

**LEARN**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING SYNOPSIS**  
**January 9, 2014**

This report was developed based on recommendations by the Board. The purpose is to give a brief overview of the critical issues from the monthly meeting. Board members may use this document for reporting to their local Board.

**EDUCATIONAL PERSPECTIVE:** Doreen Marvin, LEARN Director of Development, discussed the federal Magnet Schools Assistance Grant entitled “Partners for Equity and Achievement in Eastern Connecticut’s Education” (PEACE) that LEARN has been awarded. The grant award was \$11.8 million over three years. LEARN is the fiscal agent and is partnering with the following schools, districts and agencies: Dual Language and Arts Magnet Middle School, New London Science and Tech Magnet High School, Moriarity Elementary School, Wequonnoc Elementary School, Charles Barrows STEM Academy, Quinebaug Middle College, Goodwin Early Childhood Magnet School, New London Public Schools, Norwich Public Schools, EASTCONN, Windham Public Schools and Goodwin College. It is estimated that this funding will impact over 2,000 students in Eastern Connecticut. Each school was responsible for establishing their own goals and will be evaluated based on the achievement of those goals. LEARN’s Development Department worked diligently to pull the partners together, develop and submit the grant application within a very short time frame. Only about 30 submissions were awarded funding out of the approximate 90 applications.

**CONSENT AGENDA AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INFORMATION**

- Dr. Howley highlighted the RESC Alliance Technical Assistance/Regional Cooperation grant that was submitted by LEARN for the RESC Alliance. This funding will help with regional efforts such as the Eastern CT Health and Medical Cooperative that LEARN is currently coordinating.
- Dr. Howley explained that the Marine Science Magnet High School construction project is still open. There is funding still available and a team has been working on what specific items should be considered for the remaining money.
- Dr. Howley reported the even though the new Legislative Session does not begin until February, there are several Task Forces that have been working. The Task Force for Uniform Regional School Calendars has made their recommendations. Dr. Howley also shared the LEARN region common calendar which was developed and implemented three years ago. A majority of the LEARN districts have adopted the calendar.
- The RESC Directors will be testifying at the M.O.R.E. (Municipal Opportunities for Regional Efficiencies) Commission on January 14 regarding programs and services that the RESC can or are providing.
- Sheri Cote and Dr. Howley shared information from the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESAs) national conference that they both attended. Dr. Howley also shared an article by Jami Vollmer who was one of the keynote speakers.
- Dr. Howley shared an update on the Mission and Vision work she began last year. Board members were asked for their support on the draft mission and a slightly revised logo will also be adopted.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S PERSPECTIVE:** Peter Nero, Superintendent of North Stonington Public Schools, shared his educational background which included being a teacher, principal, assistant superintendent and superintendent in Rhode Island. He compared some of the differences and similarities of the Cranston Public School District with North Stonington as well as his experience with the Rhode Island Department of Education and his current interactions with the Connecticut State Department of Education. Mr. Nero also discussed his district’s participation in the Eastern Connecticut Health and Medical Cooperative (ECHMC). He is very excited about this cooperative and feels that this is a positive step to helping districts save money on health insurance costs.