2023 Budget
  - 6.3 Approval of Grant Applications

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda by Flynn, second by Bernardoni. Motion approved unanimously.
7. **Information from the Executive Director:**
  - 7.1 **Hiring.** The new hire and resignation update was included in the Board packet, as was a trend report. The Executive Committee approved the appointment of both a Director of Educational Technology at Goodwin Magnet Schools, as well as an Assistant Director of Technology for LEARN.
  - 7.2 **Distributions.** None
  - 7.3 **Executive Committee meeting minutes, October 28, 2022.** Minutes were included in the Board packet.



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7.4 **SSS Building Committee meeting minutes, October 28, 2022.** Minutes were included in the Board packet. Progress continues. Recently, the first playground opened to Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy students.

7.5 **Legislative Update.** We expect Spring 2023 to include advocacy action for the School + State Finance Project bill on school funding.

**7.6 LEARN Agency Update:**

- **The Richard Lounsbery Foundation.** The Richard Lounsbery Foundation fully funded the National Coast Guard Museum Association/LEARN grant proposal at \$135,000.
- **Magnet School Planning.** Kate Ericson, Executive Director, and Dr. Ryan Donlon, Associate Executive Director, are facilitating conversations on strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities that exist in our current magnet school context.
- **RESC Alliance Special Education Contract.** The RESC Alliance Special Education contract was received. This is a \$860,400 technical assistance contract through which LEARN will provide professional learning services.
- **Igniting Change.** A 3-year, equity-centered, professional learning plan with national experts and regional supports launched on October 19<sup>th</sup> with 352 participants.
- **Audit Preparation.** LEARN auditors will share their findings with the Executive Committee on November 17 and the full Board in December.
- **Electric Vehicle Programming.** Eversource and DEEP have approved 2 EV charging stations (each with 4 chargers) at LEARN owned sites: Hatchetts Hill, RMMS, and MSMHS.
- **Department of Public Health.** LEARN is supporting the Department of Public Health menstrual product project.
- **CAPSS/CABE Convention.** The conference is on Friday, November 18 & Saturday, November 19 at the Mystic Marriott Hotel, Groton.
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Dinner.** Three LEARN students were awarded \$25,000 scholarships: one student from Three Rivers Middle College Magnet High School and two students from Marine Science Magnet High School. A LEARN administrative team attended the dinner.
- **Alternative School Programming.** Several area school districts are looking for alternative school opportunities for students. LEARN is exploring models that might be brought to the region. Administrators are heading to Washtenaw ISD in Ann Arbor, Michigan. There, leaders will visit an ESA that runs county-wide outplacement programs and alternative schools.

8. **Goal Setting Meetings.** Kate Ericson, Bridgette Gordon-Hickey, and Dr. Ryan Donlon spent the month of October meeting with LEARN administrators to review goals and coherence plans for the year.

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- 9. **Old Business:** None
- 10. **New Business:**
  - 10.1 **RESC Alliance Collaborative.** The RESC Alliance, with guidance from Tom Moody, is developing a proposal for the use of Alliance funds.
  - 10.2 **LEARN Policy Updates.** Kate Ericson and the Human Resources Office plan to review and update all LEARN policies and procedures in 2023.
- 11. **Educational Perspective:** LEARN District-Wide Support Team  
Driven by the concerning trends in children's mental health, this team exists to serve the whole child and those teaching and caring for a child with needs. The team presented to the Board.
- 12. **Roundtable/Future Agenda Items:** Tabled.
- 13. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 11:10am by Mitchell, second by Volkmann. Motion approved unanimously.