

LEARN Board of Directors
Minutes
April 18, 2024

Meeting began at 9:02am

Present: Chester; Dale Bernardoni, East Haddam; Jacqui Endorf for Terri Garrity, Groton; Beverly Washington, LEARN; Kate Ericson, Ledyard; Mary Harris, Madison; Mary Ann Connelly, Montville; Robert Mitchell, Preston; Cindy Luty, Region # 17; Jen Favalora, Stonington; Craig Esposito, Waterford; Laurie Wolfley, Westbrook; Elizabeth Fernandes, Craig Esposito

Not Attending and Not Represented Clinton; Michael Hornyak, Deep River; vacant, East Hampton; vacant, East Lyme; Eric Bauman, Essex; Carolyn Rotella, Guilford; Kristen Peck, New London; vacant, North Stonington; Christine Wagner, Norwich; Greg Perry, Old Saybrook; Steven Beeler, Region #18; Scott Brown; Salem; Sean Reith, Stonington; Sara Baker

Guests: Mike Belden, Joanne Lund, Superintendent Hendrickson, Beth McCaffery, Donna Worst

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance
2. Audience and Guests: Introductions
3. Public Comment:
4. Reading and/or Review of Correspondence: No correspondence
5. Superintendent’s Perspective: Salem Superintendent, Brian Hendrickson, presented
6. Consent Agenda:
 - 6.1 Approval of the Minutes: Regular Business meeting—March 22, 2024
 - 6.2 Approval of 2023-2024 Budget Summary as of March 31, 2024
 - 6.3 Approval of Grant Applications – 1. *Workers Compensation Safety Grant* (\$14,744.52), funding source and funding agency: Workers Compensation Trust; 2. *Interdistrict Magnet School Capital Improvement Grant-RESC* (\$380,734.60), funding source: CT State Dept. of Education, funding agency: Office of Strategic Planning & Partnerships; 3. *PreK-8th Grade Bilingual Pathway* grant (\$905,000 for October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2029), funding source: Senator Richard Blumental/Senator Chris Murphy; funding agency: Congressional Directed Spending Funding.

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented by Luty, second by Washington
Motion passed unanimously
7. Information from the Executive Director:
 - 7.1 Hiring- *New Hires and Resignations update included in packet with accompanying trend report. Job fairs, Montville, Southern, and University of Hartford.*
 - 7.2 Distributions-
 - 7.3 Executive Committee meeting minutes – March 22, 2024
 - 7.4 SSS Building Committee minutes – placeholder- no minutes to share
 - 7.5 Legislative Updates –Executive Director provided information and a discussion on updates
 - 7.6 LEARN Agency Updates- Executive Director Ericson provided updates on all Departments
8. Old Business: Revised policy #5131, Series 5000; Students, “*Substance Abuse*”, Second Read

- 8.1 Revised policy #5131, Series 5000; Students, "Substance Abuse"
Motion to accept the minor punctuation revisions to revised policy # 5131, Series 5000; Students, "Substance Abuse" as presented by Esposito, second by Washington
Motion passed unanimously

9. New Business:

- 9.1 Non-renewals of Non-tenured Certified Staff- (*Kate to read the following*)

Per Article IV of the LEARN Membership Agreement & Constitution; In my capacity as Executive Director, I recommend that the Board of Directors non-renew the teaching contracts of those named in the motion below at the end of 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes 10-151, and that the Board accept, adopt, and ratify my determination that the contracts be non-renewed. I am making this recommendation for the following reason(s), any one or all of which I view to be a sufficient basis for the recommended action:

- 1. Elimination of position or loss of position to another teacher.
- 2. Other- due and sufficient cause
 - a. budget considerations
 - b. contract reduction in force procedures
 - c. legal requirements in accordance with 10-151 of the Connecticut General Statutes
 - d. failure to meet our minimum standards for continued employment

Any requested hearing on the non-renewal of a non-tenured teacher must be held before the before an impartial hearing panel. It is my recommendation that you vote to have the hearing held before the Board so there will be no procedural misunderstandings in the event a hearing is necessary. I also recommend that I be authorized and instructed to communicate notice of this action in writing to the affected party and to respond for the Board to any appropriate requests which may be forthcoming from the teacher, or their representatives as provided in the Teacher Tenure Law.

Chair: request the suggested motion for non-renewal of non-tenured certified staff:

MOTION

Move that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 10-151, the LEARN Board of Directors non-renew the teaching contract of those named below at the end of the 2023-2024 school year as recommended by the Executive Director; and ratify, adopt and, accept the Executive Director's determination that the contract be non-renewed.

- 1. Baker, Tony
- 2. Charles, Dean
- 3. DiFonzo, Courtney
- 4. Dyer, Hayley
- 5. Jacksin, Reide
- 6. Laliberte, Jeffrey
- 7. Mooney, Tara
- 8. Moser, Erin
- 9. Moyer, Tasha
- 10. Newell, Julie
- 11. Schkeeper, Claudia
- 12. Stone, Charles (Ben)
- 13. Velez, Ana

Further move that the Executive Director be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to those named below, and that the Executive Director be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board of Directors to any requests for a hearing

or for other data which may be forthcoming from those named below and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statutes 10-151; and further move that the Executive Director be directed that any response to a request for a hearing, if a hearing is required by law, indicate that such hearing is to be before the Board of Directors.

Motion to accept the non-renewals as presented by Luty, second by Bernardoni
Motion passed unanimously

9.2 Establish Nominating Committee for the 2024-2025 Slate of Officers
Motion approved to appoint the following members to the Nominating Committee for the 2024-2025 Slate of Officers: Bob Mitchell, Craig Esposito, Jen Favalora, and Bev Washington

- 10. Educational Perspective: From the Office of Teaching and Learning, Shiela Riffle and Dr. Linda Darcy presented on the "I Choose Success" program
- 11. Roundtable/Future Agenda Items: Gifted and Talent programs,
- 12. Adjournment: **Motion to @ 11:14 am was unanimously approved**