

**LEARN BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR/BUSINESS MEETING**

**Minutes  
March 14, 2019**

Present: Tim Hagen, East Lyme; Dr. Eileen Howley, LEARN; Robert Mitchell, Montville; Suzanne Sack, Region #17; Stacey Leonardo, Region #18; Craig Esposito, Stonington; Christopher Jones, Waterford

Representatives not attending: Theresa Ann Myers, Chester; Imran Munawar, Deep River; Karin Blaschik, East Haddam; Joanne Barmasse, East Hampton; Carolyn Rotella, Essex; Rita Volkmann, Groton; Kathleen Balestracci, Guilford; Stephanie Calhoun, Ledyard; Tom Pellegrino, Madison; Jefferey Hart, New London; Al Daniels, Norwich; Pam Potemri, North Stonington; Jan Furman, Old Saybrook; Cindy Luty, Preston; Kate Sandmann, Region #4; Dee Adorno, Westbrook

Not Attending and Not Represented: Clinton, Salem

Presenters, Staff and Other Guests: Roy Seitsinger, Nat Brown, Lynn Nenni, Donna Worst

**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:** The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

**Public Comment:**

**Reading or Review of Correspondence:** Dr. Howley shared a note from the Siebert family thanking the board for the flowers and condolences sent on behalf of the board for the passing of board member Mike Siebert (Salem).

**Superintendent's Perspective:** Preston Superintendent, Dr. Roy M. Seitsinger shared his district's priorities and looking to the future.

**Consent Agenda:**

Approval of Minutes February 7, 2019

Approval of the Budget for 2018-2019

Approval of grant applications:

**Motion to approve the consent agenda by Hagen, second by Jones**

**Motion passed unanimously**

**Information from the Executive Director**

The following Information from the Executive Director

Hiring Update- included in packet

Distributions-Available at meeting

Executive Committee meeting minutes- February 22, 2019

Student Support Services (SSS) Building committee minutes – February 7, 2019

**Legislative updates-** Dr. Howley provided a summary of the letter (included in board packet) sent to Commissioner Beth Bye, CT Office of Early Childhood, regarding the current mandated start

date for kindergarten with an invitation to present her views at a future LEARN board of Director's meeting; Dr. Howley submitted testimony regarding raised bill No. 7109- An Act Concerning Interdistrict Magnet School Program Funding; The RESC Alliance (comprised of the six Connecticut RESC Executive Directors) meets monthly continuing their work building a blueprint for the future with a vision toward promoting regional solutions in lieu of possible mandated regionalization solutions. Testimony of the RESC Alliance was submitted to the Education Committee regarding SB874; An Act Concerning Education Initiatives and Services in CT

**Agency update-** The Student Support Services new Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy opened with students and the front elevator has been installed. Due to some additional work surrounding this project the grand opening is expected to occur in late April/May. LEARN announced the upcoming Disability Summit held at the Mohegan Conference Center, March 16, 2019. Dr. Howley plans to discuss with the LEARN Magnet Advisory Council the Dual Language & Arts Magnet Middle School, located in a former Waterford school, for consideration of the plans and partnerships presented. The Marine Science Magnet High School has been named a School of Distinction. CFO, Lynn Nenni, has submitted her resignation effective May 10, 2019. She will be moving out of state. The Executive Director thanked her for the systems she has helped put into place and improvements made to the business department under her leadership. The search has been ongoing to fill the position. Executive Director, Dr. Eileen Howley, has tendered her resignation to enter into retirement effective July 1, 2019. A search committee has been formed facilitated by CABA consultants Mary Broderick and John Ramos.

**Old Business:** LEARN Director of Human Resources, Nat Brown, provided the 2019-2020 Salary & Benefits proposal and support documentation.

**Motion to approve the 2019-2020 Salary & Benefits as presented by Hagen, second by Sack Motion passed unanimously.**

Policy # 5115-Students: Exclusion from School for Disciplinary Purposes: second read-procedures were also shared.

**Motion to approve Policy #5115 - Students: Exclusion from Schools for Disciplinary Purposes by Mitchell, second by Hagen**

**Abstained: Sack**

**Motion carried**

Policy # 5144- Students: Use of Physical Restraint/Seclusion: second read

**Motion to approve Policy # 5144- Students: Use of Physical Restraint/Seclusion as presented by Mitchell, second by Hagen**

**Abstained: Sack**

**Motion carried**

**New Business:**

Distribution of Connecticut River Academy NEASC DRAFT report (summary sheet distributed at meeting)

Non-renewals of Non-tenured and Certified Staff – Dr. Howley stated, “In my capacity as Executive Director, I recommend that the Board of Directors non-renew the teaching contract of those named in the motion below at the end of 2018-2019 school year in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes 10-151, and that the Board accept, adopt, and ratify my determination that the contracts be non-renewed. I am making this recommendation for the

following reason, any one or all of which I view to be a sufficient basis for the recommended action:

1. elimination of position or loss of position to another teacher,
2. other due and sufficient cause
  - a. budget considerations
  - b. contract reduction in force procedures
  - c. legal requirements in accordance with 10-151 of the Connecticut General Statutes
  - d. failure to meet or minimum standards for continued employment

Any requested hearing on the non-renewal of a non-tenured teacher must be held before the Board of Directors, unless the teacher and the Board both agree to have this hearing held before an impartial hearing panel. It is my recommendation that you vote to have the hearing held before the Board so there will be no procedural misunderstandings in the event a hearing is necessary. I also recommend that I be authorized and instructed to communicate notice of this action in writing to the affected party and to respond which may be forthcoming from the teacher or his/her representatives as provided in the Teacher Tenure Law.

A suggested motion for non-renewal is:

**Move that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 10-151, the LEARN Board of Directors non-renew the teaching contract of those named below at the end of the 2018-2019 schools year as recommended by the Executive Director; and ratify, adopt, and accept the Executive Director's determination that the contract be non-renewed.**

**Further move that the Executive Director be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to those named below and that the Executive Director be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board of Directors to any requests for a hearing or for other data which may be forthcoming from those named below and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statutes 10-151; and further move that the Executive Director be directed that any response to a request for a hearing, if a hearing is required by law, indicate that such hearing is to be before the Board of Directors.**

The motion applies to the following individuals:

Sharon Beesley  
Steven Bueno  
Andreanne Swanson

**Motion made by Hagen, second by Mitchell**

**Motion passed unanimously**

Policy #5145- Students: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (a technical change)

**Motion to approve Policy # 5145 – Students: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as presented**

**Motion by Hagen, second by Mitchell**

**Motion passed unanimously**

Executive Search Committee Process was presented. CABE consultants Mary Broderick and John Ramos will facilitate the Executive Search Committee comprised of Executive Committee

members, two board members and a LEARN district Superintendent. LEARN's Director of Development and Innovation is acting as liaison for logistical support.  
Business meeting to adjourn to Executive Director Search Committee Focus Group.

**Educational Perspective:**

**Roundtable/Future Agenda Items:** Time did not allow for roundtable

Business meeting to adjourn to Executive Director Search Committee Focus Group.

**Motion to Adjourn by Hagen, second by Sack**

**Motion passed unanimously**

Adjourned: 10:40 a.m.