



Executive Committee

MEETING AGENDA SUMMARY

Friday, September 25, 2026

44 Hatchedts Hill Road, Old Lyme, CT 06371 | 8:30 – 9:45 AM

Present: Robert Mitchell, Chair; Dale Bernardoni, Vice Chair; Jennifer Favalora, Fiscal Officer; Beverly Washington, Secretary; Maryann O'Donnell, Superintendent of Schools Clinton; Dr. Cynthia Ritchie, Superintendent of Schools New London; and Katherine Ericson, LEARN Executive Director

Not Attending: N/A

Guests: N/A

Meeting began at 8:32 a.m.

1. Review October 2026 Board of Directors' Agenda

The Executive Committee reviewed the contents of the Board agenda. Executive Director Ericson highlighted the speakers who will be addressing the LEARN Board of Director in October.

2. Washington, D.C. Federal AESA Advocacy Update

Executive Director Ericson shared that she attended the 2026 AESA Advocacy in Action Conference in Washington D.C. The conference held informational sessions regarding the federal legislative priorities for Educational Service Agencies (ESAs) across the country. Issues ranged from maintaining the Department of Education as a cabinet-level priority, protecting Medicaid in schools, supporting full funding of IDEA, fighting to hold on to E-Rate funding, supporting federal expectations that social media platforms build child protections into their products, and promoting the reauthorization of student data privacy. Executive Director Ericson joined the LEARN Executive Leadership Team and ACES staff members in visits with congressional staffers in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. All the meetings were productive conversations on the topics outlined above.

3. Magnet School Assistance Program (MSAP)

LEARN is happy to report that both federal grants (SOARS and LEAP) have been funded for the new federal fiscal year. All LEARN schools participating in these grants are expected to receive approximately \$400,000 in combined funding this year. LEARN was also able to successfully revise the SOARS grant to adjust for the closure of a New London school that was a partner in the grant. The revised grant will allow all New London elementary schools to benefit from the MSAP program.

4. Bid Waiver Request: Three Rivers Community College

Motion to approve the bid waiver pursuant to LEARN Purchasing Policy 3323 to approve LEARN's continued partnership with Three Rivers Community College in support of the operation of Three Rivers Middle College Magnet High School (TRMC), at an estimated annual cost of \$270,805.20.

- Presented by Robert Mitchell
- Second by Dale Bernardoni
- Motion Passed, unanimously

5. Bid Waiver Request: MDR to protect LEARN devices

No Bid Waiver needed.

6. Quote Request Summary: New England Science and Sailing – MSMHS Programming

Executive Director Ericson reviewed with the Executive Committee a quote request for New England Science and Sailing (NESS) for programming at MSMHS. NESS is identified as the sole-source provider for the proposed programming. The total quoted amount is \$25,760.00, with funding identified as MSMHS LEAP MSAP.

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:32 a.m.

- Presented by Robert Mitchell
- Second by Dale Bernardoni
- Motion Passed, unanimously

Respectfully submitted by: Jamella A. A. Etienne