



**MINUTES OF THE September 23rd, 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
IN-PERSON AND ZOOM**

Roll Call of Board Members:

Michael Morrill – Putnam
Barbara Riley - Pomfret
Sonia Greene – Woodstock
Samantha Derenthal – Plainfield
Katherine Paulhus – Mansfield
Amy Blank – Union – ZOOM
Maryellen Donnelly – Hampton
Sara Kelley – Stafford - ZOOM
Terry Cote – Eastford - ZOOM

EASTCONN STAFF PRESENT:

Eric Protulis, Carol Klemyk, Melanie Marcaccio, Brian Greenleaf, Shawn Brodeur, Kristin Hempel, Laura Lybarger, Diane Gozemba

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

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

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

Second: Maryellen Donnelly

Vote: 7 votes in favor

Abstentions: Samantha Derenthal and Sara Kelley

Committee Reports:

Policy:

Presentation of First Read of the following policies:

4001.1.1 Abuse or Neglect of Disabled Adults
4021.1.1 Social Media

Facilities:

Toured the new CDT location (formerly Path Academy building)
Next meeting the committee will tour the new site for Bridges
Further discussion about purchase of Westcott Road
Met with Ron Lyman at Commerce Drive – updates about putting the property up for lease/sale

Finance:

Reviewed both the FY25 and FY26 budgets
Ending FY25 with a positive balance
Discussion around Magnet school funding and how that effects their bottom lines
Updates about CSDE's decision to cut \$14M from Magnet School funding
Discussed the status of the Audit
Reviewed the three different internal service funds to support agency operations and the internal transfer of funds

Approve the fund balance transfer from the Unemployment Internal Service Fund to the Educational Grants and General funds

Motion: Katherine Paulhus motioned to authorize a transfer of funds of up to \$537,000 from Unemployment Internal Service fund to cover deficit balances in the Education Grants Fund and General Fund as presented.
Second: Samantha Derenthal
Vote Unanimous
Abstentions: None

Updates from Head Start – Diane Gozemba

Budgets are on target
Reviewed training budgets and enrollment numbers
Applying for one time supplemental funds for nutritional opportunities for families
Corrective Action Plans Overview

New Business:

Enrollment Report:

Enrollments have stayed the same

Division Directors' Reports:

Executive Director highlighted areas:

ETA – interns from UCONN working with staff
CDT starting classrooms with a coach
Bridges has transitioned different classroom practices
QMC communicating to students about Mastery Grading
Marketing has finished the Annual Report
Updated the Teacher Evaluation Program
Grant Facilitator Updates

Executive Director's Updates:

Presentation around Strategic Priorities for 2025-2026

EASTCONN's Mission
EASTCONN's Vision
Core Beliefs

Advocate:

EASTCONN devotes resources to people, communities, and services to increase our ability to positively impact outcomes, expand access and strengthen programs

Educate:

EASTCONN learns from listening to diverse perspectives and reflecting on those interactions to better adapt to the needs and priorities of our partners and staff

Elevate:

EASTCONN considers the viability of our practices to meet the needs of our communities and will develop and enhance programs and services that endure and adapt to change

Discussed EASTCONN Priority Goals

- Restructuring of Key Leadership Personnel
- Define EASTCONN's Business Decision Matrix
- Develop and refine the Story of EASTCONN including "why choose EASTCONN"
- Strengthen Cross-Departmental Connections
- Strengthen Existing Customer Relationships and Develop New Meaningful Relationships

Human Resources Report:

Director of Human Resources highlighted that this report is stellar and that EASTCONN is in a great place with all positions

Consent Agenda:

MOTION:

Sonia Greene motioned to approve the Policies (first read was done at the August 2025 Board meeting as presented:

SECOND: Maryellen Donnelly
VOTE: Unanimous
ABSTENTIONS: None

MOTION: Samantha Derenthal motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 pm
SECOND: Maryellen Donnelly
VOTE: Unanimous
ABSTENTIONS: None

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Klemyk
Executive Assistant