

TO: CREC Council and Superintendents
FROM: Greg J. Florio, Ed.D.
DATE: September 10, 2021

CREC
Council Meeting Minutes
9/15/21
11:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
ZOOM Meeting

(Info to follow in the Appointment Invite)

COUNCIL MEMBERS	CREC ATTENDEES
Jackie Blea – Avon (Z)	Greg Florio – CREC
Don Harris – Bloomfield (Z @12:41pm)	Sandy Cruz-Serrano – CREC
Chris Wilson – Bristol (IP)	Tim Sullivan – CREC
Joseph Scheideler – Canton (Z)	Carlos Figueroa – CREC
Tyron V. Harris – East Hartford (Z)	Heather Tartaglia – CREC
Gary Blanchette – Ellington (IP)	Aura Alvarado – CREC
Julie Thompson – Glastonbury (Z)	Jeff Ivory – CREC
Mark Fiorentino – Granby (Z)	Mason Thrall – CREC
Kim Oliver –Hartford (Z)	Deb Borrero – CREC
Meg Scata- Portland (IP)	Amy Karwan- CREC (Z)
John Vecchitto – Region #10 (Z)	Kathy Randall – CREC
Laurie Boske – Rocky Hill (IP)	Jennie Shea CRES Head Start
Lydia Tedone – Simsbury (IP)	Patrice McCarthy – CABE (Z)
Krista Cherry – Somers (Z)	
Anitha Elango – South Windsor (Z)	
Robert Brown –Southington (Z)	
Maureen Sattan – Suffield (Z)	

Deborah Rodriguez – Vernon (Z)	
Mark Zydanowicz – West Hartford (IP)	
Bobbie Hughes-Granato – Wethersfield (Z)	

I. CALL TO ORDER and APPROVAL of MINUTES

A. 6/17/21 Council Meeting

MOTION: Motion to approve the June 17, 2021 minutes was made by Chris Wilson, seconded Meg Scata, and passed unanimously

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

III. PRESENTATIONS to COUNCIL

Sandy Cruz-Serrano introduced Jennie Shea Director of CREC Head Start program which provided an overview of the services provided along with other financial data about the program to the Council Members. The powerpoint presentation will be sent to the council members after the Council meeting.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Kim Oliver reported that the Finance and Audit Committee met on September 8th to review the exhibits which will be coming up later on this meeting for Council Members approval.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. 2020-2021 Revised Programs

- 1) CREC Museum Academy (Attachment A)
- 2) Glastonbury –East Hartford Elementary Magnet School (Attachment B)
- 3) CREC Academy of Aerospace and Engineering Magnet School (Attachment C)

B. 2021-2022 Revised Programs

- 1) Supplemental Services (Attachment D)

C. 2021-2022 Continued Programs

- 1) Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ESSER I) Grant (Attachment E)
- 2) Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ESSER II) Grant (Attachment F)
- 3) American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ARP-ESSER) Grant (Attachment G)
- 4) Early/Head Start Program (Attachment H)

MOTION: A motion was made by Laurie Boske seconded by Bob Brown and passed unanimously to approve all items under Consent Agenda Section A, B, and C.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Florio wanted to share with the Council members a letter that was sent out by the State of CT BOE thanking all BOE Education Members and Superintendents for their hard work during these very difficult times. Dr. Florio echoed their sentiments and thank all for their hard work he will share the letter with all board members after the board meeting via email.

He wanted Tim S., Heather T, and Mason T. to give a brief update on their experiences with this school new year.

Tim Sullivan stated he was pleased with the start of the new school year. He all but 21 students are in person. There have been 24 student + cases and 2 staff members with quarantine protocols are being followed. Now seeing more of the normal issues good and bad. He informed that 28 TRP out of the 1st and 2nd cohorts are out teaching in our classrooms. 25% of classroom teachers are persons of color which is good for all.

Heather Tartaglia reported that her programs have been fully in-person since last summer. She states only 10-15% had decided to stay home but are currently in person. RSS is working with HR to get appropriate staff in place. There are new members in leadership roles due to retirements. New leadership is looking forward and promoting growth.

Mason Thrall addressed the ongoing issue with the driver shortage in transportation.

Dr. Florio wanted to thank Mason Thrall and the transportation team for all their hard work and efforts during these difficult times with all the transportation woes.

Dr. Florio thanked Aura Alvarado and the Communication team for another Back to School Back Pack Drive-Thru. We distributed 1200 backpacks running out but for all who waited we took their contact information and a backpack was provided to them about a week later. Fall Staff was another success at a much smaller scale nonetheless a great one.

Dr. Florio informed us that we are following the Governors and CDC guidelines and recommendations. We are having a Town Hall with more COVID19 information later on today.

VII. COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT

Lydia wanted to thank CREC and districts for all their hard work in these very difficult times. She also wanted to thank Aura and CREC Staff for another successful FallStaff and encourage other council members if they get the opportunity to try to make it for this great celebration and a wonderful experience. Lydia putting out a plea to council members to participate in the different committees. She polled members to see who is running in districts this coming November and a total of about 7 stated they were.

Lydia encourages other council members to try to participate in other sessions of the CRT presentations were provided by Elsie Gonzalez and Amy Karwan from CREC. Elsie Gonzalez and 2 others working with districts to create a users group for folks to get resources. Lydia Tedone stated her district hired a DEI Coordinator this summer and is currently working with Elsie Gonzalez. Amy Karwin will continue with rolling out CREC's Equity Council group if anyone is interested please reach out to her.

Last thing she stated she will be flying out today for the NSBA Conference she states this will be smaller due to COVID19 but will be good to connect and for networking.

VIII. DELIBERATED ACTION

A. New Business

VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Patrice reported that CABA is working with other statewide groups on the issues of Bus driver shortages and HVAC improvements. The legislature will convene in a special session this month to address the Governor's emergency powers, and the regular session will begin in February. She reminded Council members of the free webinars next week for the board of education candidates.

VIII. REPORTS

A. 2020 - 2021 Financial Report (Attachment I)

B. 2021 - 2022 Financial Report (Attachment J)

Sandy Cruz-Serrano presented the Financial Reports

IX. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Chris Wilson wanted to thank Amy Karwan and Elsie Gonzalez for the CRT Session. Also thanked all divisions for getting us to a great start this school year.

Lydia Tedone – stated that they are having their board meetings in person for some time now. Reminded that the Policy Committee will be meeting after this meeting at 1 pm in the EDO conference.

Jackie Blea – her district is providing a Hybrid model for their meetings.

Joseph Scheideler – reports online meetings for his districts

Davie Furie – reports that his district is encouraging in-person but most will be hybrid allowing for remote.

Deb Rodriguez – reports Hybrid/ZOOM they are trying out in-person to see how it goes.

Kim Oliver – reports primarily in-person but allowing for online participation.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION: A Motion made by Mark Zydanowicz and seconded by Meg Scata and passed unanimously to adjourn the Council Meeting at 12:49 pm