

TO: CREC Council and Superintendents
FROM: Greg J. Florio, Ed.D.
DATE: May 13, 2022

CREC
Council Meeting Minutes
5/18/22
11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
111 Charter Oak Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

ZOOM Meeting

(Info to follow in the Appointment Invite)

COUNCIL MEMBERS	CREC ATTENDEES
Jackie Blea	Greg Florio – CREC
Chris Wilson	Sandy Cruz-Serrano
Lou Daniels	Tim Sullivan - CREC
Miriam Underwood	Aura Alvarado – CREC
Kim Oliver	Heather Tartaglia - CREC
Meg Scata	Mason Thrall - CREC
John Vecchitto	Jeff Ivory -CREC
Dilip Desai	Amy Karwan - CREC
Lydia Tedone	Kristina Jordan - CREC
Deborah Rodriguez	Elsie Gonzalez - CREC
Bobbie Hughes-Granato	Carlos Figueroa – CREC
Leonard Lockhart	Tom Sullivan -CREC
	Sarah Vocca
	Tom Moore – Wethersfield Superintendent

I. CALL TO ORDER and APPROVAL of MINUTES

A. 4/20/22 Council Meeting

MOTION: A Motion to approve the April 20, 2022 minutes was made by Leonard Lockhart and seconded by Lou Daniels, and passed unanimously.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

III. PRESENTATIONS to COUNCIL

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chris Wilson reported that the Finance and Audit Committee met on 5/11/22 to discuss the exhibits that will be up for approval later on during this meeting.

Chris Wilson reported that the Head Start Committee met in May and the following was discussed:

- Head Start has submitted the continuation application in April, for year three of the five-year funding cycle, along with the two OEC funded State Head Start applications. This allows the program to serve additional children and offer free extended hours for working families
- CREC Head Start and ACES have respectfully decided to terminate their partnership for services to Middlesex County effective 6/30. CREC will commit to serving the 35 funded slots through the end of the 2025 grant cycle. We are currently in process of finding a location with two pre-K classrooms.
- Head Start completed a very successful federal Focus Area -1 review. The review was conducted virtually and consisted of interviews and document sharing related to Program Design and Management, Fiscal, Family Services, Health, Eligibility practices, and Education services.
- Head Start nationally has expanded the interpretation of categorical eligibility to include SNAP recipients. This is excellent news for head start enrollment as SNAP has a higher income threshold and participants were considered over-income and ineligible for services before April 2022. The program can predetermine eligibility for all children on the waitlist and expand enrollment opportunities to families that went underserved prior.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. 2021-2022 Revised Programs

- 1) Polaris Center (Attachment A)
- 2) CT Technical Education & Career System Related Services (Attachment B)

B. 2022-2023 New Program

- 1) Capitol Region Transition Academy (Attachment C)

C. 2022-2023 Continuing Programs

- 1) Sound Bridge (Attachment D)
- 2) Polaris Center (Attachment E)
- 3) Career and Technical Education Initiatives (Attachment F)

- 4) Barr Foundation Doing High School Differently – Impact Academy (Attachment G)
- 5) Youth Services Programs (Attachment H)
- 6) Statewide Family Engagement Center (SFEC) (Attachment I)
- 7) CT Teacher Residency Program (Attachment J)
- 8) Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Related Services (Attachment K)
- 9) Supplemental Services (Attachment L)
- 10) Early Childhood Education (Attachment M)
- 11) CREC Resource Group (Attachment N)
- 12) Montessori Training Center Northeast (Attachment O)
- 13) Head Start/Early Head Start Program (Attachment P)
- 14) Leadership Budget (Attachment Q)

MOTION - A motion was made by Chris Wilson seconded by Kim Oliver and passed unanimously to approve all items (A – Q) under the Consent Agenda.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Dr. Florio provided a report to the Annual Meeting

VII. COUNCIL CHAIR’S REPORT

Lydia Tedone thanked all who attended this meeting as she provided her report at The Annual Meeting.

VIII. DELIBERATED ACTION

A. New Business

IX. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

X. REPORTS

A. Financial Report (Attachment R) – Sandy Cruz-Serrano presented and discussed the financial report

XI. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Bobbie Hughes-Granato stated she is still concerned about her district not allowing for Choice Program students to be able to get scholarships.

Jackie Blea inquired in her districts and stated that changes are being made to allow for scholarships to be given to Choice Program Students. She also noted that there will be a change in what flags will be displayed on the main flag pole and that other groups will have lawn signs.

Lou Daniels will be following up regarding the issue with Scholarships for Choice Program Students. He also brought up a concern regarding dress code for students now that the summer is approaching and wanted to ask council members if they had a dress code policy and would share. Jackie Blea reports that her districts have a dress code policy on their website.

Tim Sullivan reported that most schools have uniforms and the ones that did not have a uniform do have a dress code, which is enforced.

Meg Scata reports that her district has created a policy which is in the first reading to only allow State, Federal, and POW flags on their main flag pole.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Motion made by Bobbie Hughes-Granato and seconded by Lou Daniels and passed unanimously to adjourn the council meeting at 1:05 pm