

TO: CREC Council and Superintendents
FROM: Greg J. Florio, Ed.D.
DATE: September 21, 2022

CREC

Council Meeting Minutes 9/21/22
11:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

IN-PERSON & ZOOM Meeting**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Jackie Blea
Lou Daniels
Miriam Underwood
Kim Oliver
Merrill Gay
Becky Tyrrell
John Vecchitto
Lydia Tedone
Maureen Sattan
Bobbie Hughes-Granato
Leonard Lockhart
Meg Scatta
Donald Harris
Tyron Harris
Larry Rodriguez
Kristina Gilton

CREC ATTENDEES

Greg Florio
Sandy Cruz-Serrano
Tim Sullivan
Carlos Figueroa
Heather Tartaglia
Mason Thrall
Jeff Ivory
Amy Karwan
Deb Borrero
Aura Alvarado

CALL TO ORDER and APPROVAL of MINUTES

9/21/22 Council Meeting @ 11:37 am

MOTION: A Motion to approve the June 15, 2022 minutes was made by Donald Harris and seconded by Leonard Lockhart and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

PRESENTATIONS to COUNCIL

Robin Cecere was not present, therefore her presentation was tabled and she will be invited to present at the October 19, 2022 meeting

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Florio discussed the beginning of the school year and mentioned that this year seemed to be much more positive and different than it had been the last few years. He also gave an update on CREC's support to the island of Puerto Rico after the devastation of Hurricane Fiona. He then opened the meeting to a roundtable discussion for division leaders to share their thoughts about the beginning of the school year.

Dr. Florio discussed the Back to School video and music video presented at Fall Staff, which he will share with the council after the meeting. He introduced Aura Alvarado who gave an update on the Back to School event and Fall Staff events. Lydia Tedone encouraged the Council members to donate a backpack and participate in the Back to School event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Kim Oliver was not available to report on behalf of the Finance and Audit Committee.

Tim Sullivan felt there was a real positive spirit in the schools this year, much different than last year. Students seem to be more energized and happy. We have over nine thousand students now in the magnet schools. Students were added to programs as part of the Scheff agreement, and a new pre-k facility was opened. We continue to have staffing issues and we are working hard to fill teachers, para-professionals and assistant instructor positions.

Heather Tartaglia also discussed the good start to a school year and staffing challenges, but overall a good beginning to the school year.

Sandy Cruz Serrano reported that Head Start was off to a great start with 80% enrollment and few vacancies. In Carlos' absence, Sandy discussed they HR is addressing the staffing issues and have put together a retention program that will offer bonuses for our para professionals that we will be paid throughout the year to make sure that we keep the para's that we have. In addition to that, an employee referral program for employee referrals will be launched so that we can get our employees engaged in helping us find additional staff, mostly para's.

Mason Thrall gave an update on facilities projects such as the Pre-K building and the Learning Corridor. The technology department has provided over 3,000 new devices to the kids. Also working on enhancing our cybersecurity and implemented the multi-function authentications crowd strike. In the Transportation department we had a good start, but still have some buses running late mostly due to driver shortages, but complaints are down from last year. Also, expressed concern about the staffing shortage in drivers, security guards and food service.

CONSENT AGENDA

General Item

Authorization to Sign Checks (Attachment A)

MOTION - A motion was made by John Vecchitto seconded by Don Harris and passed unanimously to approve Attachment A.

Authorization to Sign Contracts (Attachment B)

MOTION - A motion was made by Meg Scata seconded by Bobbie Hughes-Granato and passed unanimously to approve Attachment B.

DELIBERATED ACTION

None.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Patrice McCarthy reported

REPORTS

A. Financial Report (Attachment C) Sandy Cruz-Serrano presented and discussed the financial report

COUNCIL COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Motion made by Donald Harris and seconded by Meg Scatta and passed unanimously to adjourn the council meeting at 1:00 pm.