



**MINUTES OF THE August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**IN-PERSON AND ZOOM**

**Roll Call of Board Members:**

Justin Phaiah – Brooklyn  
Sonia Greene, Woodstock  
Maryellen Donnelly, Hampton  
Jen Beausoleil, Coventry - ZOOM  
Michael Morrill, Putnam - ZOOM  
Terry Cote, Eastford - ZOOM  
Am Blank, Union - ZOOM

**EASTCONN STAFF PRESENT:**

Eric Protulis, Carol Klemyk, Melanie Marcaccio, Laura Lybarger, Amy Margelony, Dona Prindle, Kristin Hempel, Sarah Mallory, Diane Gozemba, Ravit Stein, Shawn Brodeur, Kim Mansfield, Andy DePalma

**The meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm by Board Chair, Justin Phaiah**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Audience with Citizens – None**

**Additions to the Agenda – None**

**Presentation by Sarah Mallory, Principal, ACT Magnet School:**

PDEC established 3 subcommittees to target goals for the year:

- 1.) Professional Learning: Created targeted Professional Learning opportunities based on staff learning goals for the year.
- 2.) Student Support Specialist Evaluation: Reviewed many models from across the country on how to best provide effective feedback to our Student Support Specialists.
- 3.) Professional Rubrics: Updated the current CCT rubrics to single point format to align with CT recommended best practice

Collaboration with EASTCONN IT Department led to the development of an evaluation platform that all EASTCONN Schools and programs will be piloting this school year  
Actively seeking new PDEC Members to broaden representation and increase collaboration across the agency.

Planning agency-wide Professional Learning Day on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

CSDE Approved the EASTCONN Leader and Educator Support Plans for the 2025-2026 school year.

**Approve the Minutes from the August 2025 Board of Directors' meeting**

**Motion:** Maryellen Donnelly motioned to approve the minutes from the August 2025 Board of Directors' meeting

**Second:** Sonia Greene

**Vote:** 6 members in favor – 1 abstention

**Abstentions:** Jen Beausoleil

**Committee Reports:**

**Policy:**

Presentation of First Read of the following policies:

5011.1.1 Fundraising Activities

6007.1.2 Parent and Family Engagement Policy (Title 1)

6008.1.1 Parental Access to Instructional Materials

**Facilities:**

First meeting for the 2025-2026 year is on Thursday, 8/28 – the committee will visit the new CDT location

The committee will visit the new Bridges facility in September

**Finance:**

Ending FY25 with a positive balance – the figure includes the ERC money

The FY26 budget includes an increase for special student programs due to mid-year increases and facility expansions

Discussion around including the RESC fees in management services

Highlighted the maintenance costs for Path Academy and the 1303 application and the Community Investment Fund applications

Preliminary work for the FY26 audit will be starting shortly

Updates about CSDE's decision to cut \$14M from Magnet School funding.

Reviewed and discussed the sale of buses

Talked about the potential revenue streams from ACT for evening and weekend activities

Updates around the sake of the Bridges building in Columbia

**Updates from Head Start – Kim Mansfield**

Enrollments have slightly dropped due to home based program in Windham

Fiscal year and budget modifications

Program design management and improvement

Education overview of the 24-25 school year  
TPOT scores related to pyramid model  
BOQ scores also related to pyramid model  
MTSS tier 1 and tier 2 support for children  
Updates from the Hiring Committee  
Parent Engagement and Recruitment

**New Business:**

**Enrollment Report:**

CDT opening with 9 classrooms  
ETA had a decline due to student graduations  
Bridges has increased enrollment with more students scheduled for intakes

**Division Directors' Reports:**

Updates on the Northeast childcare project for Head Start  
Reviewed the 1303 application  
Piloting of the PDEC platform

**Executive Director's Updates:**

Magnet School Funding – becoming an issue across the state - \$14M off funds cut from Magnet School Funding. Eastern CT strategy for Magnet School funding is different than any other area in the state  
Rate of \$1 staying as the amount for districts to affiliate with EASTCONN  
Discussion around the revamping of the Leadership structure – an Executive Cabinet  
Leasing of ACT to outside businesses  
Negotiations are starting. Michael Morrell, Katherine Paulhus and Barbara Riley are on the committee

**Human Resources Report:**

There is a flux in numbers due to the move of programs and the new buildings  
Shift of employees due to the restructuring  
Will have more numbers available in next month's report

**MOTION:**

**Maryellen Donnelly motioned to approve the full Consent Agenda as presented:**

- **Signature Change Form for CACFP**
- **The Corporate Resolution**
- **Approve the submission of EASTCONN's application one-time supplement funds for Nutrition and Healthy Eating for Head Start Children and Families**

**SECOND:**

**Sonia Greene**

<b>VOTE:</b>	<b>Unanimous</b>
<b>ABSTENTIONS:</b>	<b>None</b>

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carol Klemyk  
Executive Assistant

