

Minutes of the March 22, 2022, EASTCONN Board of Directors' Meeting

Present: Roll Call of Board Members:

Terry Cote, Eastford	Joan Trivella, Woodstock Academy
Justin Phaiah, Brooklyn	Michael Morrill, Putnam
Maryellen Donnelly, Hampton	Amy Blank, Union
Sonia Greene, Woodstock	Judy Benson-Clarke, Region District #8
Herb Arico, Willington	John Rauh, Pomfret
Jamie Kleinman, Canterbury	Katherine Paulhus, Mansfield – joined the meeting by phone

EASTCONN Staff Present: Carol Klemyk, David Erwin, Melanie Marcaccio, Joni Weglein, Diane Dugas, Diane Gozemba, Kim Bush, Shawn Brodeur, Kim Mansfield, Rich Tariff, Mike Hamad, Amy Margelony, Heather Plourde, Larisa Carr, Ed Martin, Andy DePalma

The Board Meeting was called to order at 5:36 pm by Board Chair, Joan Trivella

Approval and Appointment of David Erwin, Interim Executive Director

MOTION: Maryellen Donnelly motioned to approve the Appointment of David Erwin as Interim Executive Director

SECOND: Michael Morrill

VOTE: Unanimous

ABSTENTIONS: None

Welcome and introductions

Approval of minutes:

MOTION: Herb Arico motioned to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2022 meeting with minor amendment

SECOND: Sonia Greene

VOTE: Unanimous

ABSTENTIONS: Justin Phaiah and John Rauh

Additions to the Agenda: None

Audience with Citizens: None

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Policy:

- The committee met on February 9th. Reviewed the Technology Policy and turned it back to the Director of Technology Solutions for additional modifications.
- For the April Meeting:
 - Final review of the Technology Policy
 - Review of required Policies from CABE

Finance:

- Will report later in the Agenda under New Business

Facilities:

- The committee met in February and reviewed the Capital Plan and discussed the status of projects
- Discussion around the funding of the projects on the Plan
- General conversation of finding additional space for some of EASTCONN's programs to accommodate students on the waiting lists

Head Start Updates:

- Discussed the presentation of Head Start Updates at the Board Meetings
 - Policy Council meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month – review of meeting minutes
 - Review of meal counts, ERSEA updates, and disabilities report
 - Board must also approve all Head Start Initiatives applications

Enrollment Report:

- Discussion of enrollment at Magnet Schools – counts have remained steady
- QMC will be taking in seniors for their programs in the second semester
- There are a number of juniors interested in enrolling to QMC
- Reviewed recruitment strategies and marketing of the Magnet Schools
- Discussed career pathways for students

Division Director's Report and Updates:

- Reviewed the Adult Ed programs and job recruitment for individuals
- Discussed targeted marketing strategies for the Hispanic population

- Seeing and influx of candidates now that most COVID restrictions have been lifted
- Talked about the fleet of vehicles and vehicle upgrades and replacement
- Buses and related vehicles are on back order for quite a few months
- Discussed the Ukrainian students that have arrived in the region – collaborate our EL services with Learn to assist the children with language skills

FINANCE REPORT:

- Review of the February financials – projecting a modest income for this fiscal year
- Reviewing variance reports daily
- Coordinating the budget for 2022-2023 – ready to present at the April Board Meeting
- Discussion around fuel prices and the oil and fuel consortium – with the RESC Alliance – five districts in our region have shown a lot of interest in joining the consortium

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT:

- The reports are for January and February
- Also shared a month over month comparison as well
- Conversation around the platform INDEED and how effective it is for recruitment
- Restructuring the branding and budget for marketing
- A lot of employees are returning to EASTCONN now that COVID restrictions have been lifted
- Discussion around the supplemental payments ending
- Also working with handshake – recruitment of college students
- Discussion around an organization like “Effective School Solutions”

Herb Arico left the meeting at 6:26 pm

John Rauh left the meeting at 6:29 pm

Executive Director Search Process:

- Discussion of the RFI process and proposals from three firms
- Talked about the individuals that will be on the Search Committee and the estimated timeframe for the search and decisions related to the search

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Healthy Food Certification (HFC) for 2022-2023:

Option to combine food and beverage exemptions

Instead of two separate food and beverage motions, the district may choose to combine food and beverage exemptions into one motion by using the exact language below:

Motion language for combined food and beverage exemptions:

The board of education or governing authority 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: Maryellen Donnelly motioned to approve the HFC policy for 2022-2023 as presented
SECOND: Terry Cote
VOTE: Unanimous
ABSTENTIONS: None

Approval of the Updated Corporate Resolution

MOTION: Maryellen Donnelly motioned to approve the Updated Corporate Resolution as presented
SECOND: Sonia Greene
VOTE: Unanimous
ABSTENTIONS: None

Approval of the Signatory Document for CSDE Reports

MOTION: Maryellen Donnelly motioned to approve the Signatory Document for CSDE Reporting
SECOND: Justin Phaiah
VOTE: Unanimous
ABSTENTIONS: None

General discussion around the RESC Alliance Priorities and review of the document distributed

General discussion around increasing tuition rates for some of the programs

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: Justin Phaiah motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 pm

SECOND: Maryellen Donnelly

VOTE: Unanimous

ABSTENTIONS: None

Respectfully Submitted

Carol Klemyk