

LEARN
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING SYNOPSIS
December 12, 2013

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: Paul Carolan, Director of the Regional Multicultural Magnet School (RMMS), Amy Parker, Associate Director of the Regional Multicultural Magnet School, and Peter DeLisa, Director of the Dual Language and Arts Middle Magnet School (DLAMMS) presented on the CMT scores and Dr. Nicholas Spera, Director of the Marine Science Magnet High School (MSMHS) presented on the CAPT scores. Mr. Carolan began by explaining how the School Performance Index (SPI) is established and then showed the school statistics in each area by grade. Students have made progress in Math and Reading with a majority at or above goal. Writing scores have dropped especially for grade 4 students. The staff have developed action steps to help students improve such as aligning goals, work on curriculum and defining the SRBI process. Mr. DeLisa then showed scores from the DLAMMS. Overall students met or exceed targets with the exception of mathematics. Action steps have been developed at the school to help students achieve. Dr. Spera then talked about the CAPT scores at MSMHS. For the second year in a row, MSMHS has been named a School of Distinction. The school scores rank tenth of all the high schools in Connecticut. Dr. Spera discussed the high expectations set by faculty for the students as well as strategies such as CAPT Boot Camp for the school's success.

CONSENT AGENDA AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INFORMATION

- Dr. Howley distributed the LEARN Annual Report for 2012-2013. Any Board Member who would like additional copies should contact Lisa DeMaio at ldemaio@learn.k12.ct.us
- Dr. Howley updated the Board on the Uniform Regional Calendar Task Force. Doreen Marvin, LEARN's Director of Development, represents LEARN on this Task Force and also serves as the co-chair. The Task Force should have its report to the Legislature by the end of December. Most districts in the LEARN region have already been part of a voluntary regional calendar initiative.

SUPERINTENDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent of Schools in Stonington presented to the Board. Dr. Riley gave a brief summary of his educational history, serving most recently as Superintendent in California. He explained that when he interviewed in Stonington, the Board talked about some of the challenges in the district which included a strained relationship between the Board of Education and the Board of Finance, morale issues especially within the teachers union, the increasing number of special education outplacements and the need for full day Kindergarten. Through changes he has made to the budget development and implementation process, there is more transparency and the latest budget passed on the first vote. The district has implemented full day Kindergarten and is working to update the district's technology especially at the high school. Dr. Riley also discussed the most recent negotiations with the teachers and the successful vote on the contract. He is working to improve the morale of all the Stonington employees.