

*LEARN Vision: To ensure that every child has access to high quality public education through systems of education, support, and service.*

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

**Location: Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy  
660 Ocean Avenue, New London, CT 06320**

**Minutes  
February 13, 2020**

Present: Chester; Dale Bernardoni, East Haddam; Patricia Stricker, Guilford; Kristen Peck, LEARN; Kate Ericson, Ledyard; Naomi Rodriguez, New London; Jefferey Hart, Norwich; Al Daniels, Preston; Cindy Luty, Region #17; Suzanne Sack and Jen Favalora, Region # 18; Martha Shoemaker, Stonington; Craig Esposito, Waterford; Christopher Jones

Representatives not attending: Clinton; Michael Hornyak, Deep River; Lenore Grunko, East Hampton; Amy Ordonez, East Lyme; Tim Hagen, Essex; Carolyn Rotella, Groton; Rita Volkmann, Madison; Diane Infantine-Vyce, Montville; Robert Mitchell, North Stonington; Phil Mendolia, Old Saybrook; Jan Furman, Salem; Sean Reith

Not Attending and Not Represented: Westbrook

Presenters, Staff and Other Guests: Bridgette Gordon-Hickey, Sarah Moon, Jack Cross, Michael Belden, Nat Brown, Donna Worst, Heather Doughty

**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:** The meeting called to order at 9:08 a.m.

**Public Comment:** No public comment

**Reading Review of Correspondence by the Executive Director:** Mrs. Ericson shared the following correspondence - Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) letter of appreciation for providing equipment and technical support to the 2019 CABE/CAPSS Convention, New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) regarding; The Friendship School's (TFS) continued NEASC accreditation, and correspondence from the U.S. Dept. of Education concluding that the revised Purchasing Policy (#3323) regarding procurement policy and procedures is compliant with procurement standards codified in the Uniform Guidance section 200.318 through 200.326

**Superintendent's Perspective:**

LEARN Deputy Executive Director, Bridgette Gordon-Hickey, and Office of Student Support Services, Director of Related and Consultative Services, Sarah Moon, presented at the Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy; *Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy and Overview of Student Support Services and Programs*

**Consent Agenda:**

Approval of Minutes- January 9, 2020

Approval of 2019-2020 budget

Approval of grant applications: Grants: *WormED; Vermiculture Program for Students with Disabilities*, Recycle CT School Grant; funded by Recycle CT

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**Motion to approve the consent agenda by Daniels second by Luty**

**Motion passed: unanimously**

**Information from the Executive Director**

The following Information from the Executive Director was included in the packet.

Hiring update -A three-year snapshot of monthly hiring and resignation data for the following job classifications; teachers, administrative staff, non-certified school-based staff, and non-certified twelve- month staff. In addition to the traditional format, the intent of the trending data is to provide additional insight to assist in staff retention and areas of need.

Executive Committee - Minutes January 24, 2020

Legislative update - Mrs. Ericson reviewed the RESC Alliance proposal for a “Statewide Database and Interactive Tool for Specialized Student Transportation,” continuing the work towards more regional solutions for cost savings and sharing of services throughout the RESCs.

Agency updates:

- Mrs. Ericson provided a copy of her mid-year goals presented to the Executive Committee (included in the packet).
- In January, the Executive Committee was informed that LEARN would no longer be using the 51 Daniels Avenue location to house the Dual Language and Arts Magnet Middle School. In order to decide next steps, the Executive Director surveyed staff and families and hosted three focus group sessions to determine if there was a large interest in continuing to attend the middle school @ the Goodwin University campus. The feedback from the majority of families was that the East Hartford location was not viable. The Executive Director announced to the board that after 8 years of searching unsuccessfully for a building to house the school, the DLAMMS school would be closing its doors permanently at the end of the 2019-2020 school year in June.
- Marine Science Magnet High School (MSMHS) principal has resigned and LEARN Associate Executive Director, Dr. Ryan Donlon, is currently serving as interim principal. The process for hiring a new principal has begun.
- Connecticut River Academy (CTRA) has earned the Magnet School of Distinction Award.
- The mandatory Sexual Harassment Training (2-hour course) is ongoing throughout the agency.
- Mid-year principal conversations/evaluations are nearing completion.
- The Business Department has secured two contracts as districts are beginning to reach out in partnership with LEARN to improve their back office efficiencies.

**Old Business:** no old business

**New Business:**

9.1 Proposed 2020-2021 Salary & Benefits- (Items 9.1a and 9.1b in your packet)

9.1a. *Proposed Salaries 2020-2021- Job Classifications across pay ranges*

9.1b *Proposed Salary & Benefit Changes for 2020-2021*

**Motion to approve the 2020-2021 Salary & Benefits as presented by Hart, second by Stricker**

**Motion approved unanimously**

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9.2 Notice of Application for Funding Opportunity: Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP); *Connecticut RESC Alliance Regional Efficiency Project/Program Proposal (included in packet)*

**RESC Alliance Resolution**

**Motion to approve;**

**Whereas,** LEARN and the RESC Alliance has submitted a grant application for Funding Opportunity under the Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) FY 20 grant round in accordance with CGS Sec. 4-124s for a Statewide Database and Interactive Tool for Specialized Student Transportation (attached) and is an eligible applicant which includes “any regional education service center (RESC)”, and;

**Whereas,** the LEARN and RESC Alliance application for a “Statewide Database and Interactive Tool for Specialized Student Transportation” meets two of three OPM application requirements:

1. The application is a joint provision of any service that one or more participating municipalities that a RESC currently provides but is not provided on a regional basis among RESCs;
2. The application includes shared information technology services, and:

**Whereas,** the LEARN and the RESC Alliance application proposes an expansion of an existing online Student Transportation Database and Interactive Map, a tool that facilitates regional transportation planning and could be available to all school districts across the state. The expansion would allow for the creation of a statewide database and interactive map of specialized student transportation services to program and school facilities across the state, and;

**Whereas,** the proposal would require incentive funds of \$110,000 for a fulltime data specialist to help collect data from school districts across the state, to maintain and to support the tool and to organize initial statewide training and help-desk functions moving forward. The incentive funding would also cover the necessary costs associated with the design and programming of build-out of the online tool.

**Now, therefore,** the LEARN Board of Directors approves the application for a statewide database and interactive tool for specialized student transportation and endorses such proposal, authorizing the eligible applicant to apply for funding, and to enter into any required contract and/or agreement should the proposal be selected for an award.

**Motion to approve the above RESC Alliance Resolution (as read verbatim by Chairman Esposito)**

**Motion made by: Aaron (AI) Daniels**

**Second: Jefferey Hart**

**Action: Motion approved unanimously**

**Dated: February 13, 2020**

**Educational Perspective:** LEARN Director of Innovation and Development, Jack Cross, presented a *Preliminary Overview of the Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy’s Second Floor Building Project*. A tour will follow adjournment.

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**Round Table/Future Agenda Items:** no roundtable due to time constraints

**Adjournment: Motion by Daniels, second by Hart, to adjourn at 11:10 am**

**Motion passed unanimously**

Tour of the facility followed.

Submitted by Donna S. Worst

Executive Office Coordinator/Scribe