

TO: CREC Council and Superintendents
FROM: Greg J. Florio, Ed.D.
DATE: February 22, 2022

CREC
Council Meeting Minutes
2/16/2022
11:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
ZOOM Meeting
(Info to follow in the Appointment Invite)

COUNCIL MEMBERS	CREC ATTENDEES
Jackie Blea -Avon	Greg Florio – CREC
Donald Harris - Bloomfield	Sandy Cruz-Serrano - CREC
Chris Wilson - Bristol	Tim Sullivan - CREC
Lou Daniels - Canton	Aura Alvarado – CREC
Tyron V. Harris – East Hartford	Carlos Figueroa -CREC
Kim Oliver - Hartford	Mason Thrall - CREC
Meg Scata - Portland	Jeff Ivory -CREC
John Vecchitto – Region #10	Deb Borrero - CREC
Dilip Desai – Rocky Hill	Amy Karwan - CREC
Lydia Tedone - Simsbury	Heather Tartaglia - CREC
Krista Cherry - Somers	Darlene Wolliston
Maureen Sattan - Suffield	
Bobbie Hughes-Granto - Wethersfield	
Leonard Lockhart - Windsor	

I. CALL TO ORDER and APPROVAL of MINUTES

A. 1/19/22 Council Meeting

MOTION: Motion to approve the November 17, 2021 minutes was made by Leonard Lockhart seconded Don Harris and passed unanimously.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**III. PRESENTATIONS to COUNCIL**

CREC Foundation- Darlene Wolliston – See attached presentation. She also provided information to the Bruce Douglas Scholarship for Upcoming Adversity and the upcoming CREC Foundation Golf Tournament scheduled for Monday, October 3rd at the Hartford Golf Club. Lydia encourages everyone to attend.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Kim Oliver reported that the Finance and Audit Committee met on 2/9/22 via zoom to review financials, the summary of the Sheff Agreement, and the higher insurance cost. These items will be up for discussion during this meeting.

Chris Wilson reported that the Personnel Committee met today before this meeting and the Healthcare Professional Contract will be up for approval later on during this meeting.

The Legislative Committee was due to meet today but due to technical issues meeting did not take place. Deb Borrero informed and reported on the following:

- The Legislative Forum is tomorrow from 9:00-10:00 with a focus on Educational Issues in CT. Lydia will offer welcoming remarks, followed by a panel discussion of area superintendents from Hartford, East & Newington and then several breakout room sessions facilitated by some council members
- The Appropriations Committee's Public Hearing on Elementary & Secondary Education is tomorrow afternoon starting at 4:00. We will be testifying on magnet funding and capital improvements for CREC and the RESC Alliance will focus testimony on supporting the Teacher Residency Program, Magnet Funding, and Early Childhood supports.
- All Council members and their superintendents will be receiving the legislative agenda along with specific details on magnet funding and its potential impact on your district if the state chooses not to increase the RESC magnet grant. The Education Committee has not yet raised any bills, but we anticipate needing districts to testify at the first public hearing in support of finding a funding mechanism that helps CREC and our partner districts.

V. CONSENT AGENDA**VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Florio reported on the Sheff Settlement Agreement Highlight (information will be sent out as a separate attachment). Tim Sullivan reported on the Magnet School portion of the settlement (see attachment for information). Dr. Florio reported that CREC will still be mandating masks be used after the mask mandate has been lifted by the CDC and State on 2/28/22. He stated the mask mandate will continue until 3/31/22 (this might change as they continue to follow the CDC guidelines and metrics. He reported that about 90% of staff is fully vaccinated (not necessarily boosted) and about half of our student population is vaccinated.

VII. COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT

Lydia Tedone reported that she attended the NSBA Equity Symposium last week. She stated that the NSBA is open to any board member in the U.S. This year it was in-person 1 day with about 400 attendees. It provided break-out sessions which she states were great and informational. She was not able to attend On The Hill as it was canceled due to COVID. She stated overall a great Symposium and encourages participation next year.

VIII. DELIBERATED ACTION

A. New Business

1. Policies (Attachment A)

1. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 4118.6P – Social Media
2. Proposed Revised Policy 5113P – Student Attendance
3. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 4131P – Staff Development
4. Proposed Revised Policy 6112P – School Day

The following policies are presented by the Policy Committee for a *second* reading:

1. Proposed Revised Policy 4118.6P – Social Media
2. Proposed Revised Policy 5113P – Student Attendance
3. Proposed Revised Policy 4131P – Staff Development
4. Proposed Revised Policy 6112P – School Day

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approval by CREC Council

The Policy Committee has met, reviewed, and developed/revised policies as needed with Heather Tartaglia, Director of Student Services, Sasha Douglas, Assistant Superintendent, Elsie Gonzalez, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Members of the Policy Committee include Jackie Blea, Meg Scata, Joseph Scheideler, Lydia Tedone, and Helen Apostolides, CREC's Policy Consultant.

Note: To ease the reading of proposed changes in policy, all old language to be deleted is printed in red/strikethrough. All new language is printed in blue and underscored.

MOTION: Motion to approve all policies under New Business Attachment A was

made by Meg Scata, seconded by Bobbie Hughes-Granto, and passed unanimously.

2. 2021-2024 Healthcare Professional Contract (Attachment B)

MOTION - A motion was made by Chris Wilson seconded by Don Harris and Passed unanimously to approve the 2021-2024 Healthcare Professional Contract.

VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

VIII. REPORTS

A. 2021 – 2022 Financial Report (Attachment C)

Sandy Cruz-Serrano presented the financial report and reported an increase in insurance costs. Stated that CREC has adapted some mitigation strategies to help in offsetting some of the costs. Also reported that the energy upgrades done will also affect our bottom line but should be able to see the benefits of said upgrades in the next 10-15 years.

IX. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Meg Scata reported her districts surveyed Mask wearing and lots of People are in favor to continue with the mask mandate until the end of March.

Bobbie Hughes-Granato reported her district will be going with the optional mask.

Lydia Tedone stated she has lots of concerns regarding the Optional Mask and reported, either way, someone will not be happy.

Don Harris reported that districts make decisions at State Board Level. There have been 4 months of public comments (1-2 ½ hours of public comments) 35-40 people x 4 meetings and only 2 people of color attended. We have 85% of students of color in the districts and 75% of these parents want their kids to keep their masks on.

X. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion: Motion made by Chris Wilson and seconded by Dilip Desai
And passed unanimously to adjourn the council meeting at 1:00 pm**