

LEARN Board of Directors

September 8, 2022

Minutes

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:02am
2. Present: Chester; Dale Bernardoni Groton; Rita Volkmann, LEARN; Kate Ericson, Ledyard; Mary Harris, Montville; Robert Mitchell, Region # 17; Jen Favalora, Region #18; Steven Wilson, Stonington; Craig Esposito

Not Attending and Not Represented Clinton; Michael Hornyak, Deep River; vacant, East Haddam; Bryan Perry, East Hampton; Amy Ordonez, East Lyme; Catherine Steel, Essex; Carolyn Rotella, Guilford; Kristen Peck, Madison; Mary Ann Connelly, New London; Jefferey Hart, North Stonington; Phil Mendolia, Norwich; Al Daniels, Old Saybrook; Trevor Nichols, Preston; Cindy Luty, Salem; Sean Reith, Waterford; Michele Devine, Westbrook; Zack Hayden

Presenters Staff and Other Guests: Dr. Ryan Donlon, Christine Pemberton, J. T. Foster, Jason Bernard, Robert Gonzalez, Joanne Lund, Donna Worst, Bonnie Silvestri

3. Public Comment:  
***Request to move agenda item 9.1- Teacher & Para Educator of the Year recognitions to top of the agenda. Motion to move item 9.1 to the top of the agenda by Mitchell second by Bernardoni***

Executive Director Ericson & CTRA Principal JT Foster introduced and commented on the positive impact, especially during Covid, of fellow educators, Jason Bernard, Teacher of the Year and Roberto Gonzalez Para Educator of the Year

4. Reading and/or Review of Correspondence: **1.)** Workers' Compensation Trust letter to inform that LEARN has qualified for a premium return of \$65,116. **2.)** The CT Dept. of Administrative Services has acknowledged that it has received and reviewed all necessary materials and have approved the final plans submitted on the Phase 2 Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy (FF&E) Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FF&E) **3.)** Correspondence from AESA update what is happening at the federal level announcing the *Keep Kids Fed Act* will provide \$3 billion to provide relief to school meal programs and other providers beyond the June 30, 2022, expiration date of child nutrition waivers (*emailed to board members July 5*) until the funding is depleted
5. Superintendent's Perspective: LEARN Associate Executive Director, Dr. Ryan Donlon, presented on the Opening of LEARN Schools and a comprehensive multi- faceted strategic plan to overcome the effects of Covid
6. Consent Agenda:
  - 6.1 Approval of the Minutes: Regular Business meeting—June 9, 2022
  - 6.2 Approval of 2022-2023 Budget *included in packet*
  - 6.3 Approval of Grant Applications- *no grant applications***Motion to approve the Consent Agenda by Mitchell, second by Bernardoni**
7. Information from the Executive Director:
  - 7.1 Hiring-included in board packet
  - 7.2 Distributions- CABE publication: July 2022; *2022 Education Law Summaries*
  - 7.3 Executive Committee meeting minutes -Special meeting July 29, 2022, special meeting August 10, 2022, and regular meeting August 26, 2022

- 7.4 SSS Building Committee meeting minutes- Special meeting July 13, 2022, special meeting July 29, 2022, and regular meeting August 26, 2022
- 7.5 Legislative Update
- 7.6 LEARN Agency Update
  
8. Old Business: none
  
9. New Business:
  - 9.1 Teacher and Para Educator of the Year recognition- *moved to top of agenda*
  - 9.2 Included in your packet for review is the required, annual notification: *Governance Memo from accounting firm, CliftonLarsonAllen* for year ending June 30, 2022.
  - 9.3 A one year extension is proposed to retain the services of accounting firm, CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP.  
**Motion to approve a one year extension for accounting services provided by CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP (CLA) subject to final pricing through June 30, 2023 by Mitchell second by Harris**
  - 9.4 State of CT update regarding 2022-2023 Teacher Evaluation Flexibilities- Included in your packet is the information received from the CT State Dept. of Education on providing flexibilities to the fundamental requirements of the *CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017 (Guidelines)* for the 2022-2023 school year.  
**Motion to approve the “Flexibilities for Implementing the CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017 for the 2022-2023 School Year” as presented, by Favalora, second Mitchell**
  - 9.5 “New Administrative Regulations Regarding Attendance, Truancy, and Chronic Absenteeism” supporting policy #5113, Students; *School Attendance (included for your information) – no vote required on procedures*
  
10. Educational Perspective: The Executive Director shared with the board, her Convocation message video presentation welcoming back all staff on August 25, 2022. The Friendship School (Waterford), the Regional Multicultural Magnet School (New London), the Marine Science Magnet School (Groton), Three Rivers Middle College (Norwich) and Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy (New London), All LEARN schools/programs enjoyed gathering at their respective locations for an interactive media event.
  
11. Roundtable/Future Agenda Items: Opening of Schools, ESSER Spending. A discussion followed on how districts are planning for the end of ESSER funding. Discussion of salary structures was requested and several members provided information on their challenges and potential strategies for future negotiations.
  
12. Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn  
  
**Motion to adjourn @10:46 am by Mitchell, second by Favalora**  
**Motion approved unanimously**