



Desi Nesmith  
 Executive Director  
 Capitol Region Education Council  
 111 Charter Oak Avenue  
 Hartford, CT 06106

**CREC**  
 Council Meeting  
 2/18/2026  
 11:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
 In-Person and ZOOM Meeting (Link in Calendar Invite)

COUNCIL MEMBERS	CREC ATTENDEES
Leonard Lockhart	Desi Nesmith
Meg Scata	Carlos Figueroa
Bobbie Granato	Amy Karwan
Kory Mills (Hartford Alt)	Carol Dewey
Chris Campbell	Heather Tartaglia
Miriam Underwood	Eddie Miranda
Steven Tatum	Debra Borrero
David Gilroy	Aura Alvarado
Patrice McCarthy, CABA	Elsie Gonzalez
Rishita Kulkarni, Student Liaison	

**I. CALL TO ORDER and APPROVAL of MINUTES**

2/18/2026 Council Meeting called to order at 11:30 a.m.

A. 1/21/2026 Council Meeting

**MOTION:** A Motion to approve the January 21, 2026 minutes was made by Bobbie Granato and seconded by Meg Scata. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None



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### III. PRESENTATIONS to COUNCIL

None

### IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Audit Committee - Meg Scata gave the finance and audit committee report with respect to the Consent Agenda financial documents, Attachments A-C.

### V. CONSENT AGENDA

#### A. 2025-2026 Revised Programs

- 1) Project Prevent/Special Revenue Fund/Magnet Schools Division (Attachment A)

#### B. 2026-2027 New Programs

- 1) Regional Fingerprinting Service (Attachment B)
- 2) CREC Wide Area Network/Internal Service Fund (Attachment C)

**MOTION:** A Motion to approve Attachments A through C of the Consent Agenda above was made by Meg Scata and seconded by Bobbie Granato. The motion passed unanimously.

### VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Desi Nesmith spoke about what his first 2 weeks have been like as the new CREC executive director. He has been making visits to various schools and CREC programs. He has also been reconnecting with CREC partners to reaffirm and re-establish those relationships. He also attended a Valentine's Day dance at Birken.

He spoke about the HASA/CREC/CABE legislative breakfast at the State Capitol in early February and the panel discussion that took place.

Desi also attended a RSCO Magnet Fair and found it a great opportunity to speak to parents, hear their concerns and talk to them about their children's needs.

He has been working with Dr. Sasha Douglas to schedule individual meetings with district superintendents, especially those that are newer to their respective role.



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## VII. COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT

Leonard gave a special thank you to Deb Borrero, Patrice McCarthy and Lisa Steimer for their efforts with respect to the HASA/CREC/CABE legislative breakfast. He also thanked Desi and CREC staff for their continued support and work for Connecticut children.

## VIII. DELIBERATED ACTION

### A. Tentative Agreement with Teachers (Attachment D)

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Move that Council approve the Tentative Agreement with Teachers presented as Attachment D.

Council moved to discuss Item A, Attachment D – Tentative Agreement with Teachers in an executive session due to the confidential nature of the agreement. Kory Mills suggested that a motion to add an executive session to the agenda be made first.

Leonard Lockhart made a request to pause the request for executive session and modify the agenda to include a section for the executive session.

Motion was made to add an agenda item number 10 for an executive session to be held to include Desi Nesmith, CREC Executive Director, Carlos Figueroa, CREC Chief Administrative Officer and Attorney Rebecca Santiago from Shipman & Goodwin. Motion was made by Kory Mills and seconded by Meg. The Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was then made to go into executive session and invite Desi Nesmith, CREC Executive Director, Carlos Figueroa, CREC Chief Administrative Officer and Attorney Rebecca Santiago from Shipman & Goodwin. Motion was made by Kory Mills and seconded by Bobbie Granato. The Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session began at 12:04 p.m.

Leonard Lockhart returned the council to regular session at 12:19 p.m.



Leonard Lockhart made a motion to accept the Tentative Teachers Agreement. The Motion was seconded by Kory Mills and passed unanimously.

## B. Policy Approval (Attachment E)

The following policies/regulations were approved by the Policy Committee on January 21, 2026, as a first reading. Furthermore, the Policy Committee approved the deactivation of policies 3010 (Goals and Objectives), 3111 (Fiscal Year), and 3295 (Business Planning):

1. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 3250PR – Materials/Services Fees and Charges
  2. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 3260PR – Sales, Trade-In, or Disposition of Personal Property Assets
  3. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 3314PR – Travel
  4. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 3326.1PR - Payroll
  5. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 3450PR – Monies in School Buildings
  6. Proposed Revised Policy 4112.6P – Personnel Records
  7. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 4115/4215PR – Performance Evaluation
  8. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 4117/4217PR – Disciplinary Action
  9. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 4118.5/4218.5PR – Acceptable Computer Use
  10. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 4118.221/4218.221PR – Whistleblower
  11. Proposed Revised Regulation 6153R – School Sponsored Trips
- Policies for Deactivation
    1. Policy 3010 – Goals and Objectives
    2. Policy 3111 – Fiscal Year
    3. Policy 3295 – Business Planning

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

1. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 3250P – Materials/Services Fees and Charges
2. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 3260P – Sales, Trade-In, or Disposition of Personal Property Assets
3. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 3314P – Travel
4. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 3326.1P - Payroll
5. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 3450P – Monies in School Buildings



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6. Proposed Revised Policy 4112.6P – Personnel Records
7. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 4115/4215P – Performance Evaluation
8. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 4117/4217P – Disciplinary Action
9. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 4118.5/4218.5P – Acceptable Computer Use
10. Proposed Revised Policy/Regulation 4118.221/4218.221P – Whistleblower

- Policies for Deactivation

1. Policy 3010 – Goals and Objectives
2. Policy 3111 – Fiscal Year
3. Policy 3295 – Business Planning

**MOTION:** A Motion was made by Christopher Campbell to approve policies 1 through 10 set forth as Attachment E for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, as well as three policies listed for deactivation. Leonard Lockhart approved the motion and asked for a vote from council. The Motion was passed unanimously.

## IX. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Deb Borrero updated the council regarding current state of the Legislative Session. The \$12 million dollars that was already built into the budget last year was removed. We are asking for it to be put back. Six CREC students testified on behalf of returning the \$12 million to the magnet school budget. CREC is part of RESC and has no taxing authority.

Patrice McCarthy of CABA spoke about the close relationship and allyship between CREC and CABA. One concern Patrice brought up is that districts have already finished their budgets for this year and some are cutting, so to add more money the districts must cover for magnet school tuition is not ideal.

## X. REPORTS

Eddie Miranda gave the financial report in more detail. CREC is consistently reviewing the budgets for schools and programs throughout the year. We are also working on projections for the FY27 budget.

Leonard Lockhart opened the floor to the student liaison in attendance, Rishita Kulkarni. She talked about her testimony at the Legislative Session. She updated the council on the Student Senate and CREC schools' involvement in gathering donations to send to Jamaica after the devastation of Hurricane Melissa.



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Desi gave a comprehensive budget overview. CREC is one of six RESC's in Connecticut. The budget our district has is different in that it can increase due to grants, tuition payments, etc. He talked about the costs of running an organization like CREC and how those funds are allocated. One of the main concerns is the rising cost of insurance claims, but that seems to be a widespread issue, not just for CREC.

## **XI. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

None

**XII. ADJOURNMENT MOTION:** Mr. Lockhart asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Chris Campbell and seconded by Joan Pina. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned 12:40 p.m.

