



**MINUTES OF THE January 27th, 2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
IN-PERSON AND ZOOM**

Roll Call of Board Members:

Katherine Paulhus, zoom - Mansfield
Sonia Greene - Woodstock
Nelson King - Killingly
Lindsay Spielman - Sprague
Kathleen Sposato - Pomfret
Justin Phaiah - Brooklyn
Shana Boland, zoom - Stafford
Jennifer Beausoleil, zoom - Coventry
Nancy Neff, zoom - Eastford
Amy Blank, zoom - Union

EASTCONN STAFF PRESENT:

Eric Protulis, Carol Klemyk, Melanie Marcaccio, Brian Greenleaf, Laura Lybarger, Donna Prindle – zoom, Shawn Brodeur – zoom, Kim Bush – zoom, Kristin Hempel – zoom, Diane Gozemba – zoom, Ravit Stein – zoom, Kim Mansfield - zoom

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm by Board Chair, Justin Phaiah

Pledge of Allegiance

Audience with Citizens – None

Additions to the Agenda – None

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The Nominating Committee presented the slate of Officers as follows:

Justin Phaiah – Chair of the Board

Maryellen Donnelly – Vice Chair of the Board

Katherine Paulhus – Secretary/Treasurer

Nominations closed

MOTION: To Approve the Slate of Officers as presented:

MOTION: Sonia Greene motioned to approve the slate of officers as presented

SECOND: Lindsay Spielman

VOTE: All in Favor

ABSTENTIONS: None

Motion Passed

PRESENTATION: Laura Lybarger on EASTCONN FUND AND FUNDRAISING

Upcoming Events at ACT:

SEE POWER POINT PRESENTATION

Highlights:

New Fundraising initiative – created a fund thru the community foundation of Eastern CT

Funding pressure increased as grant funds have become very competitive

Looking to supplement our funding while relating the mission of the fund through new educational workforce programs

Invest in opportunities to support our districts without having to increase charges while continuing to invest in our students and families

The EASTCONN Fund website will be going public late in February

Approve the Minutes from the November 2025 Board of Directors' meeting

Motion: Sonia Greene motioned to approve the minutes from the November 2025 Board of Directors' meeting as presented

Second: Katherine Paulhus

Vote: All in Favor

Abstentions: Kathleen Sposato, Lindsay Spielman, Nelson King, Nancy Neff, Shana Boland

Motion Passed

Committee Reports:

Policy Committee:

Presentation of First Read of the following policy:

5003.1.2 CT School Climate Policy

Facilities:

The Committee met last week. Discussed two properties – one to sell and one to purchase (Commerce and Westcott Road)

Westcott Road houses Head Start and Adult Community Ed – want to purchase this facility

This will allow us to expand the Head Start and Child Care services in that building

Using the 1303 application will allow us to do both these things with rollover funds

Also applied for the Community Investment Funds

The Commerce Drive Building in Columbia is up for sale

Finance:

Continuing to track revenue and expenses in the general fund account which is the most important account from a fiscal health standpoint

RESCs are unlike Boards of Education based on the fact that RESCs have to earn all their revenue and break this down between divisions.

We deal with projected budget where every number can change

Reducing revenue at this time

Will be looking at reducing expenses as well

Magnet schools are the biggest drivers of the deficit

Goal is to have the Board vote on the FY27 budget at the May Board meeting

Will have a more realistic budget once we know what happens with the legislature with regard to Magnet School funding and stabilization funds

Updates from Head Start – Kim Mansfield

Performance Standards have held steady

Updates on enrollment for November and December – created a waiting list

Head Start grant is a five year Grant

Involved in data collection

Will present to the Board in March about the carryover of grant funds

Head Start will be presenting with a UCONN partnership at the Conference on 3/31 and 4/1

Next month will be the URSEY training with the Board of Directors

New Business:

Enrollment Report:

Holding steady – no changes this time of year

New building purchase has allowed us to enroll more students

The biggest limitation is staffing

Division Directors' Reports:

Review the summary report that is presented at each Board meeting and can be shared with the local districts

Some highlights:

Transition Services is going beyond high school with the special needs students using the SEL tool index that Ravit Stein, Director of Consultation and Professional Learning, has created and put together

Collecting information on student well-being – will put together tools that the districts can use

Kristin Hempel, Director of Adult and Community Services will join the WILL radio station on community needs

Executive Directors' Updates:

Working hard with legislators having numerous conversations talking about our programs and the efforts related to the work that we do – especially the magnet school funding

School and state finance a project for student funding a model to service the districts in our area

Update on the SEED money

Executive Committee strategic planning – reflective practice is embedded in our plan to move the Agency forward

Human Resources Report:

The reports fluctuates because of budgets that are very fluid. As we meet with division directors we evaluate the vacancies and separate critical positions from non-critical positions

Working on focusing on the CORE positions – Melanie sources candidates for these positions

Grant Report:

Review the excel monthly report. In the process of fundraising for the Agency

New Business Additional Items:

AGENCY BYLAWS:

Letters were distributed to superintendents in the EASTCONN area in mid-December

Present to change the quorum for voting from 7 Board members to 5 Board members and to appoint the Executive Officers to take action on behalf of the board which will help with the timelessness for approving important and time-sensitive documents and motions

Approve the presented changes to the Agency By-Laws.

Motion: Sonia Greene motioned to approve the changes to the Agency By-Laws as presented

Second: Nelson King

Vote: All in Favor

Abstentions: None

Motion Passed

Tuition Rates:

Time of year to approve the Agency tuition rates while implementing in the rising costs of health insurance and salary increases

The Board will vote on the GWI at another meeting

We are making adjustments on the expense side

No change in the Magnet School Rates – no increases to the districts

Approve the Tuition Rates as presented:

MOTION: Sonia Greene motioned to approve the Tuition Rates as presented

SECOND: Lindsay Spielman

VOTE: All in Favor

ABSTENTIONS: None

Motion Passed

New Job Description: A policy that any new position must be approved by the Board

Registered Behavior Technician (RBT)

A definite need for this position in the region – would like to hire this position ASAP to meet our district needs

Required to have supervision under a Board Certified Behavior Analyst – this will be under Ravit Stein's division

Approve the Job Description as presented:

MOTION: Sonia Greene motioned to approve the RBT position as presented

SECOND: Katherine Paulhus

VOTE: All in Favor

ABSTENTIONS: None

Motion Passed

Consent Agenda:

Approve the following policies as presented (first read was done in November 2025):

- 4010.1.1 Employment and Student Teacher Checks**
- 5006.1.1 Policy to Improve Completion Rates of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**
- 9004.1.1 Code of Conduct for Board Members**

MOTION: Sonia Greene motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented
SECOND: Katherine Paulhus
VOTE: All in Favor
ABSTENTIONS: None

Motion Passed

Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing and discussing the Teacher contract and a legal opinion and invite Eric Protulis, Executive Director, and Melanie Marcaccio, Director of Human Resources, and Brian Greenleaf, CFO to join the Board

MOTION: Katherine Paulhus moved to enter into Executive Session and invite Eric Protulis and Melanie Marcaccio and Brian Greenleaf at 6:58 pm to discuss the teacher contract and legal opinion
SECOND: Sonia Greene
VOTE: All in Favor
ABSTENTIONS: None

Motion Passed

Exited Executive Session at 7:32 pm

MOTION: Sonia Greene motioned to approve the Teacher Contract as presented
SECOND: Katherine Paulhus
VOTE: All in Favor
ABSTENTIONS: None

Motion Passed

Motion to Adjourn at 7:33pm.

MOTION: Sonia Greene
SECOND: Katherine Paulhus
VOTE: Unanimous
ABSTENTIONS: None

Motion Passed