

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**March 3, 2016**

**MINUTES**

On March 3, 2016, EDUCATION CONNECTION's Board of Directors held a meeting during which a quorum was present. President, Chris Sanders called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and recorded the following members in attendance:

**1. Roll Call:**

Name (District):	Deb Bell, Region 7	Robert Coppola, New Milford
	Sara Heller, Norfolk	Michelle Lucian, Plymouth
	Melissa Miller, Colebrook	Chris Sanders, Region 6
	Gary Waugh, Litchfield	Janelle Wilk, Watertown

Guest: Mr. Peter Smith, Rome, Smith & Lutz

**EDUCATION CONNECTION**

**Personnel:** Danuta Thibodeau, Executive Director  
Jonathan P. Costa, Sr., Director of School/Program Services  
Rob Parenti, Director of Business Operations and Special Services  
Joyce DeAngelo, Board Clerk

Upon a motion by Melissa Miller, duly seconded by Robert Coppola, the Board approved to amend the agenda to request Board approval for submission of a grant application for the Plymouth Family Resource Center (FRC) Preschool.

**2. Approval of February 4, 2016 Minutes**

Upon a motion by Melissa Miller, duly seconded by Gary Waugh, the Board approved the minutes for the February 4, 2016 meeting with 6 in favor and 2 abstentions.

**3. Questions and Comments from the Public: None**

**4. Communications:**

a) Written:

Dani passed around the Board Communications and highlighted the letter from Dun &

Bradstreet which indicated we have a very good credit rating.

b) Grant Award

Dani acknowledged one grant award. Detailed grant award information was included in the Board packet.

**5. Old Business:**

None.

**6. New Business**

a) Presentation: Legislative Updated on Education Issues – *Mr. Peter Smith, Rome, Smith & Lutz*

Mr. Peter Smith, Rome, Smith & Lutz updated the Board on the governor's budget. He reported that the governor announced that there will be a \$450 million deficit in 2017 and a \$900 million deficit the next year. At this time no final decisions have been made as to where the cuts in the budget will be.

b) Appoint: Nominating Committee for Officers for 2016-2017

Robert Coppola volunteered to participate on this committee. Any other Board member interested in participating on the Nominating Committee can contact Dani.

c) Approval: Personnel Report (1/23/16 - 2/19/16)

Upon motion by Robert Coppola, duly seconded by Melissa Miller, the Board unanimously approved the Personnel Report as submitted.

d) Approval: Submission of a grant application for the Plymouth Family Resource Center (FRC) Preschool

Upon motion by Michelle Lucian, duly seconded by Robert Coppola, the Board of Directors approved of EDUCATION CONNECTION's submission of a grant application for the Plymouth Family Resource Center (FRC) Preschool to provide services for two children and their families.

**7. Reports/Updates**

i. Executive Director's Report – *Danuta Thibodeau*

Dani shared a handout titled the "RESC Alliance Legislative Priorities for 2016." This document highlights the (3) issues that the RESC Alliance will advocate for during the 2016 session of the General Assembly.

Dani shared a letter from the Commissioner of Education designating certification shortage areas for the 2016-2017 school year.

Dani acknowledged that March is "Board Appreciation Month" and thanked the members for their service to the agency, and presented them with a token of appreciation.

ii. School/Program Services – *Jonathan P. Costa, Sr.*

Jonathan reported that the State Board/State Dept. of Education’s work on the 5 year plan is proceeding. The RESC Alliance work has helped the Commissioner determine the (3) most important core services of the department and will guide the decision making during budget deliberations. The core areas are: high academic standards for all children; building the capacity and skill of teachers/administrators; and providing support for schools that are under performing.

iii. Business and Operations – *Rob Parenti*

Rob reported that he is currently negotiating health insurance for the next fiscal year.

Other than a pipe issue at Miry Brook, all facilities survived the winter.

He also reported that a survey was recently sent out to superintendents and special education directors to collect data on special education program expenditures. This data will be compiled and presented to the MORE Commission (Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies) at a later date.

**8. Adjournment**

Upon a motion by Melissa Miller, duly seconded by Robert Coppola, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.

*Minutes recorded by:  
Joyce DeAngelo, Board Clerk*

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Deb Bell, Secretary