



Desi Nesmith
 Executive Director
 Capitol Region Education Council

CREC
2026 Annual Council Meeting
5/20/2026
11:30 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS	CREC ATTENDEES
Leonard Lockhart	Desi Nesmith
Steven Tatum	Carlos Figueroa
Meg Scata	Heather Tartaglia
Kory Mills	Sasha Douglas
Amanda Pickett	Carol Dewey
Betsy LeBoriosis	Amy Karwan
Bobbie Granato	Elsie Gonzalez
Miriam Underwood	Eddie Miranda
Tyron Harris	Mason Thrall
Chris Campbell	Deb Borrero
Lou Daniels	

I. CALL TO ORDER and APPROVAL of MINUTES

5/20/2026 Council Meeting called to order at 11:30 a.m.

A. 4/22/2026 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: A motion to approve the April 22, 2026 meeting minutes was made by Leonard Lockhart, Chairperson, and presented to council for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

B. 5/21/2025 Annual Meeting Minutes

MOTION: A motion to approve the May 21, 2025 annual council meeting minutes was made by Leonard Lockhart, Chairperson, and presented to council for a vote. The motion was passed unanimously.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Amanda Pickett, Board Chair for Enfield, introduced herself and the new council representative from Enfield.



III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance and Audit Committee Report - Meg Scata

General Items (Attachments A-F):

- Authorized check signers
- Authorized to sign CREC contracts
- Cost Allocation Plan – in accordance with the State OPM
- School & Libraries Universal Service E-rate program – discounts on telecommunications and internet access
- GHAA School Construction – DAS Grant
- RSS Renovations to 245 Locust Street – planning grant

Revisions to 2025-2026 Budgets (Attachments G-K):

- Montessori (staffing - \$100k), Museum, Ana Grace Elem and AAE Elem (snowplowing - \$600k)
- Youth Services – grant amendment \$125k

New 2026-2027 Budgets (Attachments L-HH):

- Magnet School Budgets, including Progress Drive PreK program (**\$3,536,232**) and Impact Academy (**\$1,607,404**) combined total of **\$238,197,037 serving 9,162 students**, including **120** at Progress Drive PreK. This budget is an increase of **\$2,860,972** from the prior year budget, prior to Entitlement / Title I grant funding (typically presented to council in October, of approximately \$5.8 million). The 2027 budget includes \$10,080,164 of capital improvement expenditures under the CIP Grant, \$428,060 of athletic expenditures under the Sheff Athletics Grant, and \$1,388,500 of expenditures under the extracurricular grant.
- CREC Magnet School Office – manages the operation of 16 magnet schools as well as a preschool program and CREC Impact Academy, \$11,907,055 this fund includes the amount budgeted for CREC Impact Academy of \$1,607,404 serving 59 students.
- MSAP – 4th year of 5-year grant \$2,970,628
- River Street School – specialized education programming for behavioral, communicative and neurological disorders. Includes Community Investment Fund Grant of educational recreation of \$1.2 million and significant renovation costs for Locust Street, Windsor and Birken locations of \$3.8 million, \$46,816,938
- Integrated Program Model – provide a transdisciplinary approach to special education services for homebound and hospital-based education, \$227,364
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- MTCNE – AMI teachers, satellites in Melrose, MA, Milwaukee, WI, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; \$895,400
- Leadership Budget – administrative and infrastructure costs associated with the management and operations of CREC’s direct service programs, \$15,064,742 which is an increase of \$667,284 or 4.6% from the previous year’s adjusted budget and 3.27% of CREC’s total budget. Revenues include Membership Dues (\$26,500), Interest Income (\$500,000), Cooperative Purchasing Income (\$750,000) with the remainder from CREC programs as indirect step down.

Summary of FY 2027 CREC Budgets:

- Total FY 2027 budgets, \$461,372,084; General Fund \$414,465,395; Special Revenue Fund \$38,253,219; Enterprise Fund \$8,653,470
- Decrease over FY 2026 budgets, including all revisions of \$6,829,832; \$5,843,413 relates to Entitlement/Title I grant funding not yet accounted for in the FY 2027 budget numbers.

Mason Thrall, Director of Operations, gave a report on current gas, oil and electricity costs:

1. Diesel – RSCO pays for choice transportation and Granby pays for Granby fuel.
2. Gasoline – Fuel is purchased at regular gas stations with a purchase card for CREC vehicles.
3. Heating Oil – Not application – all CREC buildings use natural gas.
4. Natural Gas – CNG is sole source and set the rates.
5. Electricity
 - a. Tradition Energy (Consultant and Broker)
 - i. Issues electricity supplier bids and current supplier is BP
 - ii. Electricity rates have been locked in since March 2026
 - b. Noresco
 - i. 2020 Audit
 1. Significant Improvements to Infrastructure
 - a. New boilers, LED lighting, auto shut-off switches and plugs.
 2. Monitoring Savings
 - a. Quarterly meetings to review savings



IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. General Items

- 1). Authorization to Sign Checks (Attachment A)
- 2). Authorization to Sign Contracts (Attachment B)
- 3). Cost Allocation Plan (CAP)(Attachment C)
- 4). School and Libraries Universal Service Program (Attachment D)

- 5). Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts High School Construction Grant (Attachment E)
- 6). River Street School Renovations at 245 Locust Street (Attachment F)

B. 2025-2026 Revised Programs

- 1). CREC Montessori Magnet School (Attachment G)
- 2). CREC Museum Academy (Attachment H)
- 3). CREC Ana Grace Academy of the Arts Elementary Magnet School (Attachment I)
- 4). CREC Academy of Aerospace & Engineering Elementary Magnet School (Attachment J)
- 5). Youth Service Programs (Attachment K)

C. 2026-2027 Continuing Programs

- 1). The CREC Preschool at Progress Drive (Attachment L)
- 2). CREC Montessori Magnet School (Attachment M)
- 3). Glastonbury-East Hartford Elementary Magnet School (Attachment N)
- 4). CREC Academy of Aerospace and Engineering (Attachment O)
- 5). CREC Museum Academy (Attachment P)
- 6). CREC Academy of International Studies (Attachment Q)
- 7). CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts (GHAA) Magnet School (Attachment R)
- 8). CREC University of Hartford Magnet School (UHMS) (Attachment S)
- 9). CREC Academy of Computer Science & Engineering (Attachment T)
- 10). CREC Academy of Computer Science & Engineering Middle School (Attachment U)
- 11). CREC Academy of International Studies Elementary (Attachment V)
- 12). CREC Reggio Magnet School of the Arts (Attachment W)
- 13). CREC Academy of Science and Innovation (Attachment X)
- 14). CREC Discovery Academy (Attachment Y)
- 15). CREC Ana Grace Academy of the Arts Elementary Magnet School (Attachment Z)
- 16). Ana Grace Academy of the Arts Magnet Middle School (Attachment AA)
- 17). CREC Academy of Aerospace & Engineering Elem. Magnet School (Attachment BB)
- 18). CREC Magnet School Office (Attachment CC)
- 19). Magnet School Assistance Program (Attachment DD)



- 20). River Street School (RSS) (Attachment EE)
- 21). Integrated Program Models (Attachment FF)
- 22). Montessori Training Center Northeast (Attachment GG)
- 23). 2026-2027 Leadership Budget (Attachment HH)

D. 2025-2026 Approved Operation Budgets (Attachment II)

MOTION: A motion to approve Attachments A through II as listed above in the Consent Agenda was made by Meg Scata and seconded by Miriam Underwood. The motion passed unanimously.

V. DELIBERATED ACTION

A. Policy Approval (Attachment JJ)

The following policies and regulations were approved by the Policy Committee on May 7, 2026, as a first reading.

- 1. Proposed New Regulation 4118.221/4218.221R - Whistleblower
- 2. Proposed New Policy 6161.12P – Library Collection Development and Maintenance
- 3. Proposed New Policy 6161.13P – Library Display and Programs
- 4. Proposed New Policy 6161.14P – Library Material Review and Reconsideration

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

- 1. Proposed New Policy 6161.12P – Library Collection Development and Maintenance
- 2. Proposed New Policy 6161.13P – Library Display and Programs
- 3. Proposed New Policy 6161.14P – Library Material Review and Reconsideration

MOTION: A motion to approve policies 1 through 3 presented above as Attachment JJ was made by Chris Campbell, Policy Committee Chair, and seconded by Bobbie Granato. The council voted on the motion, and it passed unanimously with the condition that Proposed New Policy 6161.14P (Library Material Review and Reconsideration) be revised in September 2026 to specify that anyone asking materials to be reviewed and considered will do so for their child **ONLY** and not on behalf of other students.



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VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Nesmith spoke about some of the highlights over the past month and those included the following:

1. The Innovations girls' basketball team visited the State Capitol on April 23rd to be congratulated on making it to the championship game this year.
2. CREC's Teacher Residency Program had their "Matching Day" lunch on April 30th to match mentors and teachers for the upcoming year.
3. The Intermezzo concert at Ana Grace on April 7th.
4. Power of Grace event at Grace Academy on April 7th.
5. Impact Academy Career Day on April 8th.

6. Several CREC leaders attended the MetroHartford Alliance Board of Corporators meeting on May 13th.

VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Desi Nesmith and Debra Borrero reported regarding this year's legislative session. The \$12M magnet school funding was put back into the budget and represents one-third of the overall ask this biennium. CREC did secure the funding it petitioned for with respect to the Teacher Residency Program. Out of the 1,257 bills presented in this year's legislative session, only 185 made it through, of which 110 are Public Acts.


CREC and its allies must start advocating for additional funding starting in July to identify what is needed. We are working towards long-term student-centered funding. The most important work is done outside of the legislative session because conversations and interactions with senators and representatives are more deliberate and slower paced.

CREC will continue to work closely with the other RESC's and CABA to secure necessary funding for its students.

VIII. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Tyron Harris attended the CREC art show in East Hartford together with Mayor Connor Martin. He commented on the families' engagement for this event.

Miriam Underwood updated the council on the \$250K grant received by Ellington. The grant assisted in holding an all-day leadership academy. Miriam has been in touch with CREC Open Choice to gain insight and education regarding the program.

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Bobbie Granato talked about the most recent Early Childhood meeting which took place at the Locust Street Head Start program in Hartford. She highlighted the importance of early childhood intervention and development and praised the head start program. She also talked about how the parents of these students have a chance to gain employment through volunteer work.

IX. ADJOURNMENT MOTION: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Leonard Lockhart, Council Chair. The council voted on the motion, and it passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m.





**2026 CREC Annual Meeting
5/20/2026**

Nominating Committee Report

Report: Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate for election at the Annual meeting on May 20, 2026.

- 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: 2026-2027

Chairperson	Leonard Lockhart, Windsor
Vice-Chair	Steven Tatum, Hartford
Secretary/Treasurer	Meg Scata, Portland

Recommended Action:

Move that the CREC Council appoint Leonard Lockhart, Chairperson, Steven Tatum, Vice-Chair, and Meg Scata, Secretary/Treasurer for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

MOTION: A motion was made to elect as CREC Officers for 2026-2027 as listed above by Amanda Pickett and seconded by Lou Daniels. Council voted and the vote was passed unanimously.