

TO: CREC Council and Superintendents  
FROM: Greg J. Florio, Ed.D.  
DATE: March 11, 2022

**CREC**  
Updated: Council Meeting Minutes  
3/16/2022  
11:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
**Room 101,102 & ZOOM Meeting**  
**(Info to follow in the Appointment Invite)**  
**111 Charter Oak Avenue**  
**Hartford, CT 06106**

<b>COUNCIL MEMBERS</b>	<b>CREC ATTENDEES</b>
Joseph Wilkerson – Bloomfield (Alt)	Greg Florio – CREC
Chris Wilson – Bristol	Sandy Cruz-Serrano - CREC
Lou Daniels - Canton	Tim Sullivan - CREC
Tyron V. Harris – East Hartford	Aura Alvarado – CREC
Francis Neill – East Windsor	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
Maureen Sattan - Suffield	
Deborah Rodriguez - Vernon	Patrice McCarthy - CABA
Bobbie Hughes – Granato - Wethersfield	
Janet DiRoberts – Wethersfield (Guest)	
Leonard Lockhart - Windsor	

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

A. 2/16/22 Council Meeting

**MOTION: Motion to approve the November 17, 2021 minutes was made by Bobbie Granato seconded Tyron V. Harris and passed unanimously.**

**II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**III. PRESENTATIONS to COUNCIL**

Dr. Florio provided a Budget overview to the Council members. (Powerpoint provided to each board member)

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Kim Oliver** provided reported that the Finance Committee and Audit Committee met via ZOOM on Wednesday, March 9. The members met with CREC staff and reviewed the March Council Exhibits and the 22-23 Leadership budget. Questions and details, such as the causes for increasing Health Care costs and the lack of payment by the state for transportation were discussed

**Chris Wilson** reported that the Early Childhood Committee met on 3/9.

The Early Childhood Committee met on March 9th and reviewed updates in the CREC Head Start program.

- Head Start and Early Head Start are fully enrolled in all open classrooms with 217 children on the waitlist.
- CREC Head Start and CREC Birth to three is now co-located for better coordination of services.
- Carryover funds will be used to implement additional mental health and wellness initiatives for both staff and children
- Several funding applications are underway for the continuation of federal services, the State Head Start Supplement, and a request to the feds for one-time renovation funds for the move to the Swift Factory building in north Hartford
- Expansion funds, to allow more slots for infants and toddlers is a high priority for this program, as it has 5 available classrooms and a lengthy waitlist.
- Universal masking, vaccination requirements, and weekly COVID testing remain in place for federal programming, regardless of state and local mandates.
- A federal review is scheduled to take place during the week of 3/28/22.

**Deb Borrero reported on the Legislative Committee**

- Good News is that SB 227 passed out of the education committee on Friday and is now in Appropriations. This is the bill that allows for the 8% increase in the per-pupil magnet school grant. We are following up with the ed-subcommittee members in appropriations to continue discussing and moving this bill forward while working with legislators and proponents on HB 5283.

- HB 5283 is the AAC the ECS formula and the funding of other educational programs. We believe this is the best avenue for sustainable magnet school funding

even though CABE/CAPSS is against it, as currently drafted because some districts lose funding and the special education excess cost cap is not addressed.

- Regarding capital improvements, there is a hearing on Monday, March 21 in the education committee for SB 429: AAC AUTHORIZATION OF STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS, which includes language in section 5 to allow CREC to adopt a long-range capital improvements plan and process for bonding the projects. We will be testifying on that bill. In addition, we are also working with the Finance Committee to raise a bill exclusively for this, and hopefully, there will be a hearing in Finance in the next several weeks. We do have a fact sheet that we can send you with specific details about upcoming projects and questions that you may receive about this.
- We continue to monitor several other bills including the early childhood bill, SB 2, AAC EXPANDING PRESCHOOL AND MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, which was just moved out of the children's committee and is a senate D priority.

## **V. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **A. 2022-2023 Continued Programs**

1. Connecticut SDE Addendum Agreement for Child Nutrition (Attachment A)
2. Hartford School Readiness (Attachment B)
3. Strive (Attachment C)
4. Theater of the Performing Arts (Attachment D)
5. Regional Fingerprinting Service (Attachment E)
6. CREC Wide Area Network (Attachment F)
7. Internal Staff Development (Attachment G)
8. Audit Required Budget Authorizations (Attachment H)
9. Made in the Shade (Attachment I)

**MOTION - A motion was made by Meg Scata seconded by Lou Daniels and passed unanimously to approve all items under the Consent Agenda**

## **VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Florio gave an update on the Mask Mandate. He stated that the initial mask mandate of 4/1 for going optional has been changed to 3/21. He wanted to take the time to thank each Board member as March is Board Members Appreciation month and wanted to show his gratitude with a token of appreciation to each board. (Those who are not in attendance can pick up their gift at their convenience). He also informed the Board members of the upcoming Annual Meeting in May. He had Aura talk about this year's Back To School Block Party scheduled for 8/17 from 3- 6 pm and this year it will return to in-person. We provide 1200 backpacks with always having a waitlist which will be provided to those on the waitlist at a later date. He also informed the board members of the upcoming Ribbon Cutting at the Ana Grace on 3/30 and asked members who wanted to attend to please RSVP to Aura Alvarado as this is per invite-only event.

He had Amy Karwan report on the following:

- Approximately \$7.5 mil in contracts to date--predominantly professional learning and staff brokering  
About 75% in the CREC region (all services).
- Additionally:
  - \$1.5 mil for CTECS partnership for related services
  - \$500K for utilities (ee smarts, GreenSTEP programs)
  - \$400K for Montessori Training Center Northeast (MTCNE)
- CREC is the lead RESC on several state partnerships with the RESC Alliance--additional \$10 mil:
  - Project LEAP--focused on student and family engagement and attendance for 15 districts statewide, five in the CREC region
  - Increasing Educator Diversity (fka MTR)
  - Special education student training and technical assistance
  - Special education evaluation project

#### Professional Learning Team

- Three special education program reviews in FY22--Mansfield, Killingly, Southington

#### Staffing Solutions

- 70 paraeducators and associate instructors placed in districts
- 18 new paras for CTECS
- 97 paras recruited for CREC magnet schools

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

Lydia Tedone wanted to thank all who attended/participated in the Legislative Breakfast on 2/17/22. The breakfast had over 100 participants and the highest number of legislators who attended. She spoke about the Day on the Hill which was virtual and thanked Patricia McCarthy from Caber. She also stated that come next year it will return to in-person and is looking to have board members attend. She informed the council members that she had sent them all an email regarding Dr. Florio's evaluation that included a summary and a form is looking to have completed and return to her at their earliest convenience no later than 3/31 and reminded them that she is the person who they should send their response to and it is strictly confidential.

### **VIII. DELIBERATED ACTION**

#### A. New Business

##### 1. Policies (Attachment J)

The following policies were approved by the Policy Committee on 2/16/2022, as a *first* reading:

1. Proposed Revised Policy 1110.1P – Parent Involvement
2. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 3260P/R – Sale of Disposable Assets
3. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 3440P/R – Fixed Assets
4. Proposed Revised Policy 3450P – Monies in School Buildings

5. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 4118.112P/R – Sexual Harassment
6. Proposed Revised Policy 6142P – Basic Instructional Program
7. Proposed Revised Policy 6145.2P – Interscholastic Intramural Athletics

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

1. Proposed Revised Policy 1110.1P – Parent Involvement
2. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 3260P/R – Sale of Disposable Assets
3. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 3440P/R – Fixed Assets
4. Proposed Revised Policy 3450P – Monies in School Buildings
5. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 4118.112P/R – Sexual Harassment
6. Proposed Revised Policy 6142P – Basic Instructional Program
7. Proposed Revised Policy 6145.2P – Interscholastic Intramural Athletics

#### **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 J was made by John Vecchitto, seconded by Leonard Lockhart, and passed unanimously.**

2. Early/Head Start Program: 2021-2022 Revision (Attachment J 2)

**MOTION: Motion to approve all policies under New Business Attachment J2 was made by Meg Scata, seconded by Lou Daniels, and passed unanimously.**

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

Dr. Florio informed the board members that CREC is working with SDE to construct a permanent home in the Learning Corridor for the Arts H.S. He also reiterated the importance of having board members reach out their legislators to in support of SB227. Deb Borrero will draft and send to each board member/superintendents a letter with the language so they can reach out to their legislators. We are looking to have them sent ASAP as the appropriations committee will be meeting and their deadline is 4/8.

Patrice explained that the pace of the session will become very rapid, with the Education Committee deadline on March 28, the Appropriations Committee deadline on April 8, and adjournment on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Many Education Committee bills have been sent to the Appropriations Committee, where they will likely be modified. In addition, the Children's Committee has reported numerous bills with an impact on education.

#### **VIII. REPORTS**

- A. 2021 – 2022 Financial Report (Attachment K)
- B. 2022 – 2023 Leadership Budget (Attachment L)

Sandy Cruz-Serrano presented the financial report and the Leadership Budget for 2022-2023. She stated that she will be presenting the Budget for 2022-2023 in the next upcoming meetings as the budget will be coming up for approval during the May Annual Meeting.

#### **IX. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Bobbie Hughes-Granato requested a future presentation to the board on the Teacher Residency Program. She is interested in seeing how the program is progressing, etc.

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion: Motion made by Dilip Desai and seconded by Lou Daniels  
And passed unanimously to adjourn the council meeting at 12:50 pm**