

TO: CREC Council and Superintendents  
FROM: Greg J. Florio, Ed.D.  
DATE: February 12, 2021

**CREC**  
Council Meeting Minutes  
2/17/21  
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       |
| Donald Harris -Bloomfield       | Sandy Cruz-Serrano -CREC |
| Christopher Wilson - Bristol    | Mason Thrall - CREC      |
| John Scheideler - Canton        | Tim Sullivan -CREC       |
| Tyron V. Harris –East Hartford  | Amy Karwan - CREC        |
| Kate Carey-Trull – East Windsor | Aura Alvarado - CREC     |
| Gary Blanchette - Ellington     | Deb Richards- CREC       |
| Joyce Hall - Enfield            | Regina Terrell - CREC    |
| Mike Fiorentino - Granby        | Jeff Ivory - CREC        |
| Kim Oliver - Hartford           | Deb Borrero -CREC        |
| Darryl Thames – Manchester      | Elsie Gonzalez - CREC    |
| Merrill Gay – New Britain       | Elaina Brachman - CREC   |
| Meg Scata - Portland            | Sasha Douglas - CREC     |
| John Vecchitto – Region #10     |                          |
| Laurie Boske – Rocky Hill       |                          |
| Lydia Tedone - Simsbury         | Patricia McCarthy – CABA |

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Maureen Sattan - Suffield       |  |
| Mark Zydanowicz – West Hartford |  |
| Bobbie Hughes-Granato           |  |
| David Furie - Windsor           |  |

**I. CALL TO ORDER and APPROVAL of MINUTES – Called to order at 11:30 am**

A. 1/20/21 Council Meeting

**MOTION: Motion to approve the January 20, 2021 minutes made by Joyce Hall seconded Bobbie Hughes-Granato, and passed unanimously.**

**II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**III. PRESENTATIONS to COUNCIL**

Elsie Gonzalez, Amy Karwan, Elaina Brachman, and Deb Borrero– Diversity Equity and Inclusion. Each of the presenters gave updates and information about the topic. The presentation as well as the links discussed (21 Day Challenge) are being included with the minutes and shared via email to council members. Dr. Florio thanked all for their hard work with this very important work and undertaking.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Joseph Scheideler spoke on behalf of the Policy Committee as they met and will need to get council approval for these policies later on in this meeting.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA**

**VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Dr. Florio wanted to thank all who participated in the Virtual Legislative Forum that took place on February 11. He informed the council members on Heather Tartaglia being on Maternity Leave with the arrival of Baby Mia and informed them that Deb Richards will be covering in her absence. He stated that they will be looking for volunteers for the Council Nominating Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee. Will try to have this Ad Hoc Committee at least a few times a year. Will survey council members as to when these should take place as far as the same dates of the council or a different date altogether.

**VII. COUNCIL CHAIR’S REPORT**

Chris Wilson spoke on the great initiatives and the great turnout to the Virtual Legislative Forum even though it was virtual this year it worked out well. States he Misses direct contact with Superintendents and Legislators. Trying to stay optimistic as far as when the in-person meeting will resume but happy to have the virtual option.

**VIII. DELIBERATED ACTION**

A. New Business

1) CREC Constitution Discussion (Attachment A)

**MOTION: Motion to approve the CREC Constitution Changes was made by Lydia Tedone and seconded by Laurie Boske and passed unanimously.**

2) Office of Head Start and Early Head Start Application for Renewal (Attachment B)  
**MOTION: Motion to approve the Head Start and Early Head Start Application for Renewal was made by Joyce Hall and seconded by Meg Scata and passed unanimously.**

B. Old Business

1) Policies (Attachment C)

The following policies were approved by the Policy Committee on 1/27/2021, as a **first** reading:

The policies did not have an adoption date due to the loss of information when transferred from paper to digital. This approval is solely to provide a policy date.

3000P: Concept Roles 3010P: Goals and Objectives 3111P: Fiscal Year

3292P: Investments

3410P: Accounting Standard 3434P: Independent Audit 3440P/R: Fixed Assets

3510P: Operation Maintenance

3515P: Community Use of CREC Facilities 3516.3P: Accident Prevention

3516.11P: Hazardous Materials 3523.1: Acquisition of Technology 3541.4:  
Transportation Equipment

3541.5P: Transportation Safety Complaints 3541.35: Bus Driver Safety

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

The policies did not have an adoption date due to the loss of information when transferred from paper to digital. This approval is solely to provide a policy date.

3000P: Concept Roles 3010P: Goals and Objectives 3111P: Fiscal Year

3292P: Investments

3410P: Accounting Standard 3434P: Independent Audit 3440P/R: Fixed Assets

3510P: Operation Maintenance

3515P: Community Use of CREC Facilities 3516.3P: Accident Prevention

3516.11P: Hazardous Materials 3523.1: Acquisition of Technology 3541.4:  
Transportation Equipment

3541.5P: Transportation Safety Complaints 3541.35: Bus Driver Safety

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, Christopher Wilson; and Helen Apostolides, CREC's Policy Consultant.

**MOTION: Motion to approve the following policies 3000P: Concept Roles 3010P: Goals and Objectives 3111P: Fiscal Year, 3292P, Investments. 3410P: Accounting Standard 3434P: Independent Audit, 3440P/R: Fixed Assets, 3510P: Operation Maintenance, 3515P: Community Use of CREC Facilities, 3516.3P: Accident Prevention, 3516.11P: Hazardous Materials, 3523.1. Acquisition of Technology 3541.4: Transportation Equipment, 3541.5P: Transportation Safety Complaints 3541.35: Bus Driver Safety was made by Joseph Scheideler, seconded by John Vecchitto, and passed unanimously.**

#### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Patrice McCarthy gave an update. The legislative is in a full virtual session. There was a 24-hour virtual session regarding Removal of Religious Exception for Vaccinations (this is for vaccinations required for school only and does not include COVID19 vaccines). There were about 2000 pieces of testimony and about 500 people participated. The legislators are divided on this issue. Still waiting on Agreement of ECS – will come down to findings but funds to continue.

#### **IX. REPORTS**

##### **A. Financial Report (Attachment D)**

Sandy Cruz-Serrano presented the financial report and reported no major changes. Reported that CREC is still waiting for payment from the State for last year's transportation charges of about 4.5 million dollars. Notified the council members that for the next couple of meetings she will be presenting budgets that will need approval in May or June.

#### **X. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

The Chair has asked that Council Members share innovations proposed in their local budgets for this year. The innovations could be in areas such as equity, technology, personnel, or any other innovation or new program

**Jackie Blea** – thanked the presenters in this meeting and finds it very informative asked for it to be emailed. The district is looking into DEI and looking for direction.

**Mark Zydanowicz**- stated his district has a DEI for the last 4 years and is doing a great job.

**Meg Scata** – has a Curriculum Director which heads up with town members. A coalition of about 25 members – town-wide effort. The district is looking into leasing options for Chromebooks rather than buying as most are outdated. Sandy Cruz-Serrano suggested Cara Hart from CREC as she is in charge of CREC Cooperative Purchasing and would be of assistance.

**Mark Fiorentino** – thank the presenters in today’s meeting. His district does not have a DEI the duties are assigned to superintendents. His district is doing something similar to CREC 21 Day Challenge. They have committed to hiring 1 minority teacher through CREC’s TRP program and going forward at least 1 per year.

**Region 10** – Curriculum Audit being done by CREC should have a report with accommodations and recommendations soon.

**Chris Wilson** – has requested a DEI grant. District has also added a Psychologist a long time ago. Currently as added an FT MSW in their budge and invested in current software programs (alexa, maps, etc). Currently have 1 veteran in training to become a teacher and looking to increase the program.

**Bobbie Hughes-Granato** – after the Black Lives Matter movement – town created a Social Justice Coalition (she is not a group member) but states that the coalition is very successful and growing. The district is looking into CREC TRP Program. She stated that the district looking into a 10-year program for leasing equipment.

**Lydia Tedone** – Stated that she moved people and dollars around in her budget to accommodate DEI and feels very confident that it will be approved as no increase in budget will be added in doing so.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION: A Motion made by Meg Scata and seconded by Bobbie Hughes-Granato and passed unanimously to adjourn the Council Meeting at 1:20 pm**