

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Greg J. Florio, Ed.D.

CREC
Council Annual Meeting
5/21/2025
11:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
In-Person and Via Zoom

COUNCIL MEMBERS:	CREC ATTENDEES:
Tyron Harris	Greg Florio
Leonard Lockhart	Desi Nesmith
Meg Scata	Carlos Figueroa
Lydia Tedone	Heather Tartaglia
Chris Campbell	Mason Thrall
Bobbie Granato	Eddie Miranda
Miriam Underwood	Amy Karwan
Steven Tatum	Sasha Douglas
Kim Sullivan	Sarah Vocca
Joan Pina	Elsie Gonzalez
	Debra Borrero
	Kathy Randall
GUESTS:	Elaine Pertillar
Bruce Douglas	Elba Ramos
Patrice McCarthy, CABA	Danah Serrano-Baez
Sandy Cruz-Serrano	Richard Serrano
Kim Stroud	Nick Chanese
	Alisa Collins
	Carl Dewey
	Callie Bostic-Gardner
Brenda Laureano-Geer	SUPERINTENDENTS:
Ysabel Plasencia	Dr. Tyrrell Hill, Windsor
Patricia Davis	Tracie Peterson, South Windsor
Amanda Garcia, Farmington H.S. Counselor	
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:	
Arannie Aquino	
Gabrielle Blaise	
Tyler Burney	
Dalayjha Hightower	
Saidy Plasencia	
Jonathan De Caro	

I. CALL TO ORDER and APPROVAL of MINUTES

5/21/2025 Annual Council Meeting @ 11:44 a.m. by Tyron Harris, Chairperson.

A. 5/15/24 Council Meeting

MOTION: A Motion to approve the May 15, 2024 minutes was made by Leonard Lockhart and seconded by Meg Scata. The motion was passed unanimously.

B. 4/16/2025 Council Meeting

MOTION: A Motion to approve the April 16, 2025 minutes was made by Leonard Lockhart and seconded by Meg Scata. The motion was passed unanimously.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. General Items

1. Authorization to Sign Checks (Attachment A)
2. Authorization to Sign Contracts (Attachment B)
3. Cost Allocation Plan (Attachment C)
4. School and Libraries Universal Service Program (Attachment D)
5. Academy of Computer Science and Engineering Middle School; Authorization to consider Konover Proposal (Attachment E)

B. 2024-2025 Revised Programs

1. STRIVE (Attachment F)
2. Central Office Facility Cost Center (Attachment G)
3. CREC Montessori Magnet School (Attachment H)
4. Glastonbury-East Hartford Elementary Magnet School (Attachment I)
5. CREC Academy of Aerospace and Engineering (Attachment J)
6. CREC Museum Academy (Attachment K)
7. CREC Academy of International Studies (Attachment L)
8. CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts Magnet School (Attachment M)
9. CREC Academy of Computer Science & Engineering (Attachment N)

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10. CREC Academy of Computer Science & Engineering Middle School (Attachment O)
11. CREC Academy of International Studies Elementary (Attachment P)
12. CREC Reggio Magnet School of the Arts (Attachment Q)
13. CREC Academy of Science and Innovation (Attachment R)
14. CREC Discovery Academy (Attachment S)
15. CREC Ana Grace Academy of the Arts Elementary Magnet School (Attachment T)
16. CREC Ana Grace Academy of the Arts Magnet Middle School (Attachment U)
17. CREC Academy of Aerospace and Engineering Elementary Magnet School (Attachment V)
18. Leadership Budget (Attachment W)

C. 2025-2026 New Programs

1. Central Office Facility Cost Center (Attachment X)
2. River Street School (Attachment Y)
3. Integrated Program Models (Attachment Z)
4. CREC Preschool at Progress Drive (Attachment AA)
5. CREC Montessori Magnet School (Attachment BB)
6. Glastonbury-East Hartford Elementary Magnet School (Attachment CC)
7. CREC Academy of Aerospace and Engineering (Attachment DD)
8. CREC Museum Academy (Attachment EE)
9. CREC Academy of International Studies (Attachment FF)
10. CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts Magnet School (Attachment GG)
11. CREC University of Hartford Magnet School (Attachment HH)
12. CREC Academy of Computer Science & Engineering (Attachment II)
13. CREC Academy of Computer Science & Engineering Middle School (Attachment JJ)
14. CREC Academy of International Studies Elementary (Attachment KK)
15. CREC Reggio Magnet School of the Arts (Attachment LL)
16. CREC Academy of Science and Innovation (Attachment MM)
17. CREC Discovery Academy (Attachment NN)
18. CREC Ana Grace Academy of the Arts Elementary Magnet School (Attachment OO)
19. CREC Ana Grace Academy of the Arts Magnet Middle School (Attachment PP)

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- 20. CREC Academy of Aerospace and Engineering Elementary Magnet School (Attachment QQ)
- 21. CREC Magnet School Office (Attachment RR)
- 22. Magnet Summer Program (Attachment SS)
- 23. Project Prevent (Attachment TT)
- 24. Community Education Services (Attachment UU)
- 25. Statewide Family Engagement Center (SFEC) (Attachment VV)
- 26. CREC Resource Group (Attachment WW)
- 27. Leadership Budget (Attachment XX)

MOTION: A Motion to approve Attachments A through XX was made by Leonard Lockhart and seconded by Lydia Tedone. The motion was passed unanimously

D. Reports

- 1. Financial Report (Attachment YY)

III. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT (ATTACHMENT B)

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate for election at the Annual meeting on May 21, 2025.

- A. All CREC Board of Directors Members and CREC Officers to remain for additional year with the addition of the below to the CREC Board Members.
- B. As CREC Officers: 2025-2026

Chairperson	Leonard Lockhart, Windsor
Interim Vice-Chair	Lydia Tedone, Simsbury
Secretary/Treasurer	Meg Scata, Portland

MOTION: A motion was made by Lydia Tedone and seconded by Bobbie Granato. The motion passed unanimously to approve the 2025-2026 CREC Council Officers.

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IV. CHAIRPERSON’S WELCOME REMARKS – TYRON HARRIS

Mr. Harris thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He thanked the council members for their leadership and involvement. He wished Sandy Cruz-Serrano and Kim Stroud well on their retirement journey and acknowledged their years of dedication to CREC and children/students. Mr. Harris mentioned the upcoming year and looking forward to serving as part of the council together with other members to help all students in Connecticut get a quality education.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S WELCOME – DR. GREG FLORIO

Dr. Florio thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He thanked Kathy Randall and Elaine Pertillar of the CREC Foundation for their work in the scholarship process for this year, as well as the Foundation members for their time in reviewing all scholarship entries. Dr. Florio also acknowledged and welcomed Dr. Tyrrell Hill, Superintendent of Windsor Public Schools who was in attendance.

VI. SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS

The first scholarship awarded was the Bruce E. Douglas Scholarship for Overcoming Adversity. The scholarship was awarded to three students. The students were Tyler Burney, of Southington High School (Open Choice), Jonathan De Caro, of Academy of Aerospace & Engineering, and Saidy Plasencia, also of the Academy of Aerospace & Engineering.

The second scholarship awarded was the Kristina Star Jordan Social Justice Scholarship. The two students awarded this scholarship were Arranie Aquino, of Farmington High School (Open Choice) and Dalayjha Hightower, of Simsbury High School (Open Choice).

The next scholarships were awarded to Open Choice students. They were the Mary Carroll-Kennedy Scholarship and the Marjorie Little Book Award. The student awarded the Mary Carroll-Kennedy Scholarship was Gabrielle Blaise, of Avon High School. The two students awarded the Marjorie Little Book Award were Melinda Nondini Das, of Wethersfield High School and Shaki Neal, of Plainville High School.

VII. JOHN J. ALLISON LEGACY AWARD

This year’s John J. Allison Legacy Award was posthumously awarded to Alfred “Joe” Townsley, Ed.D. Bruce Douglas, CREC’s former Executive Director, spoke about his relationship with Joe and how Joe was instrumental in helping Bruce navigate being Executive Director at CREC. Joe was amazing at dealing with teachers and local school personnel.

Joe worked tirelessly towards a diverse workforce and was excellent in recruiting teachers to make that a reality. He also worked to make sure there was equity within the schools and helped in the

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development of eighteen magnet schools. Joe nurtured ethnic relationships and a multi-cultural student body.

Bruce spoke about the source of inspiration that Joe was not only to him, but all those around him. Angel Otero, the head security guard at CREC Central, accepted the award on Joe's behalf. Joe and Angel had a 20 year friendship prior to Joe's passing away in November 2024.

VIII. CREC HALL OF LEADERSHIP AWARD PRESENTATION

This year, CREC presented two former employees with the Hall of Leadership Award. The first was Sandy Cruz-Serrano, who served as Deputy Executive Director for CREC, and recently retired. Greg Florio and Bruce Douglas spoke about what an inspiration Sandy is and what an important part of CREC she was.

The second recipient was Kim Stroud, who spent over thirty years as a teacher and leader at the CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts. Nick Chanese, former principal of the CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts spoke about how Kim brought such life and dedication to the school and her students. Her spoke fondly of Kim's willingness to help and assist wherever she was needed. Kim retired from CREC in 2024.

IX. YEAR IN REVIEW

Dr. Florio touched on some key events throughout the year. They included CREC's Back to School Block Party, which happens annually in August at CREC's main campus in Hartford. At minimum, 1,200 backpacks full of supplies are given out to area students in order to have them ready to start their school year the tools they need. There is food, ice cream, music, Zumba dancing, and other activities for the community.

CREC's 59th Fall Staff was also highlighted. Fall Staff happens annually towards the end of August wherein all employees and personnel working at CREC come together for a day of celebration of all things CREC and the presentation of Core Value awards to nominated staff. It is a day filled with happiness, laughter and community for CRECies.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m. by Tyron Harris, Chairperson of the CREC Council.