

LEARN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUMMARY

January 27, 2023

8:30-10:00

LEARN -Room 216 & via Zoom

44 Hachetts Hill Road

Old Lyme, CT 06371

Present: Craig Esposito; Chair, Robert Mitchell; Fiscal Officer, Rita Volkmann; Secretary, Katherine Ericson; LEARN Executive Director, Cynthia Ritchie; Superintendent, New London Public Schools,

Not in attendance: Aaron Daniels; Vice Chair, Maryann O'Donnell; Superintendent, Clinton Public Schools,

Guests:

Meeting began 8:34 am

1.0 Review February Agenda – discussion and revisions were made to the February agenda

2.0 Policy Review Process Update-

LEARN is working to do a mass of policy updates that will bring the agency closer to having all policies in line with the most current legislation. The Board can expect the first batch of policies to be brought to the March Board meeting.

3.0 Goodwin University Magnet System (GUMS) –

GUMS has drafted legislative language to ensure all GUMS teachers will be eligible to participate in Teachers' Retirement Board (TRB). This legislation is expected to pass in this next legislative session. LEARN and Goodwin have begun to negotiate a final one-year contract that will support the transition of GUMS to a fully independent LEA.

4.0 The Friendship School Status –

Currently, LEARN is working on redesigning the programming at The Friendship School. The staff have begun their efforts to plan for the systemic and thematic work outlined in the Magnet Assistance Program Grant. LEARN is going to apply to the Office of Early Childhood Education for infant/toddler programming. LEARN is also exploring opening a regional self-contained special education program at the Friendship School as well.

5.0 LEARN Regional Services Update –

LEARN continues to build services in response to the needs of the region. Our technology team has built surveys and met with customers and utilize their feedback to improve our services to the region.

A team at LEARN continues to investigate the idea of a regional alternative school.

LEARN is also working with a small cohort of superintendents on designing services that would support small districts.

6.0 ACES International Program –

Marine Science Magnet High School will be designing a summer program for 7th grade students in the region to partner with students from China for a two-week exploratory program. Students will collaborate with peers to perform real-world science experiments. The goal of the program is to provide students with interactive, engaging programs and to highlight the power of intercultural exchanges.

7.0 Bid Waiver- Exec. Director Ericson requested a bid waiver for the Regents of University of California on behalf of its Los Angeles campus and its Center for Research Evaluation Standards and Students Testing (CRESST) to evaluate the impact of the thematic and systemic changes identified in the Magnet School Assistance Program (MSAP) grant. The contract will be for \$373,735 over the span of five years.

Motion to accept the bid waiver request as presented made by Bob Mitchell, second by Craig Esposito. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourned: 9:30 am