



**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 24th, 2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
IN-PERSON AND ZOOM**

Roll Call of Board Members:

Michael Morrill – Putnam
Lindsay Spielman - Sprague
Justin Phaiah – Brooklyn
Maryellen Donnelly – Hampton
Nelson King – Killingly - ZOOM
Amy Blank – Union
Samantha Derenthal – Plainfield – ZOOM
Shana Boland – Stafford - ZOOM

EASTCONN STAFF PRESENT:

Eric Protulis, Carol Klemyk, Brian Greenleaf, Melanie Marcaccio, Amy Margelony, Kristin Hempel, Kim Mansfield, Andy DePalma, Ravit Stein, Courtney Hyte, Greg Biggs, Carilee Integlia, Kristin James

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 – Add Action Item for The Capital Theater Rental Policy – add to the consent agenda

Presentation on EASTCONN's CDT Program by Carilee Integlia, High School Special Education Teacher

Approve the Minutes from the February 2026 Board of Directors' Meeting with one minor correction

This item was tabled – will add to the April 2026 Board Meeting Agenda

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

5018.1.1 Recess and Play-Based Learning

6006.1.1 Alternative Assessments

Facilities Committee: Updates from Eric Protulis and Shawn Brodeur

The committee will meet on Thursday to have a tour of the Bridges Site

Update on Westcott Road purchase and the CIF funds

Discussed the appraisal

Discussed the deadline for the rollover money to be used for the purchase

Finance Committee: Updates from Brian Greenleaf and Eric Protulis

Review of the monthly summary report

Still updating budgets with Directors

Discussion around Transportation

Discussed vacant positions

Audit Status – will present the final audit at the April Board of Directors' Meeting

Head Start Updates:

Update on ERSEA Training

Enrollment is fluctuating

Discussed Selection Criteria – which was approved at a previous board meeting

Enrollments and home visits when a family is selected

Sub-Committees in the program

Attendance is an extremely important in the program

May 21st is the date of the Head Start Art Show

Enrollment Report

Stable Counts at all sites

Bridges and CDT took on new students this month

Division Directors' Report and Executive Director Summary Sheet:

February 17th was an Agency PD Day

Discussed Adult Ed and Advocacy work

Construction Certification

ACT has 23 seniors graduating and there have been a total of 55 offers from various colleges

Both Magnet Schools have an increased number of applications

Solar will be up and running by summer

Northeast Council for Childcare Conference was held at QVCC

Food Services had a very successful audit for both the summer and regular programs

ACCESS presented at the National Conference for School Psychologists

Advocacy – ECS

Held a Partnership in Practice event in Hampton last Friday, Representative Pat Boyd was the Guest Speaker

Discussion about advocacy from CAFE – working with the RESC Alliance to bring leadership from CAFE and CAPSS to work together along with leaders from statewide focused organizations

Human Resources Report:

- Review of the February report – numbers are holding steady
- Numbers are changing and will fluctuate over the next few months as a result of the budget meetings
- Discussion about part-time positions

GRANT EXCEL DOCUMENT:

- The monthly report was reviewed
- Submitted 5 Inter-District grants
- Changing funding levels

MISCELLANEOUS:

Discussion around the Transportation Division

Ongoing review of the budget

Looking at restructuring the budget going into the next fiscal year

Researching the life of the vehicles

Implement the right model for EASTCONN to offer to districts

Consent Agenda:

MOTION: Maryellen Donnelly motioned to approve the full Consent Agenda as presented
SECOND: Amy Blank
VOTE: Unanimous
ABSTENTIONS: None

Item #1

Policy 5018.1.1 Recess and Play-Based Learning
Policy 6006.1.1 IDEA – Alternative Assessments

Item #2

APPROVE THE PROPOSED GENERAL WAGE INCREASE OF 3% FOR ALL NON-BARGAINING UNIT STAFF/FACULTY

Item #3

Additions to the Consent Agenda – Add Action Item for The Capital Theater Rental Policy

Item#4

(2 motions for the School Lunch Program)

MOTION TO APPROVE PARTICIPATION IN THE HEALTHY FOOD OPTIONS OF C.G.S. SECTION 10-215f AND FOLLOW THE CONNECTICUT NUTRITION STANDARDS (CNS)

(see required language below)

Motion to Approve participation in the healthy food option of C.G.S. Section 10-215f and follow the Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS).

Required Language for Motion :

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, 2026, through June 30, 2027. 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 TO APPROVE FOOD AND BEVERAGE COMBINED EXEMPTION

(see required language below)

Motion to approve food and beverage combined exemption.

Required Language for Motion :

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:	Amy Blank motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 pm
SECOND:	Maryellen Donnelly
VOTE:	Unanimous
ABSTENTIONS:	None

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Klemyk
Executive Assistant