

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 3, 2015**

MINUTES

On September 3, 2015, 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):	Tom Brodnitzki, Barkhamsted	Melissa Miller, Colebrook
	Gary Waugh, Litchfield	Robert Coppola, New Milford
	Chris Sanders, Region 6	Deb Bell, Region 7
	John Kissko, Torrington	

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
Tom Jokubaitis, Cooperative Educational Services (CES)
Salvatore Corda, Cooperative Educational Services (CES)
Joyce DeAngelo, Board Clerk

Upon a motion by Melissa Miller, duly seconded by Tom Brodnitzki, the Board approved to amend the agenda to allow the presentation by Tom Jokubaitis and Salvatore Corda from CES to be first on the agenda.

2. Presentation: Mr. Tom Jokubaitis, Cooperative Educational Services (CES)

Mr. Tom Jokubaitis, assisted by Dr. Salvatore Corda, gave a presentation to the Board on the process for selecting a new Executive Director. They shared a packet with the Board and presented an overview of the comprehensive search process and timelines. The presentation was followed by a question and answer period.

3. Approval of June 4, 2015 Minutes:

Upon motion by Melissa Miller, duly seconded by Deb Bell, the Board approved the minutes for the June 4, 2015 meeting with 7 in favor and 0 abstentions.

4. Questions and Comments from the Public: None

5. Communications:

a) Written:

Dani passed around the Board Communications. She highlighted that the Director of School Age Programs, Tracey Lay, was elected to the National Afterschool Association (NAA) Board of Directors.

b) Grant Awards Report:

Dani acknowledged twenty-three (23) grant awards. Detailed grant award information was included in the Board packet.

6. Old Business: None

7. New Business:

a) Action Item: Approval to authorize EDUCATION CONNECTION to enter into an agreement with the United Way of Western Connecticut, Inc. to implement the Word Walk program in Danbury.

This is a \$4,000 grant from the United Way of Western Connecticut, Inc. to implement the Word Walk program in coordination with the Danbury School Readiness Council for the period of July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. The grant will provide professional development to early care and education providers in the Greater Danbury area.

Upon motion by Melissa Miller, duly seconded by Tom Brodnitzski, the Board of Directors approved of EDUCATION CONNECTION's request to enter into an agreement with the United Way of Western Connecticut, Inc. to implement the Word Walk program in Danbury.

b) Action Item: Approval for submission of a grant application for the Plymouth Family Resource Center and the Torrington Family Resource Center.

These are State grants that fund our Plymouth and Torrington Family Resource Centers. These grants will provide family support programs in the areas of early care and education, positive youth development, adult education and family literacy and resources and referrals to 250 children and their families. The request for each grant is \$109,500.

Upon motion by Melissa Miller, duly seconded by Deb Bell, the Board of Directors approved of EDUCATION CONNECTION's submission of grant applications for the Plymouth Family Resource Center and Torrington Family Resource Center which provides services for 250 children and their families in each town.

c) Updated 2016 Agency Budget

Dani updated the Board on the 2015-2016 projected budget.

- d) Approval: Personnel Report 6/16/15 – 8/7/15

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

- e) The Board discussed retaining a search firm to lead the process to recruit a new Executive Director. The Board reached a consensus to retain CES as the search firm and authorized the current Executive Director to retain CES. Tom Brodnitzki recused himself from the search process due to his employment at another RESC.

8. Reports/Updates

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

Dani reported she just received email notification of two (2) grant awards. EDUCATION CONNECTION has been awarded the CT SDE Tobacco Cessation Grant, a 2-year grant for approximately \$200,000 and the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Grant (SAMHSA), a 3-year grant for approximately \$124,000 each year.

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

Jonathan reported that there is a new tone in Hartford since the appointment of the new Commission of Education, Dr. Dianna Wentzell; she sees the RESCs as an asset to the department. He announced that she is looking to put together a 5-year plan on behalf of the State Board of Education and the State Dept. of Education. Jonathan reported the RESC Alliance submitted a proposal to Commissioner Wentzell to put this 5-year plan together and the Commissioner has accepted their proposal.

- iii. Business and Operations – *Rob Parenti*

Rob reported that there was a ribbon cutting ceremony at our ACCESS/GFLC facility on 103 Miry Brook Road on August 20th at 3:30 p.m. He announced that there will be an Open House at our new Danbury office location, 4 Mountainview Terrace on September 9th from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm. He also reported that Whole Foods has awarded a grant to our ACCESS/GFLC Program to build a garden.

9. Adjournment

Upon motion by John Kissko, duly seconded by Deb Bell, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes recorded by:
Joyce DeAngelo, Board Clerk

Deb Bell, Secretary