

LEARN
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING SYNOPSIS
October 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: Pete Smith from Rome, Smith and Lutz presented to the Board. Mr. Smith gave an overview of the members of the House of Representatives and the Senate as well as chairs of various committees that are of particular importance to Boards of Education. The House is comprised of 151 members of which 98 are democrats and 53 are republican. The Senate numbers are 36 members – 22 democrats and 14 republicans. He then reviewed the timeline for legislative action. New bills must be submitted by February 14 and the legislature adjourns on May 7, 2014. Mr. Smith discussed the importance of communication with local representatives. He indicated that email works but face-to-face discussions are the most effective. Communicating with local legislators really matters and can impact how they vote. All communication should include name, home address, email address and phone number. The message should be clear and to the point and ask the legislator for a particular action. Mr. Smith handed out a list of all the legislators and the towns they represent.

Ronald Nossek from Cohn Reznick was unable to attend the meeting so the presentation on the LEARN audit for 2012-2013 has been rescheduled to November 1.

CONSENT AGENDA AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INFORMATION

- Dr. Howley notified that Board that LEARN has received a three year federal Magnet Schools of America Grant for over \$11 million dollars. The LEARN schools that will received grant funding are Dual Language and Arts Middle Magnet School and the Goodwin Early Childhood Magnet School. New London Science and Technology High School, two Norwich schools and Quinnebaug Valley Middle College Magnet are some of the other schools that will receive funding. Dr. Howley thanked Doreen Marvin and the Development Department for all the work done to obtain this funding.
- Dr. Howley explained that there will be some minor changes/addendum to the Teacher Evaluation Plan due to new state requirements. The Board will be asked to approve the changes next month.
- Dr. Howley and Bridgette Gordon-Hickey, LEARN's Director of Special Education, introduced Jennifer Smith as LEARN's teacher of the year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: There was no superintendent's perspective this month.