

CREC
Council Meeting
9/17/2025
11:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
In-Person and ZOOM Meeting (Link in Calendar Invite)

COUNCIL MEMBERS	CREC ATTENDEES
Leonard Lockhart, Chair	Greg Florio
Lydia Tedone, Co-Chair	Desi Nesmith
Meg Scata, Secretary/Treasurer	Heather Tartaglia
Tyron Harris	Sasha Douglas
Joan Pina	Mason Thrall
Steven Tatum	Aura Alvarado
Bobbie Hughes Granato	Debra Borrero
Christopher Campbell	Elsie Gonzalez
Elizabeth LeBourious	Amy Karwan
Miriam Underwood	Carol Dewey
	Sarah Vocca
	Nick Chanese
Patrice McCarthy – CABA	Eddie Miranda

I. CALL TO ORDER and APPROVAL of MINUTES

9/17/2025 Council Meeting at 12:52 p.m.

A. 5/21/2025 Council Meeting

MOTION: A Motion to approve the May 21, 2025 minutes was made by Tyron Harris and seconded by Bobbie Granato. The vote was passed unanimously.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

NONE

III. PRESENTATIONS to COUNCIL

Legislative Requirement: Staff Retention Report and Report of Community Partners

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Audit Committee Report given by Meg Scata.

Meg Scata reported on the Finance and Audit Committee meeting held on September 10, 2025. The Head Start budget was approved for five years.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

None.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Florio praised a smooth opening to the new school year and thanked Leadership for their contribution. He thanked Mason Thrall for overseeing Transportation and a smooth start as CREC transports over 9,100 students daily along 700 routes. Dr. Florio briefly spoke about the back to school event and Fallstaff, thanking Aura Alvarado and her team for making sure both events were successful.

Dr. Douglas spoke about her visits to schools on the first day and the slogan for this school year which is Defying Gravity.

Heather Tartaglia also reported a smooth start to the school year. CREC has submitted a grant application to renovate the kitchen at Wolcott to be able to provide meals to students including Head Start. The enrollment numbers for Head Start is strong this year.

Dr. Florio concluded by reminding the council that the 2025 annual CREC golf tournament is scheduled for October 6th. The golf tournament raises money for various scholarships awarded by CREC each year.

VII. COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Lockhart thank everyone for their efforts with respect to the back-to-school event and Fallstaff. He spoke warmly about being present at both and the important work done by CREC to educate Connecticut children. He expressed excitement for the new year and the importance of CREC's contribution to education.

VIII. DELIBERATED ACTION

A. Motion to appoint an Executive Director for the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC)

MOTION: Move that the CREC Council appoint Desi Nesmith as Executive Director of the Capitol Region Education Council effective February 1, 2026. Further, the CREC Council authorizes the Chairperson to negotiate and execute a contract with Desi Nesmith for the period of February 1, 2026 through January 30, 2029.

A Motion to approve the appointment of Desi Nesmith as CREC's Executive Director effective February 1, 2026 through January 30, 2029 was made by Lydia Tedone and seconded by Meg Scata. The vote was passed unanimously.

B. Email Council Vote on CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts Renovation

By July 3, 2025, all approvals were received by email vote from the CREC Council in reference to the application for the renovation of the CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts.

The resolutions approved include:

- Authorization to apply for the grant;
- Appointment of the existing School Building Committee as the building committee for this project;
- Approval of the local funding commitment; and
- Approval of the educational specifications.

These actions are recorded in accordance with the requirements of the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services (CT DAS) school construction application process. The approvals will be noted in the record and formally ratified at the next official meeting.

C. By July 24, 2025, all approvals were received by email vote from the CREC Council in reference to the application for a construction grant for renovations at the CREC Early Learning Center at Roger Wolcott (Windsor), specifically a reauthorization of the Educational Specifications highlighting the language requirements.

The resolutions approved include marked as **Attachment B**:

- Revised Educational Specifications;
- Revised Resolutions for Wolcott; and
- Local Funding Acknowledgement.

These actions are recorded in accordance with the requirements of the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services (CT DAS) school construction application process. The approvals will be noted in the record and formally ratified at the next official meeting.

IX. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Patrice McCarthy (CABE) – Regular session is over and there are questions as to whether there will be a Special Session. If a Special Session is held, there are several pieces of education legislation they will add to the docket for review.

Debra Borrero reported that there are ongoing conversations amongst the RESC's regarding legislation, Special Session and lack of magnet school funding.

X. REPORTS

A. Financial Report (Attachment C)

Eddie Miranda reported on the CREC financials. CREC is currently working on an audit. The 2025-26 approved budget totals \$450M without construction costs.

XI. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Lydia Tedone reminded council members that the annual CREC golf tournament is taking place on Monday, October 6th at the Hartford Golf Club and encouraged all members to attend at least the dinner portion of the event. Past CREC scholarship recipients make an appearance and speak about the impact their scholarships have made in their higher education journey.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: CREC council chair, Leonard Lockhart adjourned the meeting at 1:31 p.m.