

CREC
Council Meeting
11/19/2025
11:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
In-Person and ZOOM Meeting (Link in Calendar Invite)

COUNCIL MEMBERS	CREC ATTENDEES
Leonard Lockhart	Greg Florio
Lydia Tedone	Desi Nesmith
Meg Scata	Carlos Figueroa
Chris Campbell	Heather Tartaglia
Tyron Harris	Dr. Sasha Douglas
Miriam Underwood	Carol Dewey
Steven Tatum	Amy Karwan
Bobbie Granato	Aura Alvarado
	Elsie Gonzalez
Patrice McCarthy - CABA	Debra Borrero
Penhansa Samarakoon (Student Liaison)	Eddie Miranda
Rishita Kulkarni (Student Liaison)	Mason Thrall

I. CALL TO ORDER and APPROVAL of MINUTES

11/19/2025 Council Meeting called to order at 11:30 a.m.

A. 10/15/2025 Council Meeting

MOTION: A Motion to approve the October 15, 2025 minutes was made by Meg Scata and seconded by Chris Campbell. The vote was passed unanimously.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

NONE

III. PRESENTATIONS to COUNCIL

NONE

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Meg Scata gave the finance and audit committee report referencing the attachments to the agenda, with special attention to the 4 motions with respect to Wolcott School alterations.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. General Items

- 1) Authorization to Sign Checks (**Attachment A**)
- 2) Authorization to Sign Contracts (**Attachment B**)

MOTION: A Motion to approve Consent Agenda items Attachments A and B was made by Leonard Lockhart and seconded by Bobbie Granato. The vote was passed unanimously.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Sasha Douglas gave a report with respect to the 1st quarter of the school year ending. Schools are currently preparing for conferences. They are working to make sure that they are reviewing CREC benchmarks of curriculum for students. Although funding has been reduced, there is still money there to help. Students across CREC schools have come together to put together donation drives, namely for Hurricane Marisa relief and local food shelters. Holiday exhibitions and concerts are currently happening at various CREC schools and programs.

Heather Tartaglia reported on student services. Enrollment is strong and there is a waitlist due to the number of referrals being made. CREC is working with EdAdvance to initiate a transition program for 18-22 with Autism to be held at CCSU. There will be two open houses scheduled for district personnel to hear information on this program which is scheduled for a July 2026 debut. There is a new five-year grant for CREC's Head Start program. Staffing is stronger than it's been, and employment vacancies are low. She thanked Jennie Shea who has been taking on multiple roles over the past several months.

Dr. Florio spoke about an initiative going on now between CREC and the RESC Alliance with respect to bringing together key leaders to work together on key issues affecting us. Some issues he highlighted were AI, operational funding and healthcare costs.

VII. COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Lockhart thanked Dr. Florio for taking him to Montessori for a tour and visit with teachers and students. He sat with the kids for instruction and teaching.

This same morning, Mr. Lockhart officially signed the agreement for Desi Nesmith to become CREC's next Executive Director beginning on February 1, 2026.

He took the opportunity to inform the council that Lydia Tedone's last meeting is today, but she will be thanked at the annual meeting in May 2026.

Mr. Lockhart reminded the council of the NSBA annual conference and that he will be in attendance and invited other council members to attend.

VIII. DELIBERATED ACTION

A. 2025-2026 Revised Programs

- 1) Wolcott School Alterations (**Attachment C**)
 - a. Approval to Apply for and Accept Grant
 - b. Establishment of Building Committee
 - c. Authority for the Preparation of Schematic Drawings and Outline Specifications
 - d. Approval of Educational Specifications
- 2) Wolcott School Alterations – Wing B (**Attachment D**)
 - a. Local Funding Authorization

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

- 1) Move that Council authorizes the Capitol Region Education Council to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the proposed Alteration at Wing B at the CREC Head Start at Roger Wolcott, with a total project cost of \$4,887,928.00, inclusive of costs awarded under Public Act 21-151, Section 198.

MOTION: *A Motion to approve Recommended Action #1 above was made by Meg Scata and seconded by Bobbie Granato. The Motion was passed unanimously.*

- 2) Move that Council authorizes the establishment of the School Building Committee. The building committee, consisting of the existing School Building Committee, is established as the building committee concerning the proposed Alteration of Wing B at the CREC Head Start at Roger Wolcott, with a total project cost of \$4,887,928.00.

MOTION: A Motion to approve Recommended Action #2 above was made by Chris Campbell and seconded by Miriam Underwood. The Motion was passed unanimously.

- 3) Move that Council authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the proposed Alteration of Wing B at the CREC Head Start at Roger Wolcott, with a total project cost of \$4,887,928.00, inclusive of costs awarded under Public Act 24-151, Section 198.

MOTION: A Motion to approve Recommended Action #3 above was made by Meg Scata and seconded by Lydia Tedone. The Motion was passed unanimously.

- 4) Move that Council approves the revision of the Educational Specifications for the proposed Alteration of Wing B at the CREC Head Start at Roger Wolcott, to be included as part of the school construction grant application (EDO49) to the Department of Administrative Services, Office of School Construction Grants and Review.

MOTION: A Motion to approve Recommended Action #4 above was made by Bobbie Granato and seconded by Lydia Tedone. The Motion was passed unanimously.

- 5) Move that Council approves the local funding authorization for the Alteration of Wing B at the CREC Head Start at Roger Wolcott with a contingency fund of \$690,527.00 for this project.

MOTION: A Motion to approve Recommended Action #5 above was made by Meg Scata and seconded by Chris Campbell. The Motion was passed unanimously.

B. Policy Approval (Attachment E)

The following policies/regulations were approved by the Policy Committee on September 17, 2025, as a first reading:

1. Proposed Revised Policy 3100P – Budget Planning
2. Proposed Revised Regulation 3100R – Budget Planning
3. Proposed Revised Policy 4111P – Recruitment and Selection
4. Proposed Revised Regulation 4111R – Recruitment and Selection
5. Proposed Revised Policy 6114P – Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness
6. Proposed Revised Regulation 6114R – Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness

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

1. Proposed Revised Policy 3100P – Budget Planning
2. Proposed Revised Policy 4111P – Recruitment and Selection
3. Proposed Revised Policy 6114P – Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness

MOTION: A Motion was made by Chris Campbell to approve policies 1 through 3 set forth as Attachment E for 2nd reading and seconded by Leonard Lockhart. The Motion was passed unanimously.

IX. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Debra Borrero spoke about the Special Session which took place last week with respect to housing issues that the Governor had vetoed before. A \$500 million contingency from the rainy-day fund was approved for social services funding due to federal cuts to SNAP and other social programs

There will be a short Session this year which begins on February 4, 2026. The legislative agenda will be shared at the January council meeting.

X. REPORTS**A. Financial Report (Attachment F)**

Eddie Miranda talked about the financial report which respect to expenditures and fiscal year 2026 projections. Talks are ongoing on a consistent basis with respect to the federal financial situation.

XI. COUNCIL COMMENTS

The following was posed to all council members, and they were encouraged to give feedback for their respective districts.

Public Act 25-168 (amended) establishes a new special education and expansion development (SEED) grant that is paid directly to BOEs and may only be expended for special education purposes.

Please be prepared to share with the Council how your district will utilize these funds to improve special education services or expand/add programs to mitigate costs this year.

The conversation was even across the board with respect to special education funding. There are no applications available, no parameters and the amount of money/support being offered is miniscule. At some point for most, if not all districts, money for any programs started with this extra funding will eventually come from district budgets. The Public Act was poorly executed and does not add any positive aspect to special education needs within the districts. Council members expressed frustration because special education needs are great and not being properly funded.

XII. ADJOURNMENT MOTION: Motion was made by Leonard Lockhart to adjourn the council meeting at 12:38 p.m.