



BOARD OF DIRECTORS' SPECIAL MEETING

JANUARY 8TH, 2025

Roll Call of Board Members present:

Barbara Riley – Pomfret

Terry Cote – Eastford

Michael Morrill – Putnam

Sara Kelley – Stafford

Katherine Paulhus – Mansfield – joined the meeting at 5:22

Maryellen Donnelly – Hampton – joined the meeting at 5:36

EASTCONN Employees in Attendance:

Eric Protulis

Brian Greenelaf

Carol Klemyk

The meeting was called to order by Eric Protulis at 5:17 pm

- Eric and Brian led the discussions updating some of the strategies of the revised budgets
- Rate increase was approved – Brian and Eric had zoom meeting with all Superintendents advising them of the increases
- The group recognized our process with the Board for the increase
- The general feedback was that they understood the increase and agreed with reasoning – to keep EASTCONN as a viable part of the area districts
- Eric suggested to Superintendents that they could have someone from their district sit on the EASTCONN Board of Directors – talked about logistics for this process
- Started conversations with the union around voluntary deductions pay and the deferral program for staff – salary employees only



- Additional communication about the reductions which includes the possibility of layoffs
- Impact to the overall budget if the union does not agree to participate
- Brian and Eric met with multiple program directors – reassessing the budgets and looking at possible additional cuts
- Operating on the timeline for the 2025-2026 budget – a turning point in the EASTCONN budget process
- Discussion around the employer share of insurance premiums and increases
- Deficit is from an accumulation of various debts from past administration
The three drivers for the debt are:
 1. The actual debt
 2. Transportation – large bus contracts end this year – some districts going out to bid – long term cost of maintaining the large bus business
 3. Magnet Schools – ACT facilities costs are extremely high – exceeding revenue – not a lot of programs like ACT – advocate to the state for support – rethinking the budget for ACT with significant savings on the expense side
QMC – more financially viable – population density at QMC
Cap a 5% increase on tuitions for Magnet Schools
- Look at the programs that are the CORE to the identity of EASTCONN – need to ascertain the cost and the degree to which we see that these are actually the true being of EASTCONN’s Mission
- Advocating to CSDE for possible revenue streams for Magnets
- EASTCONN is capping no more than a 5% increase for FY2025-2026 – increases in base tuitions for students that receive OT and PT – increase contracts from \$1200/day to \$1250/day
- Regarding transportation – a 1% increase is the proposal – restructuring the budget – cheaper rates are in place from other bus companies – our drivers take social and emotional training to assist with dealing with some students in transport – mitigate additional cost to districts around medical need for students on buses – aides ride the bus with the students
- Educational priorities in the upcoming Legislative Sessions



- SEED money available?
- Leadership will review and reimagine the budget and make decisions based on that on how we structure the FY26 budget
- Analysis of rates across the state

Meeting adjourned at 5:17 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Klemyk

Executive Assistant