

**CREC**  
Council Meeting  
11/20/2024  
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	Greg Florio
Leonard Lockhart	Sandy Cruz-Serrano
Meg Scata	Carlos Figueroa
Joan Pina	Desi Nesmith
Steven Tatum	Heather Tartaglia
Chris Campbell	Aura Alvarado
Bobbie Granato	Debra Borrero
Julie Thompson	Sara Steinberg
Lydia Tedone	Sasha Douglas
Elizabeth LaBourious	Amy Karwan
Patricia McCarthy	Carol Dewey

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

11/20/2024 Council Meeting at 11:32 a.m.

A. 10/16/2024 Council Meeting

**MOTION:** A Motion to approve the October 16, 2024 minutes was made by Bobbie Granato and seconded by Leonard Lockhart. The motion was passed unanimously.

**II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Heather Tartaglia introduced two teachers who attended the meeting. Stephanie Blackburn is a teacher at River Street School and was also CREC’s 2024 Teacher of the Year. Also in attendance was Sherry Witherall, a teacher at the John J. Allison Center. Stephanie and Sherry are doing the aspiring special education leaders’ program.

**III. PRESENTATIONS to COUNCIL**

Heather Tartaglia and Sara Steinberg presented on Student Services/Farmington Valley Diagnostic Center. Sara went into depth regarding the program, services, process, and mission. Farmington Valley

Diagnostic helps students who have behavioral issues. The goal is to return the student to their district school with the tools needed to be a better student and person.

Heather discussed the RESC Alliance outlining the training and support, guidelines, IEP training and Paraeducator training modules.

#### **IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Meg Scata reported on the Audit & Finance Committee meeting held last week. The committee voted on the CREC employees that have authorization to sign checks, adding Desi Nesmith, since Sandy Cruz-Serrano is retiring in December.

They also discussed the approval of a head start grant for the next five years. Lots of work also has to be done outside in the recreational area at River Street School as it was flooded and damage was done.

#### **V. CONSENT AGENDA**

##### **A. General Items**

- 1) Authorization to Sign Checks (Attachment A)
- 2) Authorization to Sign Contracts (Attachment B)
- 3) U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services...Renewal Application for the Head Start/Early Head Start Grant Program (Attachment C)
- 4) CT Dept. of Economic and Community Development...River Street School Renovations (Attachment D)

##### **B. 2024-2025 Revised Programs**

- 1) Summer Enrichment Program (Attachment E)

**MOTION:** A Motion to approve Consent Agenda Attachments A through E was made by Leonard Lockhart and seconded by Julie Thompson. The motion was passed unanimously.

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

Dr. Florio thanked Heather and Sara for their presentations on Farmington Valley Diagnostic Center and RESC Alliance. He talked about how Farmington Valley Diagnostic Center has always been at the top of the list of ideal regional programs for the past nine years.

Sasha Douglas spoke about the FAFSA process, the issues that were present last year, how those were addressed and what is being done to make sure that the application process is smooth going forward. She reported that CREC was chosen as one of the districts that would be allowed to have their students apply for FAFSA early this year.

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

Mr. Harris wished the council and their families a peaceful and joyous Thanksgiving.

## **VIII. DELIBERATED ACTION**

N/A

## **IX. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Deb Borrero reported on the post-election status in Connecticut, specifically with respect to education. In the State Senate, Democrats increased their number by one seat. The new breakdown is 25 Democrats and 11 Republicans. Democrats have veto-proof majority. In the State House, Democrats added seats to their caucus so they are veto-proof there as well.

There are new legislators in various districts. Unfortunately, we lost Rep. McCarty who was the Education Committee Ranking Member. RESC Alliance met with Rep. Leeper who is the potential new House co-chair for the Education Committee.

There will be a breakfast on November 22<sup>nd</sup> with the Hartford area Superintendents and their business managers to talk about the upcoming legislative session.

A Legislative Committee Meeting is scheduled immediately following the council meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup> and a formal invitation will be forthcoming.

## **X. REPORTS**

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

Carlos Figueroa presented the financial report. 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter revenue was \$160M which included \$87M from the magnet school tuitions which makes up about 7% of payments received thus far. Expenditures for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter was \$70M.

## **XI. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

N/A

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Motion made by Leonard Lockhart, seconded by Meg Scata and unanimously passed to adjourn the council meeting at 12:35 p.m.