

**LEARN**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING SYNOPSIS**  
**November 1, 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:**

Ronald Nossek, from Cohn Reznick, presented a summary of the draft audit for the fiscal year 2012-2013. Mr. Nossek explained the additional state and federal requirements for auditing LEARN due to state grants in excess of \$100,000 and federal grants in excess of \$300,000. He also reviewed a few new requirements for the upcoming years. Mr. Nossek reported that LEARN received an unqualified clean audit and had no compliance issues or material weaknesses. The agency fund balance increased and is within the 7-15% range they recommend. Copies of the full and complete audit will be available next month.

Dr. Eileen Howley presented the Fiscal State of the Agency. As Dr. Howley explained this has been a year of transition for LEARN beginning with her tenure as the new Executive Director in December 2012. Dr. Howley discussed the six Regional Educational Service Centers (RESC's) in Connecticut and similarities and differences between a RESC and a school district. She also presented information on the 2012-2013 revenue and expenses for LEARN and compared the funding sources from 1988-1989 to 2012-2013. The biggest shift has been from mostly local support (tuition, fees, etc.) to now around 62% of the revenue coming from state funding for our magnet schools and interdistrict grants. The employee count has gone from around 200 to now approaching 600, with over 1,000 on payroll (including substitutes and workshop presenters). The region has seen a dramatic change in superintendents and the addition of several new administrators within LEARN. The new state mandates regarding teacher and administrator evaluation and Common Core State Standards have required a great deal of time and training and school districts are working hard to improve school security due to the tragedy at Sandy Hook. LEARN continues to support the work of our member districts in implementing mandates and regional efficiencies. The Eastern Connecticut Health and Medical Cooperative began with five partners in July 2013 is already saving districts money. Dr. Howley also talked about the exciting new \$11 million dollar Magnet School Assistance Grant LEARN received which will benefit several schools and districts for the next three years. The future looks to be very exciting and challenging for LEARN and our member districts.

**CONSENT AGENDA AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INFORMATION**

- Dr. Howley announced that Doreen Marvin will represent LEARN on the Uniform Regional Calendar Task Force as co-chair.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:** Thomas Scarice, Superintendent from Madison Public Schools presented to the Board. Mr. Scarice gave a brief summary of his professional career and then talked about the vision and mission of Madison Public Schools and how that is integrated in the new evaluation plan. He explained that Madison continues to work with the State Department of Education to get approval of their unique teacher evaluation plan. Their student goals include making children critical thinkers, creative thinkers, self-directed, collaborative and good communicators. Every teacher unit must incorporate one of these goals and is used in the evaluation process. Teachers must also show they have met performance standards by multiple indicators of academic success, show evidence of using data, show evidence of patterns of data, use of clear rationale of any variance and show an understanding of child development principles. The PowerPoint will be emailed to Board members.