

**CREC**  
Council Meeting  
3/20/2024  
11:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
In-Person and ZOOM Meeting (Link in Calendar Invite)

<b>COUNCIL MEMBERS</b>	<b>CREC ATTENDEES</b>
Tyron Harris, Chair	Greg Florio
Leonard Lockhart, Vice Chair	Sandy Cruz-Serrano
Meg Scata, Secretary/Treasurer	Carlos Figueroa
Lydia Tedone	Amy Karwan
Joan Pina	Mason Thrall
Karen Colt	Brian Greenleaf
Miriam Underwood	Jeff Ivory
Carl Stebbins	Deb Borrero
Bobbie Granato	Carol Dewey
Chris Campbell	Tim Sullivan
Philip Rigueur	Heather Tartaglia

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

3/20/2024 Council Meeting called to order at 11:33 a.m.

A. 1/17/24 Council Meeting

**MOTION:** A Motion to approve the January 17, 2024 minutes was made by Leonard Lockhart and seconded by Lydia Tedone. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**III. PRESENTATIONS to COUNCIL**

Dr. Florio combined his presentation of the CREC budget for the new fiscal year with his report. He thanked the board members that were in attendance in person for Board Member Appreciation Month. He also congratulated the Innovation Ravens who won their 2<sup>nd</sup> State Championship this year. Dr. Florio gave an overview of the CREC budget and spoke about changes across various CREC programs and also within CREC. Topics discussed as part of the budget were fees, tuitions, grants and changes in business services within CREC.

#### IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Meg Scata spoke about the policy committee which is meeting after this council meeting.

Lydia spoke about the early childhood committee meeting. Heather Tartaglia offered that they are going to schedule the next meeting at Wolcott in Windsor after the CREC annual meeting in May.

#### V. CONSENT AGENDA

##### A. General Items

- 1) Appointment of Auditor for Fiscal Years Ended 2024-2026 (Attachment A)
- 2) CT State Department Child Nutrition Addendum (Attachment B)

##### B. New Program:

- 1) Leadership Budget (Attachment C)
- 2) CT Teacher Residency Program 2023-2024 (Attachment D)

##### C. Continuing Programs

- 1) Student Services Office (Attachment E)
- 2) Farmington Valley Diagnostic Center (Attachment F)
- 3) Polaris Center (Attachment G)
- 4) STRIVE (Attachment H)
- 5) Early Intervention Birth to Three Services (Attachment I)
- 6) Head Start/Early Head Start Program (Attachment J)
- 7) Regional Fingerprinting Service (Attachment K)
- 8) CREC Wide Area Network (Attachment L)
- 9) Internal Staff Development (Attachment M)
- 10) Audit Required Budget Authorizations (Attachment N)

**MOTION** - A motion was made by Leonard Lockhart and seconded by Meg Scata. The motion passed unanimously to approve Attachments A-N.

#### VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director's Report was combined with the presentation to council.

## VII. COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Harris thanked the council's continued commitment and dedication to its goal.

## VIII. DELIBERATED ACTION

Carlos Figueroa informed the council that as of 7/1/2024, all schools are required to have an approved diversity plan. CREC is working to have all of its schools and programs updated by that time. He spoke about CREC's overall commitment to not only hiring more teachers of color, but also retention as well.

### 1) Capitol Region Education Council Increasing Educator Diversity Plan (Attachment A1)

**MOTION** - A motion was made by Leonard Lockhart and seconded by Lydia Tedone. The motion passed unanimously to approve Attachment A1.

### 2) Executive Director's Contract

Motion: Move that the CREC Council approves a new contract for the Executive Director for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027. Further, it authorizes the Council Chair to sign this agreement.

**NOTE:** This motion only extends the existing contract and terms for a new three year period. It makes no other changes to this contract.

**MOTION** - A motion was made by Meg Scata and seconded by Leonard Lockhart. The motion passed unanimously to approve the three year extension of the Executive Director's contract. It further authorizes the Council Chair to sign this agreement.

## IX. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Deb Borrero reported that public hearings are done and that there is positive reassurances from State Legislators that the 40M taken out of the education budget by the Governor would be put back in. The magnet school bill is in the appropriations committee as well as the trauma coordinators bill. There is funding for TRP for \$1.5M which has been maintained.

An extensive conversation was had regarding the steps council members as well as school board members can take to convince local government to put the \$40M back into the education budget.

**X. REPORTS**

A. 2023 – 2024 Financial Report (Attachment O)

As of our last council meeting the 2023-24 total approved budgets was \$432.7 million dollars of which \$600,000 was for school construction projects. That leaves a balance of \$432.1 million dollars.

With today's approval of the consent agenda, there is \$435 million dollars which excludes school construction.

**XI. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

None

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Motion made by Leonard Lockhart to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Lydia Tedone. The motion was passed unanimously at 12:43 p.m.