



**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
IN-PERSON AND ZOOM**

Roll Call of Board Members:

Sonia Greene - Woodstock

Justin Phaiah - Brooklyn

Katherine Paulhus – Mansfield

Michael Morrill - Putnam

ON ZOOM:

Barbara Riley - Pomfret

Sara Kelley - Stafford

Terry Cote – Eastford

Maryellen Donnelly – Hampton

Amy Blank - Union

EASTCONN STAFF PRESENT:

Eric Protulis, Carol Klemyk, Brian Greenleaf, Melanie Marcaccio, Diane Gozemba, Laura Lybarger, Kristin Hempel, Dona Prindle (ZOOM), Shawn Brodeur, Amy Margelony, Ravit Stein, Jessica Miglio and Emma Boardman

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm by Board Chair, Justin Phaiah

Pledge of Allegiance

Audience with Citizens – None

Additions to the Agenda - None

Presentation on EASTCONN TRANSITION ACADEMY

MISSION: To empower young adults to create their own visions of success by providing evidence-based instruction , experiential learning opportunities and connections to community resources that support their transition into adulthood.

THE ETA TEAM: Special Education Teachers, Clinicians, Community Connections Specialist, Employment Coordinators, ABA Instructors, Student Support Services and Related Service Providers

- Connecting Students with Community and Adult Services
- Special Ed Transition Program – serve learners ages 18-22
- Community Access, Independent Living Instruction, Employment Training and Adult Service Connection

- Work with various organizations: Department of Developmental Services, Department of Social Services, Bureau of Rehabilitation and Level-Up, Pathways to Integrated Employment, Community Action Agencies
- Timeframe to meet those connections
- These services offer our students and families support in their home for behavioral, medical or daily living needs, funding/grants for supplies, technology and respite

Approve the Minutes from the February 2025 Board of Directors' Meeting with one minor correction

Motion: Sonia Greene
Second: Maryellen Donnelly
Vote: Unanimous
Abstentions: None

Committee Reports:

Policy Committee: Updates from Melanie Marcaccio, Katherine Paulhus and Maryellen Donnelly
 Presentation of First Read of Policies - no vote needed for first read

- 1010.1.1 Use of Facilities
- 2001.1.1 Policy Regarding Holds and the Destruction of Electronic Information and Paper Records
- 3003.1.1 Disposal of Obsolete or Surplus Equipment/Materials

Facilities Committee: Updates from Eric Protulis and Shawn Brodeur (the committee did not meet in February – they met in March)

- Review and Update of the 1303 application process
- Review of carryover funds to be used for the purchase
- Final negotiations for Path Academy
- Create additional revenue with the larger new space

Finance Committee: Updates from Brian Greenleaf and Eric Protulis

- Update on revenue and expenses
- Discussed Transportation
- Still developing the fiscal 2026 budget
- Magnet School discussions and updates with the RESC group
- Re-payments are going well
- Update on ECHIP and stop loss renewal and self-insured entities
- Prescription Drug Costs and the administrative costs are drivers for the increase

Head Start Updates:

- Windham is fully enrolled – reference the matrix report in the packet
- Determining the strengths and needs of families
- Increase in family well-being
- Discussed food insecurity
- Obtaining more qualitative data overall
- Making incremental positive moves within the program

Enrollment Report

Stable Counts at all sites

Division Directors' Report:

- Format is: Advocate, elevate and educate
- Aligns with the strategic plan at EASTCONN
- Ravit Stein and her team tasked by CSDE to develop BCBA guidelines
- Kickoff program around the needs of our transgender youths
- PD opportunities and the PDA committee

Executive Director's Report:

- Advocating to increase childcare funding and programs in our region
- Currently working with lobbyists
- Continually meeting with CSDE to discuss our needs – draft an encompassing communication around the needs of the agency and the Magnet School Transportation funding

Human Resources Report:

- Review of the February report – numbers are holding steady
- Recruiting numbers are a lot lower than last year at this time
- Seeing an uptick in unemployment
- Still doing ongoing outreach to various organizations

Consent Agenda:

MOTION:	Sonia Greene motioned to approve the policies that were presented as first read at the February 2025 Board of Directors' meeting
SECOND:	Michael Morrill
VOTE:	Unanimous
ABSTENTIONS:	None

Policy 1001.1.1	Automatic External Defibrillators
Policy 1011.1.1	Visitors and Observations in Schools
Policy 1012.1.1	School Volunteers, Student Interns and Other Non-Employees

MOTION:	Sonia Greene motioned approve for participation in the Healthy Food Options of C.G.S. Section 10-215f and follow the CNS as presented
SECOND:	Michael Morrill
VOTE:	Unanimous
ABSTENTIONS:	None

Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the EASTCONN Executive Board of Directors certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

MOTION:	Sonia Greene motioned approve Food and Beverage Combined Exemption as presented
SECOND:	Michael Morrill
VOTE:	Unanimous
ABSTENTIONS:	None

The EASTCONN Executive Board of Directors will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION:	Katherine Paulhus motioned to adjourn the meeting a 6:42 pm
SECOND:	Maryellen Donnelly
VOTE:	Unanimous
ABSTENTIONS:	None

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Klemyk
Executive Assistant