



Board of Directors Regular Business MEETING APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting Date: June 11, 2026

Draft Posted: June 15, 2026

Approved Posted: September 10, 2026

Present: Eric Bauman, East Lyme; Dale Bernardoni, Chester (Grades K-6); Galen Cawley, Madison; Katherine Ericson, LEARN; Jennifer Favalora, Haddam & Killingworth (Region 17); Katie Gauthier, Stonington (Teams); Marijke Kehrhahn, Old Saybrook; Robert Mitchell, Montville; and Laurie Wolfley, Waterford

Not Attending and Not Represented: Scott Brown, Lyme - Old Lyme (Region 18); Thomas Danehy, Clinton; Elizabeth Fernandes, Westbrook; Scott Garbini, New London; A. Terri Garrity, East Haddam; Mary Harris, Ledyard; Nancy Johnston, Essex (Grades K-6); Gregory Perry, Norwich; Chet Stefanowicz, North Stonington; Beverly Washington, Groton; Vacant, Chester, Deep River, Essex/Region (Region 4, Grades 7-12); Vacant, Deep River (Grades K-6); Vacant, East Hampton; Vacant, Guilford; Vacant, Preston; and Vacant, Salem

Guests: Michael Belden, LEARN Chief Financial & Operations Officer; Kristin Gemaly, Regional Multicultural Magnet School (RMMS) Literacy Instructional Coordinator & LEARN LEA President (Teams); Joanne Lund, LEARN Assistant Director of Business; and Elizabeth McCaffery, LEARN Director of Human Resources

Meeting began at 9:07 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:** None
5. **Superintendents' Perspective:** New Early LEARNing Magnet School Project – Viewing of Aerial Drone Footage (Provided by Gilbane).
6. **Consent Agenda:**
 - 6.1 Approval of the DRAFT Minutes, Regular Business Meeting—May 14, 2026
 - 6.2 Approval of Budget Summary as of May 31, 2026
 - 6.3 Approval of Grant Applications—None

Motion to approve the current Consent Agenda as presented.

- **Presented by Marijke Kehrhahn**
- **Second Dale Bernardoni**
- **Motion passed unanimously with 8 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 22, 2026
- 7.4 LEARN Building Committee Meeting Minutes—May 22, 2026
- 7.5 Legislative Updates
- 7.6 LEARN Agency Updates

Executive Director Ericson updated the board on the final stages of response to the 2025 ransomware attack. LEARN fulfilled all required legal and regulatory obligations and the formal breach response process is now closed.

8. Old Business:

- 8.1 Approval of the proposed 2026-2027 Slate of Officers for LEARN Board of Directors

(Open the floor for additional nominations)

Motion to approve the proposed 2026-2027 Slate of Officers as follows: Robert Mitchell as Chair; Dale Bernardoni as Vice Chair; Jennifer Favalora as Treasurer [Fiscal Officer]; and Beverly Washington as Secretary.

- **Presented by Laurie Wolfley**
- **Second Galen Cawley**
- **Motion passed unanimously with 8 votes in favor and 0 votes against**

- 8.2 Approval of 2026-2027 Proposed LEARN Budget

Motion to approve the proposed LEARN Budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

- **Presented by Marijke Kehrhahn**
- **Second Dale Bernardoni**
- **Motion passed unanimously with 8 votes in favor and 0 votes against**

9. New Business:

- 9.1 Approval of LEARN Magnet Schools and Programs for partial Participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the 2026-2027 School Year: The Friendship School (TFS), Regional Multicultural Magnet School (RMMS), Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy (OALA), and the LEARN Transition Academy (LTA)

Motion to approve partial participation of The Friendship School, Regional Multicultural Magnet School, Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy, and the LEARN Transition Academy in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the 2026-2027 School Year as presented.

- **Presented by Galen Cawley**
- **Second Eric Bauman**
- **Motion passed unanimously with 8 votes in favor and 0 votes against**

- 9.2 Evaluation of the Executive Director (**Executive Session***)

Motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to [Policy #2400](#) and related [Regulation](#), regarding “Evaluation of Administrators and Administration,” for the purpose of discussing the Executive Director’s evaluation.

Motion to enter into Executive Session by Marijke Kehrhahn, second by Laurie Wolfley

Entered Executive Session at 9:25 a.m.

Adjourned Executive Session at 9:54 a.m.

- 9.3 Executive Director Salary & Benefits

Motion to approve the Executive Director’s Salary & Benefits as follows: 4.00% increase and extend one year to the current 3-year contract

- **Presented by Robert Mitchell**
- **Second Dale Bernardoni**
- **Motion passed unanimously with 8 votes in favor and 0 votes against**

- 9.4 Formation of the Teacher Negotiations Committee

Teacher Negotiations Committee Members: Robert Mitchell, Jennifer Favalora, Eric Bauman, Beverly Washington, Laurie Wolfely, and Katie Gauthier

9.5 Formation of the Administrators Negotiations Committee

Administrator Negotiations Committee Members: Robert Mitchell, Beverly Washington, Laurie Wolfley, Galen Cawley, and Katie Gauthier

10. Educational Perspective: None

11. Roundtable Discussion: Regionalized Student Skill Programs, Student cell phones, AI, and Budget

12. Future Roundtable Topics: Youth Gambling

13. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 10:19 a.m.

- **Presented by Marijke Kehrhahn**
- **Second Dale Bernardoni**
- **Motion passed unanimously with 7 votes in favor and 0 votes against**

Respectfully submitted by:
Jamella A. A. Etienne

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