

CREC
 Council Meeting
 1/21/2026
 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
Meg Scata	Desi Nesmith
Bobbie Granato	Heather Tartaglia
Chris Campbell	Sasha Douglas
Steve Tatum	Carlos Figueroa
Joan Pina	Eddie Miranda
David Gilroy	Mason Thrall
Lou Daniels	Debra Borrero
Miriam Underwood	Amy Karwan
Erika Nowakowski	Carol Dewey
Betsy LeBorius	Aura Alvarado
Kory Mills	Miguel Pabon
Sharon Goulet	
Patrice McCarthy - CABE	

I. CALL TO ORDER and APPROVAL of MINUTES

1/21/2026 Council Meeting called to order at 11:30 a.m.

A. 11/19/2025 Council Meeting

MOTION: A Motion to approve the November 19, 2025 minutes was made by Bobbie Granato and seconded by Miriam Underwood. Joan Pina abstained from voting as she was not at the meeting on November 19, 2025, but her name appeared as an attendee. Mr. Lockhart asked if there was any objection to approving the November minutes as presented. There were no objections, and the November minutes were approved by the council.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

III. PRESENTATIONS to COUNCIL

Dr. Sasha Douglas presented on CREC magnet schools. She spoke about the teaching and learning methods including accountability, academic performance index, and academic and personal growth. Overall, student absenteeism is down. CREC is working to make learning a group effort including the teachers, students, and their parents. What can parents do to contribute to positive academic growth? Are CREC schools safe, warm and inviting so that students feel nurtured and supported? CREC is also focusing on helping students transition to life after graduating from high school, whether that be higher education, a trade or entering the workforce. We want students to feel supported regardless of what decision they make with respect to their adult lives. Currently, 90% of CREC student have access to college courses. They are assisted with college applications and FAFSA processes. Ashley Mazzoli and Rich Serrano assist students with navigating the financial aid portion of their college applications.

CREC works with three core components – The Portrait of a Learner, High Quality Instruction and Centering Learners. We want our students not to be passive in their learning, but rather feel empowered, have more agency in their own learning and have a clear and purposeful path to learning.

Dr. Douglas invited several CREC students to the meeting to speak with respect to their experience in CREC schools and plans for their futures. Veronica Brunelle and Christina Browning, of Arts Academy (full day), talked about their efforts to help after the devastating storm in Jamaica several months ago. They coordinated with other CREC schools to gather supplies and necessities to help those in need after the storm.

Pehansa Samarakoon and Stella Mayan, of Aerospace Academy, spoke about their journeys testifying before legislators last year about the importance of magnet school funding, and their interest in political careers.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Meg Scata gave the finance and audit committee report. This year's audit has been completed and the budget process for 2026-27 has already begun.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

None

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Florio thanked Leonard, Meg and Patrice McCarthy for their work in defining legislation concerns and strategy for key issues for next year's Legislative Session. There are several meetings scheduled in the coming months for key constituents to come together to prepare, outline a plan and remind them of what is needed to continue support for CREC and other RESC's.

Dr. Florio thanked Leadership Team for their help and dedication to CREC throughout his ten years as its executive director.

VII. COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Lockhart welcomed new council members explaining that the council is a very engaged one to better serve not only CREC, but their individual districts. He thanked Dr. Florio for his leadership and optimism during his time as executive director at CREC.

VIII. DELIBERATED ACTION

A. Audit Required Budget Authorizations (Attachment A)

CREC uses several internal service fund accounts to receive and disburse funds. Our auditors require that the CREC Council formally authorize these accounts.

MOTION: A motion was made by Meg Scata to approve Attachment A as set forth above and seconded by Joan Pina. The Motion was passed unanimously.

B. Policy Approval (Attachment B)

The following policies/regulations were approved by the Policy Committee on November 19, 2025, as a first reading:

1. Proposed Revised Policy 3000P – Concept and Roles in Business

2. Proposed Revised Policy 3292P – Investment
3. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 3410PR – Accounting Standards
4. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 3440PR – Fixed Assets
5. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 3451PR – Petty Cash
6. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 3510PR – Operations & Maintenance of Plant
7. Proposed Revised Regulation 5144R – Discipline

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

1. Proposed Revised Policy 3000P – Concept and Roles in Business
2. Proposed Revised Policy 3292P – Investment
3. Proposed Revised Policy 3410P – Accounting Standards
4. Proposed Revised Policy 3440P – Fixed Assets
5. Proposed Revised Policy 3451P – Petty Cash
6. Proposed Revised Policy 3510P – Operations & Maintenance of Plant

MOTION: A Motion was made by Meg Scata to approve policies 1 through 6 set forth as Attachment B for 2nd reading and seconded by Bobbie Granato. The Motion was passed unanimously.

IX. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Deb Borrero spoke about this year's legislative session, which is a short one, starting on February 4th. The governor will present his budget in the morning on that day. We are not only working towards more magnet school funding, but also sustainable funding. CREC is also looking for \$1.5M in funding for its Teacher Residency Program.

The CREC/HASA/CABE legislative breakfast will be held on February 10th at the State Capitol to outline key concerns and talking points for the legislative session.

Patrice McCarthy of CABE talked about funding, which is an ongoing issue, as a key topic for this year's legislative session, as well as trying to remove the cap on special education funding.

X. REPORTS

None

XI. COUNCIL COMMENTS

David Gilroy asked the question as to how CREC influences how his district of East Granby teaches the students. Dr. Florio informed him that each district sets their standard when it comes to teaching their students. CREC simply manages the magnet programs.

XII. ADJOURNMENT MOTION: Mr. Lockhart asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Chris Campbell and seconded by Meg Scata. The motion passed unanimously.