

**LEARN Board of Directors
Minutes
March 14, 2024**

Meeting began at 9:03am

Present: Chester; Dale Bernardoni, East Haddam; Terri Garrity, Groton; Beverly Washington, LEARN; Kate Ericson, Ledyard; Mary Harris, Montville; Robert Mitchell, Norwich; Greg Perry, Preston; Cindy Luty, Region # 17; Jen Favalora, Region #18; Scott Brown; Stonington; Sara Baker Waterford; Laurie Wolfley, 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, Madison; Mary Ann Connelly, New London; vacant, North Stonington; Christine Wagner, Old Saybrook; Steven Beeler, Salem; Sean Reith, Westbrook; vacant,

Guests: Mike Belden, Beth McCaffery, Joanne Lunden, Superintendent Butler, Donna Worst

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance
2. Audience and Guests: Introductions
3. Public Comment:
4. Reading and/or Review of Correspondence: The Executive Director shared correspondence from LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation) regarding an award of \$152,806 to support construction, renovation, and quality improvement projects at The Friendship School creating 4 infant/toddler rooms (32 slots). The focus of the grant is to increase early care capacity, especially infant /toddler care.
5. Superintendent's Perspective: Stonington Superintendent, Mary Anne Butler, presented (*PowerPoint will be distributed with synopsis*)
6. Consent Agenda:
 - 6.1 Approval of the Minutes: Regular Business meeting—February 8, 2024
 - 6.2 Approval of 2023-2024 Budget Summary as of February 29, 2024
 - 6.3 Approval of Grant Applications – Interdistrict Magnet Grant (\$89,184), “*Sustainers of the Sound,*” funded by; CT State Dept. of Education, fiscal agent; LEARN
Motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented by Esposito, second by Brown
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- Legislative testimony (*included as an attachment*)
 - 7.3 Executive Committee meeting minutes – February 23, 2024
 - 7.4 SSS Building Committee minutes – no meeting
 - 7.5 Legislative Updates – testifying in Hartford, with focus on magnet school funding. Also addressed the need to continue funding for trauma coordinators and Teacher Residency Program. The construction proposal with 80% reimbursement application has been approved and moved on for final approval.
 - 7.6 LEARN Agency Updates- *Conversations continuing regarding the new early childhood education programs to be offered at the Early Childhood School to be constructed pending*

the reimbursement application submitted to the State at the Daniels Ave. property. New partnerships with Electric Boat for LEARN to offer training to potential future EB employees. Three Rivers Community College assimilated into the State Community College system which resulted in new leasing agreements for space usage which are being discussed. LEARN continues its partnership with “The Hill for Literacy” to enhance the reading instruction at The Friendship School and the Regional Multicultural Magnet School.

8. Old Business: Increasing Educator Diversity District Plan
8.1 Increasing Educator Diversity District Plan (*included in packet*)
Motion to adopt the Increasing Educator Diversity District Plan as presented by Luty, second by Bernardoni
Motion passed unanimously

9. New Business:
National School Lunch Program-Healthy Food Certification Statement for 2024-2025
To participate in the program, the Connecticut State Department of Education requires all district governing boards to vote “yes or no” on the following 2 motions as written by the State:

9.1a Motion 1: For Healthy Food Option

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 10-215f, the LEARN Board certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non- school organizations & groups.

Motion to vote yes or no as presented by Esposito, second by Bernardoni

Yes votes -8

No votes- 0

Motion passed unanimously

9.1b Motion 2: For Food and Beverage Exemptions

“The LEARN Board will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsal, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

Motion to vote yes or no as presented by Garrity second by Bernardoni

Yes votes- 8

No votes- 0

Motion passed unanimously

- 9.1c Approval for Executive Director, Katherine Ericson, to sign the 2024-2025 Healthy Food Certification Statement
Motion to approve LEARN Executive Director, Katherine Ericson, to sign Healthy Foods Certification Statement 2024-2025 by Brown, second by Luty
Yes votes- 8
No votes- 0
Motion passed unanimously
- 9.2 Revised Policy # 5156, Series 5000; Students, “Use of Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs)”
Motion to approve revised policy #5156, Series 5000; Students, “Use of Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) as presented by Brown second by Bernardoni
Motion passed unanimously
- 9.3 Revised Policy #5131, Series 5000; Students, “Substance Abuse” (*Regulations included for information- no vote required on regulations*)
Motion to postpone vote to next meeting upon legal review and advice from attorney regarding wording on second paragraph of revised policy # 5131, Series 5000; Students, “Substance Abuse” as presented by Brown, second by Garrity
6 in favor
2 opposed
Motion approved Need by April 18 meeting-DW- WIP
10. Educational Perspective: CFO Michael Belden presented on “The State of the Agency” (*PowerPoint to be distributed with synopsis*)
11. Roundtable/Future Agenda Items: Gifted and Talent programs,
12. Adjournment: **At 11:04**
Motion to adjourn by Esposito second by Luty
Motion approved unanimously

Submitted by:
Donna Worst
Executive Office Coordinator/Scribe
March 14, 2024