



EASTCONN Board of Directors FINANCE Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 12th, 2025 ZOOM MEETING

In attendance: Eric Protulis, Brian Greenleaf, Carol Klemyk, Michael Morrill, Maryellen Donnelly, Terry Cote, Justin Phaiah

1. Call to Order

- **Meeting started at 5:17 pm**

Audit Updates:

The Audit is almost complete – will have drafts to review in a few weeks

Auditors will attend the Board meeting and present and review the documents with the Board Members

Current Fiscal Year Budget:

- Budgets have been re-submitted by Directors
- Revised revenue from IT and Adult Ed
- Still some challenges between revenue and expenses
- Deliberating with CSDE about Magnet School Transportation to help with costs in the transportation budget. Meetings continue with the Deputy Commissioner and their CEO related to this. Discussed the communication that came out today from the governor's Office. Holdback on funds that could be around \$48 million. Could this impact our bottom line in the current budget?

Other Budget Items:

First Point - Deficit in our Magnet Schools:

- On-going discussions with our RESC allies and CSDE
- Reviewed the possibility of sharing staff between the two Magnet Schools but that could have an impact on programming



Second Point - Transportation and large bus contracts:

- Brooklyn is working with DATTCO next year
- Discussion around our Special Ed transportation and van transportation
- Re-establish a budget for transportation from what is viable

Third Point – compounding debt in the transportation department

- Looking at shuffling of programs to increase enrollments which could account for growth in that department
- Reviewed Magnet School transportation

Budget for FY2026:

- Working with program directors around more cuts to expenses
- Looking at reductions in staff
- Earmark the magnet school funding
- Moving the ship forward to steer and look at predictably and sustainable costs
- Commissioner is looking at rates for the Special Ed programs throughout the state
- Discussed the program in Killingly around the facility that they are using
- May not be able to present the FY26 budget in April due to the transportation budget

Other Miscellaneous Items:

- Federal funds – a lot of uncertainty for those dollars which has an enormous impact on small regions like EASTCONN
- EASTCONN has a reputation to provide excellent services to all our districts
- EWIB will continue to fund EASTCONN based on its reputation
- Contract is signed for the Path Academy building – working out details and logistics