



RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2023 JUN 26 P 2:38
ATTEST: David L. Campo
TOWN CLERK

MINUTES

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
Waterford Town Hall – Auditorium
June 22, 2023

Moderator Paul Goldstein called the June 22, 2023 Special Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL (Representative Town Meeting)

PRESENT: Kyrah Augmon-Bossa, Michael Bono, Mary Childs, Harry Colonis, Timothy Condon, Susan Driscoll, Timothy Fioravanti, Steven Garvin, Nick Gauthier, Kevin Girard, Paul Goldstein, Ryan Healy, Richard Holmes, Cheryl Larder, Theodore Olynciw, Dan Radin, Michael Rocchetti, Danielle Steward-Gelinas, David Sugrue, David Welch (7:15 P.M.)

ABSENT: Jennifer Bracciale, Thomas Dembek, Kristin Gonzalez, Lindsay Khan, Jennifer Kohl

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Robert J Brule, Selectman Richard Muckle, and Chair of the Board of Finance Glenn Patterson.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Chair of the Board of Education Pat Fedor, Selectman Greg Attanasio.

ALSO PRESENT: Town Clerk David L. Campo; Town Attorney Nicholas Kepple.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CORRESPONDENCE

Town Attorney Nicholas Kepple provided a copy of the Deed for Item 1, additional information for Item 2 was provided, and a copy of a Powerpoint presentation from LEARN for Item 1.

ITEM 1 – Southwest School Property to LEARN

PRESENTATION – First Selectman Robert Brule, LEARN Associate Executive Director Ryan Donlon

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Condon, to approve a recommendation from the Board of Selectmen to approve a Purchase and Sale Agreement transferring a portion of the Southwest School Property, approximately 15 acres, to LEARN, a non-profit regional educational center, pursuant to and in accordance with Ordinance 2.112.040 and to authorize First Selectman Robert Brule to execute said Agreement, subject to Town Attorney review as to form.

A friendly amendment by Steward-Gelinas was recommended and accepted to remove “Robert Brule” from the motion.

Discussion ensued and Powerpoint reviewed (See Attachment)

MOTION PASSED: Unanimously

CALL ITEM 2 – Town Center Pond Dredging

PRESENTATION: Planning Director Jon Mullen, Waterford Town Center Development Committee Chair Miriam Furey-Wagner

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Rocchetti, to approve a recommendation from the Board of Finance for an additional appropriation in the amount of **\$766,181 from the Unassigned Fund Balance of the General Fund to Capital Improvement Project Line #31123-57857, Civic Upgrades/Dredging.**

MOTION PASSED: Unanimously

CALL ITEM 3 – BOE Capital Appropriation

PRESENTATION: Superintendent of Schools Thomas Giard, BOE Finance Director Joe Mancini

MOTION by Sugrue, seconded by Steward-Gelinas, to approve a recommendation from the Board of Finance for an additional appropriation in the amount of **\$424,185 for two new Capital Non-Recurring projects (account numbers to be determined) from the CNR Undesignated Fund Balance Line #205-31520 to the new project numbers as follows: \$243,335 – Eversource on-bill financing charge for energy efficiency project equipment and \$180,850 – Chromebook and iPad equipment**

MOTION PASSED: Unanimously

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Bono, to adjourn the Representative Town Meeting at 8:24 P.M.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimously

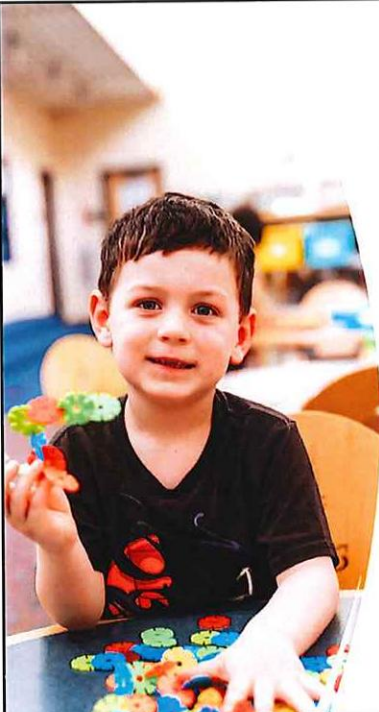
Respectfully Submitted,



David L. Campo, CCTC
Waterford Town Clerk



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LEARN

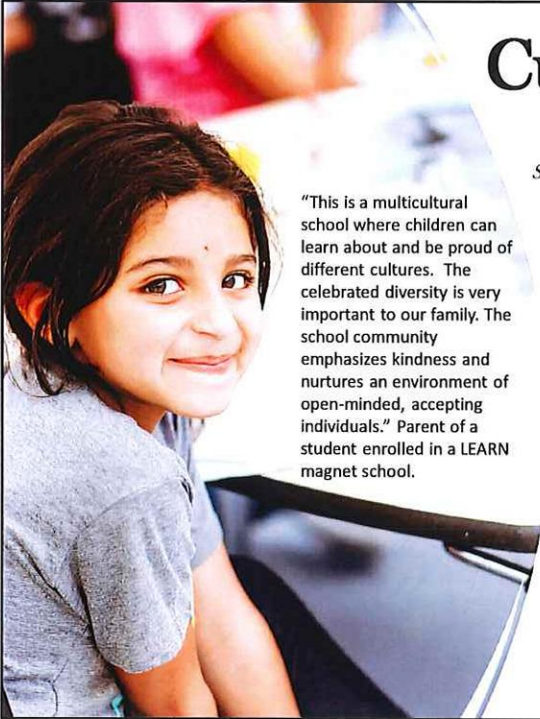
*Southeastern Connecticut's Regional Educational Service Center,
serving the educational community for over 55 years*

Our Vision:
To ensure that every child has access to high-quality public education and opportunities through equitable systems of education, support, and service

Our Mission:

- Pursue equitable and just systems of education
- Build the skills and knowledge of the educational community
- Design innovative, efficient, and effective programs, services, and solutions

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Current LEARN Schools

4 magnet schools in southeastern Connecticut, serving approximately 1,400 students each school year

"This is a multicultural school where children can learn about and be proud of different cultures. The celebrated diversity is very important to our family. The school community emphasizes kindness and nurtures an environment of open-minded, accepting individuals." Parent of a student enrolled in a LEARN magnet school.

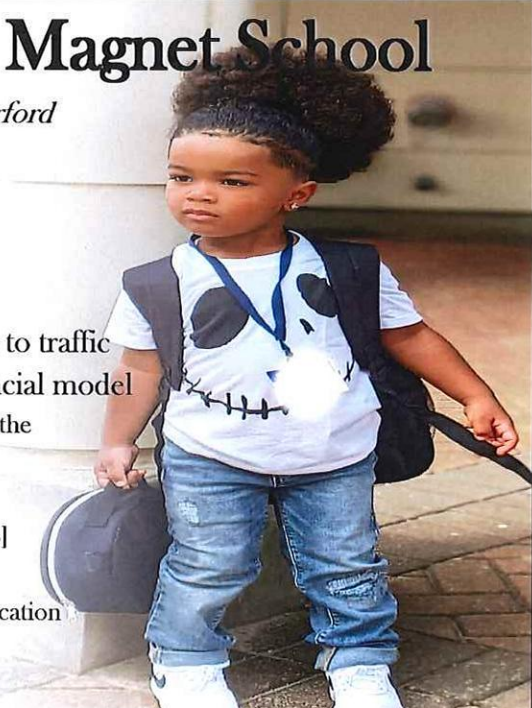
Our Schools:

- The Friendship School
 - Pre-kindergarten & Kindergarten, Waterford
- Regional Multicultural Magnet School
 - Kindergarten-Grade 5, New London
- Marine Science Magnet High School
 - Grades 9-12, Groton
- Three Rivers Middle College Magnet High School
 - Grades 11 & 12, Norwich

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Current Early Childhood Magnet School

The Friendship School, Rope Ferry Road, Waterford



Challenges

- Leased building [2025 expiration]
- Safety concerns on the school's current campus due to traffic
- Unsustainable pre-kindergarten magnet school financial model
 - Tuition based on parent/caregiver income and capped by the State of Connecticut
- Changed educational landscape
 - A childcare desert [quality care for children under age 3]
 - Pre-kindergarten now offered by area school districts
 - An increased need for the region's youngest special education outplacement students

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The Re-imagined Early Childhood Magnet School

with a focus on museum studies as a vehicle for delivering an International Baccalaureate educational model

Student Population

574 children, 8 weeks to 7 years

- 48 infant/toddler-aged children
- 200 preschool-aged children
- 100 kindergarten students
- 105 first-grade students
- 105 second-grade students
- 16 special education outplacement students



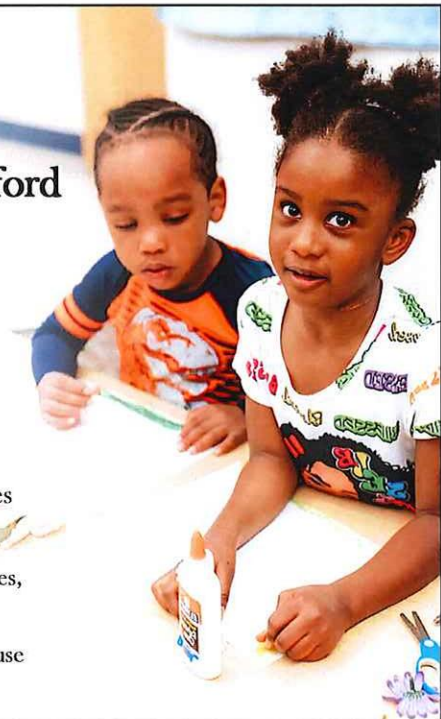
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The Re-imagined Early Childhood Magnet School

LEARN's Commitment to the Town of Waterford

LEARN will:

- Re-establish the site as a well-respected, integrated school
- Assume all financial responsibility for the demolition of and environmental cleanup of the shuttered property [estimated cost is currently \$1.5M]
- Invest in the neighborhood by designing outdoor learning spaces and recreational activities with fully accessible playgrounds
 - Town residents may use the outdoor learning spaces, activities, and playgrounds during non-school hours.
 - The facility will include indoor spaces for town residents to use during non-school hours, as well.



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The Re-imagined Early Childhood Magnet School

"It's a full-day, inclusive educational environment where my young child learned to manage feelings and resolve conflicts, while also studying literacy and numeracy. Teachers created a sense of community within the school and classrooms so my child could thrive." Parent of a child enrolled in a LEARN magnet school.

LEARN thanks the Town of Waterford, Waterford Public Schools, and the residents of Waterford for partnering with us to offer The Friendship School. We hope that partnership can continue.

