

LEARN Board of Directors

January 12, 2023

Minutes

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:02am
2. Present: Chester; Dale Bernardoni, East Lyme; Catherine Steel, Groton; Rita Volkmann, LEARN; Kate Ericson, Ledyard; Mary Harris, Madison; Mary Ann Connelly, Montville; Robert Mitchell, Norwich; Al Daniels, Old Saybrook; Lee-Ann Flynn, 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, Essex; Carolyn Rotella, Guilford; Kristen Peck, New London; Jefferey Hart, North Stonington; Phil Mendolia, Region # 18; Steven Wilson, Salem; Sean Reith, Waterford; Michele Devine, Westbrook; Zack Hayden

Presenters Staff and Other Guests: Mike Belden, Joanne Lund, Christine Pemberton, Donna Worst
3. Public Comment: none
4. Reading and/or Review of Correspondence: Executive Director Ericson shared the following Correspondence: 1. Thank-you letter regarding LEARN's donation of IT equipment and staff for the CABE/CAPSS Convention. 2. Correspondence from UCONN announcing MSMHS as one of top 10 high schools in CT for largest percentage of student body taking college courses. 3. Independent Accountants' Report from CliftonLarsonAllen
5. Superintendent's Perspective: CFO, Mike Belden & Executive Director, Kate Ericson presented on the Fiscal State of the Agency
6. Consent Agenda:
 - 6.1 Approval of the Minutes: Regular Business meeting—December 8, 2022
 - 6.2 Approval of 2022-2023 Budget Summary Report as of 12/31/22
 - 6.3 Approval of Grant Applications- none

Motion to approve the consent agenda by Flynn, second by Luty
Motion passed unanimously.
7. Information from the Executive Director:
 - 7.1 Hiring- New Hires and Resignations Update Summary included in packet with an accompanying Trend Report
 - 7.2 Distributions included in board packet: Executive Director's Mid-Year Goal Update. Distributions distributed at the meeting and reviewed: 1.) 2023 Legislative Priorities, 2.) 2023 RESC Alliance Legislative Priorities, 3.) ACIR (Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations) DRAFT report on Property Tax Reform and Recommendations for Connecticut
 - 7.3 Executive Committee meeting minutes– December 16, 2022
 - 7.4 SSS Building Committee meeting minutes- November 17, 2022
 - 7.5 Legislative Updates
 - 7.6 LEARN agency Updates
8. Old Business:
 - 8.1 Proposed Agreement to Establish a Cooperative Arrangement for the RESC Alliance
Motion to approve the RESC Alliance "Agreement to Establish a Cooperative Arrangement" as presented- by Mitchell, second by Bernardi
Motion approved unanimously.

9. New Business:
- 9.1 CFO Mike Belden & Executive Director Ericson presented the “Proposed Salaries FY 2023-2024- Classifications across Pay Ranges” for non-union staff which included a higher percentage wage increase for those at the lower tier of the pay scale (\$1.00 to \$1.50 per hour increase) and a 3% increase for those staff who are not members of either of LEARN’s two unions; The LEA (LEARN Education Association) and the LAO (LEARN Administrators Organization). New benefits also included an agency match of up to 3% on retirement plans for those employees not included in TRB (Teachers Retirement Fund). Teacher negotiations will begin next Fall.
Motion to approve 2023-2024 Salaries and Benefits as presented- by Flynn, second by Bernardi
Motion approved unanimously.
- 9.2 Proposed Executive Committee and Board of Directors 2023-2024 meeting dates.
Motion to adopt the 2023-2024 Executive Committee and Board of Directors meeting dates by Mitchell, second by Flynn
Motion approved unanimously.
10. **Educational Perspective:** Executive Director Ericson provided a “LEARN Board Member Orientation” which included the LEARN Board of Directors Handbook, and the LEARN Annual Report which was distributed at the meeting.
11. **Roundtable/Future Agenda Items:** Status of District budgets discussion: 2%-5% average increase with a 0% and double-digit budget increase being the district anomalies. February roundtable request by Volkmann- “Bus Contracts”
12. **Adjournment:** Motion to Adjourn at 11:06am by Daniels second by Mitchell
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