

TO: CREC Council and Superintendents  
FROM: Greg J. Florio, Ed.D.  
DATE: January 20, 2022

**CREC**  
Council Meeting Minutes  
1/19/22  
11:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
**ZOOM Meeting**  
**(Info to follow in the Appointment Invite)**

<b>COUNCIL MEMBERS</b>	<b>CREC ATTENDEES</b>
Jackie Blea - Avon	Greg Florio – CREC
Chris Wilson - Bristol	Sandy Cruz-Serrano - CREC
Lou Daniels - Canton	Tim Sullivan - CREC
Tyron V. Harris – East Hartford	Aura Alvarado – CREC
Kate Carey-Trull – East Windsor	Carlos Figueroa -CREC
Frances Neill – East Windsor	Mason Thrall - CREC
Julie Thompson - Glastonbury	Jeff Ivory -CREC
Merrill Gay - New Britain	Deb Borrero - CREC
Becky Terrell - Plainville	Amy Karwan - CREC
Meg Scata - Portland	Sara Steinberg- Forman - CREC
John Vecchitto – Region #10	Kelly Maio - CREC
Dilip Desai – Rocky Hill	Kim Mearman- CREC
Lydia Tedone - Simsbury	Patrick Heick - CREC
Krista Chery – Simsbury	Patrice McCarthy - CABA
Anitha Elongo – South Windsor	
Maureen Sattan - Suffield	

Deborah Rodriguez – Vernon	
Bobbie Granato-Hughes – Wethersfield	
Leonard Lockhart - Windsor	

**I. CALL TO ORDER and APPROVAL of MINUTES**

A. 11/17/21 Council Meeting

**MOTION: Motion to approve the November 17, 2021 minutes was made by Leonard Lockhart seconded Bobbie Hughes-Granato and passed unanimously.**

**II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**III. PRESENTATIONS to COUNCIL**

Heather Tartaglia, Kelly Maio, Patrick Heick, Kim Mearman, and Sara Steinberg Forman provided a presentation on Student Services Overview. (see attached)

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chris Wilson reported on behalf of Kim Oliver that the Finance & Audit Committee met on 1/12/22 to discuss the exhibits that will be later presented during this meeting for approval.

Chris Wilson reported that the Personnel Committee met today virtually before the Council Meeting. Attorney Rebecca Santiago attended as she negotiated the Granby Transportation Contract that will be discussed today under deliberated action. (See attached)

**V. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. 2021-2022 New Program

1) 21 St Century Community Learning Centers Program (Attachment A)

**MOTION - A motion was made by Becky Terrell seconded by John Vecchitto and passed unanimously to approve the 21 St Century Community Learning Centers Program under the Consent Agenda.**

**VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Florio thanked Heather Tartaglia and her team for the great presentation. He reminded the Board Members of the upcoming Legislative Breakfast (seeing that it will be held virtual there will be no breakfast – he states a breakfast will be provided later when all the recommendations are lifted) that will be held virtually due COVID19. He stressed the importance of participation, as they will be discussing school funding and finance.

He gave a heads up to Board Members on the upcoming CREC Budget and process which will start soon as CREC is a Fee for Service (If there is no revenue we cannot spend the money) and stated there have been some changes to the council members due to the elections and will be scheduling an orientation/overview sometime in

March to those new members to discuss their role in the council as members.  
Information to follow.

Dr. Florio talked about the Hartford Courant's article last week reported that about 70% of school staff felt unsafe at their schools/district. This is incorrect information he stated that only 6000 out of 100,000 Staff members responded to a survey on School Safety/Concerns reflecting only about 6%. He stated that he firsthand witness during visits to some of the schools how the staff has come together to help in different capacities where help is needed. The staff has given up free periods to cover where there have been shortages due to COVID situations. Dr. Florio gave kudos to all, Teachers, Nurses, Cafeteria Workers, Custodians, Paras, and all staff for going beyond during these trying times.

#### **VII. COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT**

Lydia Tedone thanked all CREC staff for a job well done during these trying times. She stated that all districts are doing a great job so Kudos to everyone. She also Emphasized the importance of the upcoming Legislative Breakfast and encourages Everyone to participate and contact his or her legislators to provide support. Lydia Also, introduce the new Board Member Lou Daniels from Canton who is a past Member and now back on

#### **VIII. DELIBERATED ACTION**

A. New Business

1. 2021-2024 Granby Drivers Contract

**MOTION - A motion was made by Chris Wilson seconded by Jackie Blea and Passed unanimously to approve the 2021-2024 Granby Drivers Contract.**

#### **VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

**Deb Borrero reported:**

Our primary legislative agenda item is to advocate for an increase in the per-pupil grant for Sheff magnets. For this, our strategy will include:

- Kicking off our Legislative Forum with a panel discussion of HASA superintendents discussing the Educational Funding Issues in Connecticut followed by break-out sessions with all attendees
- providing each legislator and council member with a one-page document outlining the projected impact on tuition and special education costs without an increase
- working with the CREC magnet schools' staff, parent and student senates to teach them about the magnet funding issue and the legislative process so they can provide public testimony and other support during the session

Our second priority is the capital improvements mechanism for CREC magnet schools. For the RESC Alliance, we are working with CABE & CAPSS to modify the funding mechanism for all teacher residency programs.

Patrice McCarthy from CABE reviewed the 4 CABE legislative priorities which were distributed to the Council members. She reported that there are weekly discussions

to coordinate efforts with Debra, and legislative breakfasts are proceeding both virtually and in person. It has not yet been determined what public access will be available at the Capitol when the session begins on February 9.

The NSBA Federal Advocacy Institute will be held in a hybrid format this weekend. Becky Tyrell, Leonard Lockhardt, Meg Scata, and Patrice will participate remotely, and Lydia will be in DC for the NSBA Board meeting.

### **VIII. REPORTS**

- A. 2021 – 2022 Financial Report (Attachment B)
- B. 2020 - 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (Attached)

Sandy Cruz-Serrano presented the financial report and discussed the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and summary provided to all. (Attached)

### **IX. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Jackie Blea – requested the Board Members contact list and list of current members and committees.

Meg Scata – inquired about the money owed by the state and their process on payments for transportation and who we will go forward to avoid future payments. She thanked the staff for their work and efforts during the pandemic

Tim Sullivan stated there have been some concerns with social/emotional, anxiety and absenteeism due to the pandemic but getting better and states he is feeling good and optimistic about the future.

Anitha Elongo stated she is very anxiously waiting on the mask mandate issue to be resolved by the state as this is a very important concern.

### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion: Motion made by Chris Wilson and seconded by Bobbie Hughes-Granato And passed unanimously to adjourn the council meeting at 12:47 pm**