

Board of Directors Regular Business

APPROVED MINUTES



Meeting Date: June 12, 2025
Draft Posted: June 16, 2025
Approved Posted: September 16, 2025

Present: Dale Bernardoni, Chester/Grades K-6; W. Scott Brown, Lyme & Old Lyme/Region 18; Katherine Ericson, LEARN; Jennifer Favalora, Killingworth/Region 17; Elizabeth Fernandes, Westbrook; A. Terri Garrity, East Haddam; Nancy Johnston, Essex/Grades K-6; Cindy Luty, Preston; Robert Mitchell, Montville; Chet Stefanowicz, North Stonington; Beverly Washington, Groton; Jane Wisialowski, Old Saybrook (ZOOM); and Laurie Wolfley, Waterford

Not Attending and Not Represented: Alisha Blake, New London; Eric Bauman, East Lyme; Mary Ann Connelly, Madison; Katie Gauthier, Stonington; Mary Harris, Ledyard; Gregory Perry, Norwich; Sean Reith, Salem; Vacant, Chester, Deep River, Essex Region #4; Vacant, Clinton; Vacant, Deep River/Grades K-6; Vacant, East Hampton; and Vacant, Guilford

Guests: Michael Belden, LEARN Chief Financial Officer; and Elizabeth McCaffery, LEARN Director of Human Resources (ZOOM)

Meeting began at 9:02 a.m.

- 1. Call to Order:** Pledge of Allegiance
- 2. Audience and Guests:** Introductions
- 3. Public Comment:** None
- 4. Reading and/or Review of Correspondence:** Executive Director Ericson shared a letter from auditor, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (CLA), formally confirming that CLA is engaged to conduct the audit of LEARN's financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.
- 5. Superintendents' Perspective:** None
- 6. Consent Agenda:**
 - 6.1 Approval of the DRAFT Minutes, Regular Business Meeting—May 8, 2025
 - 6.2 Approval of Budget Summary as of May 31, 2025
 - 6.3 Approval of Grant Applications—State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- **Presented by W. Scott Brown**
- **Second Dale Bernardoni**
- **Motion passed with 12 votes in favor and 0 votes against**

7. Information from the Executive Director:

- 7.1 Hiring—Resignations and new hires, including trend reports
- 7.2 Distributions — None
- 7.3 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, Regular Business Meeting—May 23, 2025
- 7.4 LEARN Building Committee Meeting Minutes—May 23, 2025
- 7.5 SSS Building Committee Meeting Minutes-May 7, 2025
- 7.6 Legislative Updates
- 7.7 LEARN Agency Updates: Regarding the Ocean Avenue Building Project – Phase 2, the state has implemented a new digital closeout process. Progress continues on the Early Childhood Magnet School at 51 Daniels Avenue. A legislative update highlighted recent proposals for centralized rate-setting in special education outplacement programs. Lastly, the Creating Connections Early Learning Center is nearing readiness pending final licensing approval from the Office of Early Childhood.

8. Old Business:

- 8.1 Approval of 2025-2026 LEARN Board of Directors’ Slate of Officers

(Request any additional nominations)

Motion to approve the following for the 2025-2026 LEARN Board of Directors’ Slate of Officers: Robert Mitchell as Chair, Dale Bernardoni as Vice Chair, Jennifer Favalora as Treasurer, and Beverly Washington as Secretary

- **Presented by Chet Stefanowicz**
- **Second Laurie Wolfley**
- **Motion passed with 12 votes in favor and 0 votes against**

- 8.2 Approval of 2025-2026 Proposed LEARN Budget

Motion to approve the proposed LEARN Budget for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year.

- **Presented by W. Scott Brown**
- **Second Cindy Luty**
- **Motion passed with 12 votes in favor and 0 votes against**

9. New Business:

9.1 New Policy #5131.911, Students, Series 5000; "Connecticut School Climate Policy"

Motion to approve New Policy 5131.911, Connecticut School Climate Policy, as presented.

- **Presented by W. Scott Brown**
- **Second Terri Garrity**
- **Motion passed with 12 votes in favor and 0 votes against**

9.2 Retirement of Policy #5007: Series 5000; "Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy"

Motion to retire Policy #5007: Series 5000; "Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy" as a result of the changes in the law and the adoption as proposed of Policy #5131.911, Students, Series 5000; "Connecticut School Climate Policy".

- **Presented by W. Scott Brown**
- **Second Beverly Washington**
- **Motion passed with 12 votes in favor and 0 votes against**

9.3 Evaluation of Executive Director (**Begin Executive Session***)

Per policy #2400; Administration, "Evaluation of Administrators and Administration", *will be held in Executive Session

Motion to move into Executive Session by Cindy Luty second by Beverly Washington. Motion passed with 12 votes in favor and 0 votes against

Begin Executive Session at 9:28 a.m.

Ended Executive Session at 9:45 a.m.

9.4 Executive Director Salary & Benefits

Motion to approve the Executive Director's Salary at a 3.00% increase and extend one year to the current 3-year contract.

- **Presented by Cindy Luty**
- **Second Dale Bernardoni**
- **Motion passed with 11 votes in favor and 0 votes against**

10. Educational Perspective:

11. Roundtable Discussion:

12. Future Roundtable Topics:

13. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 9:53 a.m.

- **Presented by Dale Bernardoni**
- **Second Cindy Luty**
- **Motion passed unanimously with 11 votes in favor and 0 votes against**

Respectfully submitted by:
Jamella A. A. Etienne

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88179290855?pwd=L8ZTZ1TTOmeH7Xj47dwTVfgnSADbGa.1>

Meeting ID: 881 7929 0855
Passcode: 940741

• +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
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