MINUTES OF THE August 25th, 2026 BOARD OF DREICTORS' MEETING
IN-PERSON AND ZOOM

Roll Call of Board Members:
Shana Boland - Stafford
Michael Morrill – Putnam
Lindsay Spielman - Sprague
Maryellen Donnelly – Hampton
Samantha Derenthal – Plainfield
Kathleen Sposato – Pomfret
Justin Phaiah – Brooklyn

EASTCONN STAFF PRESENT:
Eric Protulis, Brian Greenleaf, Melanie Marcaccio, Kristen Hempel, Laura Lybarger, Diane Gozemba, Andy DePalma

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm by Board Chair, Justin Phaiah

Pledge of Allegiance

Audience with Citizens – None

No Additions to the Agenda

Approve the Minutes from the May 2026 Board of Directors' Meeting:

MOTION:	**Maryellen Donnelly motioned to approve the Minutes as presented**
SECOND:	**Michael Morrill**
VOTE:	**Unanimous**
ABSTENTIONS:	**None**

Committee Reports:

Policy Committee: **Updates from Melanie Marcaccio, Katherine Paulhus and Maryellen Donnelly**
No policies are presented for first read

Facilities Committee: Updates from Eric Protulis and Shawn Brodeur

No major moves. Update on Westcott property
CIF application submitted – working on feedback
NELC garden party where the students planted the garden, harvested and consumed some of the items
Mae Flexer joined the celebration. She has spoken to the Governor and the Speaker of the House about our CIF Application
Invited to apply for the LISC grant (Local Initiative Support Corporation) – which could mean requesting less funds from the CIF application
Generations Agency has requested to rent ACT for a Comedy Night with alcohol – will bring to Board next month for a full vote.
Solar is up and running – the install was finished before the school year ended
Continuing to work with Ron Lyman on Commerce Drive property and possible rental

Finance Committee: Updates from Brian Greenleaf and Eric Protulis

Reviewed the monthly Finance Report
Reflects the inclusion of the ERC money – positive impact on bottom line
Updates on Magnet Schools budget and enrollments which resulted in loss in tuition and enrollment FY 2026
Updates on Transportation Division Director and the budget FY2026
Randall Mel the new Food Service Director is coordinating the budgets. He has a strong vision for the program
Update on the EASTCONN line of credit
Update on the status of ECHIP – our liability is fully remediated

Head Start Updates:

Updates on the goals – will distribute to full board
Created new program goals
Enrollment is looking good and holding steady
OEC states that we will see a 4% increase in the slots available
Piloting a social emotional assessment tool in two classrooms will make program wide in 2027
Updates on the new rules and standards and how that may impact the program moving forward

Enrollment Report:

Numbers are light when we pulled this data.
ACT will be at 141 by the end of the week and CDT finished summer school with 55 students
All numbers are moving in the right direction

Division Directors' Report and Executive Director Summary Sheet:

CT Foundation for Eastern CT is supportive of the workforce development – reflective of the work Diane and her team are doing in Early Childhood

Three students graduated from QMC with Associates' Degree
Three inter-district grants awarded to us this year
Update on the Workforce Development

Updates on the Blue Ribbon Commission

Executive Director's Updates:

400 were onboarded with Summer Youth – created a lot of work behind the scenes
Shawn Brodeur is new Transportation Director and Randall Mel is the new Food Services Director – they are looking at goals and where to make revisions that are needed
Blue Ribbon Committee met over the summer – entering the phase of working sessions into four groups – Eric will attend all the meetings to discuss where regionalization is, shared services model, and choice systems. The group will submit a final report by January to the legislators and governor

Human Resources Report:

Reviewed reports and vacancies – numbers are fluctuating based on budget reductions, and staffing cuts
Vacancies under recruitment will also vary
The best sourcing of recruitment continues to be sourcing of candidates

GRANT EXCEL DOCUMENT:

Review and Updates of the Grand Document
Laura has funds due to her nomination
Discussed the LISC grant – awarded but have not yet received documentation

PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD:

Generations Agency submitted an application for a function and to serve alcohol – presenting only at this time – the Board will vote at the September 2026 Board Meeting

Action Items:

Item #1
Approve the Following Policies as presented: (first read was done in May)
6001.1.1 Advanced Course or Program and Challenging Curriculum
9001.1.1 SHOULD BE #9007.1.1 Construction and Posting of Agenda
9009.1.1 Meeting Conduct

Item #2
Approve the Enrollment Goal for EASTCONN HEAD START as presented
Approve the Community Engagement Goal for EASTCONN HEAD START as presented
Approve the Positive Child Outcome Goal for EASTCONN HEAD START as presented

Item #3
Approve the EASTCONN Corporate Resolution for 2026-2027

MOTION:	**Michael Morrill motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented**
SECOND:	**Maryellen Donnelly**
VOTE:	**Unanimous**
ABSTENTIONS:	**None**

Executive Session:

MOTION:	**Maryellen Donnelly motioned to enter into Executive Session and invite Eric Protulis to discuss the Executive Director's Evaluation and Contract at 6:39 pm**
SECOND:	**Michael Morrill**
VOTE:	**Unanimous**
ABSTENTIONS:	**None**

The Board Exited Executive Session at 6:52 pm

MOTION to ADJOURN:

MOTION:	**Michael Morrill motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 pm**
SECOND:	**Maryellen Donnelly**
VOTE:	**Unanimous**
ABSTENTIONS:	**NONE**

Respectfully Submitted

Carol Klemyk
Executive Assistant

Approved 9/22/2026