

CREC

Council Meeting

01/18/2023

11:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

IN-PERSON & ZOOM Meeting

COUNCIL MEMBERS	CREC ATTENDEES
Dilip Desai – Rocky Hill	Greg Florio
Miriam Underwood – Ellington	Sandy Cruz-Serrano
Meg Scata – Portland	Tim Sullivan
Lydia Tedone – Simsbury	Carlos Figueroa
Bobbi Granato – Wethersfield	Heather Tartaglia
Leonard Lockhart – Windsor	Jeff Ivory
John Vecchitto – Region 10	Mason Thrall
Julie Thompson - Glastonbury	Amy Karwan
Chris Theissing - Somers	Aura Alvarado
Kim Oliver – Hartford	Deb Borrero

I. CALL TO ORDER and APPROVAL of MINUTES

01/18/2023 Council Meeting @ 11:35 am

A. 11/16/22 Council Meeting

MOTION: A Motion to approve the November 16, 2022 minutes was made by Meg Scata and seconded by Bobbie Hughes-Granato and passed unanimously.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

III. PRESENTATIONS to COUNCIL

The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report was presented by Dr. Florio and Jeff Ivory gave an overview of the report. The general fund went up from 47 to 40.7 million up from 39.5 million and we currently have no debt. We had some change in our fixed asset policies so the total went down 5.7 million from 508.4 million down to 502.7 million. On page 10 table 3 and page 11 table 4 shows that the earned fund balance-the revenue over expansion expenditures went up 2.7 million. District information starts on page 121 that includes expenditures per town, identifies which schools students attend, etc.

The CLA auditor’s letter was received and there were no major conditions or findings.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Meg Scata reported that the Finance and Audit Committee met last week, and went over 140 pages and we are in good shape. Besides the usual money from the State for transportation is still there, but it's being worked on.

Dr. Florio advised of an item that was added to the consent agenda for approval, which is a revision to the head start/early head start grant for this year. Some carry over money from this year's budget was moved and will be used to cover capital costs incurred to renovate the Swift center space for the Head Start program in the north-end of Hartford.

Early Childhood Committee - None

Policy Committee – Heather Tartaglia discussed the policy's that were modified in accordance to public acts.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. 2022-2023 Revisions

1. Head Start/Early Head Start Program 2022-2023 (Revision) (Attachment A)

MOTION - A motion was made by Meg Scata seconded by John Vecchitto and passed unanimously to approve Attachments A.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Florio distributed copies of the annual report and Aura Alvarado explained the design. The annual report is on the CREC website.

VII. COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT

Lydia Tedone wished that all the council members were doing well as they enter into their budget season and encouraged them to share the information provided at this meeting during their budget preparation and with their superintendents and board members.

VIII. DELIBERATED ACTION**Policy Approval (Attachment B)**

The following policies/regulations were approved by the Policy Committee on 11/16/2022 as a first reading:

1. Proposed New Policy 6172P – Gifted and Talented
2. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 3515P/R – Community Use of CREC Facilities
3. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 3516P/R – Safety
4. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 3517P/R - Security
5. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 4118.11P/R – Non-Discrimination
6. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 4152.6P/R – Personal Leaves
7. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 5118.1P/R – Homeless Students
8. Proposed Revised Regulation 5145.5R – Sexual Harassment
9. Proposed Revised Policy 6142P – Basic Instructional Program
10. Proposed Revised Policy 6142.10P – Student Wellness
11. Proposed Revised Policy 7551P – Naming of Facility

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

1. Proposed New Policy 6172P – Gifted and Talented
2. Proposed Revised Policy 3515P – Community Use of CREC Facilities
3. Proposed Revised Policy 3516P– Safety
4. Proposed Revised Policy 3517P – Security
5. Proposed Revised Policy 4118.11P – Non-Discrimination
6. Proposed Revised Policy 4152.6P – Personal Leaves
7. Proposed Revised Policy 5118.1P – Homeless Students
8. Proposed Revised Policy 6142P – Basic Instructional Program
9. Proposed Revised Policy 6142.10P – Student Wellness
10. Proposed Revised Policy 7551P – Naming of Facility

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval by CREC Council

MOTION - A motion was made by Kim Oliver and seconded by Meg Scata and passed unanimously to approve Attachments B.

VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Debra Borrero discussed details of the Legislative Forum that will be held at the State Capitol on February 16, 2023 from 8 am-10 am in room 310. Debra Borrero encouraged council members to attend and extend the invitation to their superintendents and local legislators, and especially invite the newer legislators. There are approximately 30 percent new legislators, and about 45 members on the Education Committee.

Next month, Representative Jeff Curry who is now the new house co-chair of the Education Committee and Lisa Hammersley from the School and State finance project will be here to go over their major initiative, which is also CREC's major initiative on refinancing the ECS formula.

Debra Borrero shared and discussed the Legislative Priorities one-pager. Tim Sullivan gave an explanation on what the escalator (escalation cost of living) is in the new formula per Lydia's request. Dr. Florio noted that this formula is just for regular education and does not include special education. If a child comes to a magnet school requiring specialized services, the sending district will be responsible for those costs based on the cost for regular education services.

The council's is encouraged to participate and have district participation at the Education Committee and the Appropriations Committee public hearings. Dates will be shared as soon as they are available.

VIII. REPORTS

A. Financial Report (Attachment C)

Sandra Cruz-Serrano reviewed the Financial. As of the last Council meeting the 2023 total approved budgets was \$396 million of which \$2.9 million were for school construction projects that we are closing out. Leaving a balance of \$393.1 million in approved budgets. Today the increase in the head start and early head start budget was approved so the new total is \$397 million of which \$393.9 million is for CREC programs and services, not including school construction. We are still working diligently to get the State to pay us \$10.4 million for transportation.

IX. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Lydia made suggestions for future council discussion including equity, homelessness, and undocumented student.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion made by Meg Scata, seconded by Bobbie Hughes-Granato, and passed unanimously to adjourn the council meeting at 12:45pm.