

**CREC**  
Council Meeting  
2/19/2025  
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	Desi Nesmith
Meg Scata	Carlos Figueroa
Joan Pina	Heather Tartaglia
Steven Tatum	Sasha Douglas
Patrice McCarthy	Eddie Miranda
Bobbie Hughes Granato	Carol Dewey
Christopher Campbell	Debra Borrero
Kim Sullivan	Aura Alvarado
Lydia Tedone	Amy Karwan
Miriam Underwood	

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

2/19/2025 Council Meeting called to order at 11:32 a.m.

A. 1/15/2025 Council Meeting

**MOTION:** A Motion to approve the January 15, 2025 minutes was made by Leonard Lockhart and seconded by Bobbie Hughes Granato. The motion was passed unanimously.

**II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**III. PRESENTATIONS to COUNCIL**

Magnet School Presentation by Sasha Douglas, Elaina Brachman and Dana Turnquest. The focus of the presentation was on restorative practices and how that impacts not only students but also staff. They discussed the meaning of restorative practices as well as the benefits of having such programs in schools and programs. CREC schools and programs have what we call Circles where students (and sometimes staff) come together to discuss any issues going on or just to talk about their day, feelings, and emotions. Students, known as Circle Keepers, joined us from two CREC schools, namely Arts Academy High School and Impact Academy. The students talked about their roles, why they chose to become Circle Keepers, the positive impact of restorative practices and how they implement those skills into their everyday lives.

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

Meg Scata gave the finance and audit committee report with respect to the meeting that was held on February 12, 2025. The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report was discussed for fiscal year 2024. The audit came through without any issues. There are revisions to multiple programs which require extra funding, including the Sheff Technical Services, Magnet Schools Assistance, Open Choice for Early Beginning, Head Start/Early Head Start and Statewide Family Engagement Center. Additional money for new programs including employee benefits and new hire processes was added.

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

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

- 1) Audit Required Budget Authorizations (Attachment A)

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

- 1) Sheff Technical Services Agreement (Attachment B)
- 2) Magnet School Assistance Program (Attachment C)
- 3) Open Choice Early Beginnings Grant (Attachment D)
- 4) Head Start/Early Head Start Program (Attachment E)
- 5) Statewide Family Engagement Center (Attachment F)

##### **C. 2025-2026 New Programs**

- 1) STRIVE (Attachment G)
- 2) Regional Fingerprinting Service (Attachment H)
- 3) CREC Wide Area Network (Attachment I)

**MOTION:** A Motion to approve Consent Agenda Attachments A through I was made by Leonard Lockhart and seconded by Joan Pina. The motion was passed unanimously.

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

None

## VII. COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Harris thanked council members for their continued dedication to educating and shaping the future of our students.

## VIII. DELIBERATED ACTION

### A. Policy Approval (Attachment J)

The following policies/regulations were approved by the Policy Committee on January 15, 2025, as a first reading:

- 1) Proposed Revised 4131P – Staff Development
- 2) Proposed Revised 5131.911P – School Climate (Previously titled “Bullying”)

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

- 1) Proposed Revised 4131P – Staff Development
- 2) Proposed Revised 5131.911P – School Climate (Previously titled “Bullying”)

**MOTION:** A Motion to approve Policies 1 and 2 of Attachment J was made by Leonard Lockhart and seconded by Meg Scata. The motion was passed unanimously.

## IX. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Patrice McCarthy reported on a press conference scheduled for that morning at 10:30 called by the leadership of the House and Senate. There will be a special session next week to appropriate an additional \$40M for the current year, Special Education excess cost grant. Although that is only half of what was requested, it is still a huge step in the right direction. The Appropriations Committee will meet tomorrow to hear the education portion of the budget. The ultimate issue, per usual, is getting the State to approve more money for magnet schools and helping individual districts cover the rising cost of magnet schools.

## X. REPORTS

### A. Financial Report (Attachment K)

As of the last council meeting, the 2024-2025 approved budget was \$439.6M. As a result of today's council approval of the consent agenda, the new total budget is \$447M.

## XI. COUNCIL COMMENTS

None

**XII. ADJOURNMENT MOTION:** Motion made by Leonard Lockhart and seconded by Joan Pina. The motion was passed unanimously to adjourn the council meeting at 12:40 p.m.