MINUTES OF THE May 26th, 2026 BOARD OF DREICTORS' MEETING
IN-PERSON AND ZOOM

Roll Call of Board Members:
Shana Boland - Stafford
Michael Morrill – Putnam
Katherine Paulhus – Mansfield
Maryellen Donnelly – Hampton
Samantha Derenthal – Plainfield
Kathleen Sposato – Pomfret
Justin Phaiah – Brooklyn
NO ZOOM ATTENDEES

EASTCONN STAFF PRESENT:
Eric Protulis, Brian Greenleaf, Melanie Marcaccio, Carol Klemyk, Shawn Brodeur, Kim Bush, Amy Margelony, Kim Mansfield, Diane Gozemba, Kristin Hempel

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by Board Chair, Justin Phaiah

Pledge of Allegiance

Audience with Citizens – None

Additions to the Agenda:
Head Start Program:
Approve the Change in Scope
Approve the Carryover of Funds

MOTION: **Samantha Derenthal motioned to approve the addition of two items to the Agenda as presented**

SECOND: Katherine Paulhus
VOTE: Unanimous
ABSETNTIONS: None

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

MOTION: Maryellen Donnelly motioned to approve the Minutes as presented
SECOND: Katherine Paulhus
VOTE: Unanimous
ABSTENTIONS: None

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

6001.1.1 Advanced Course or Program and Challenging Curriculum
9007.1.1 Construction and Posting of Agenda
9009.1.1 Meeting Conduct

Facilities Committee: Updates from Eric Protulis and Shawn Brodeur

The May meeting was cancelled
Discussed the tour of the Bridges Program in Columbia
Update on Westcott Road purchase and the CIF application and rollover funds
Commerce Drive remains for sale possible interest in renting the building from State of CT – looking into moving out from the Windham Mills location

Finance Committee: Updates from Brian Greenleaf and Eric Protulis

Presentation of the 2026-2027 proposed budget – see power point document
Local Budget process
RESC Budget process
Discussion around the Magnet Schools
Stabilization funds for EASTCONN
HR employee is transferring to Finance Department – not filling the HR position
Evaluate the Cash Flow
Increase in health care costs
As of June 30th all obligations of the separation agreement with ECHIP will be met
Review of leasing schedules in the budget

Significant overhaul of the Transportation Department – will bring the changes to the Board for a full vote when they are finalized

Head Start Updates:

Enrollment is at 100% at this time

Change in scope (consent item) – reduction in early head start home based facility – will convert to a center-based classroom

COLA funds as it relates to the Head Start funds

Reviewed the plan for the COLA funds moving forward

Updated the Carryover Funds

Approve the two items for head start adding to the agenda for Head Start"

MOTION:	**Katherine Paulhus motioned to approve the two items that were added to the Agenda as presented**
SECOND:	**Maryellen Donnelly**
VOTE:	**Unanimous**
ABSTENTIONS:	**None**

Enrollment Report:

CDT had a bump in enrollment

Stable Counts at all sites

Numbers fluctuate up and down – sometimes a transportation issue

QMC is steady at this time

Enrollment at ACT for next year are looking very positive

Division Directors' Report and Executive Director Summary Sheet:

Discussion around the advocacy work – reaching out to legislators about the stabilization funds

Childcare needs assessment – space in Danielson for a possible childcare facility for employees

Talked about the Workforce Readiness Program

Update on the USDA Food Service Grant

Human Resources Report:

Increase in number of vacancies

CDT – 12 vacancies – these are Summer School assignments

Holding steady in overall staffing

Discussed recruitment and sourcing of candidates

GRANT EXCEL DOCUMENT:

Review and Updates of the Grant document

Action Items:

Item #1

Approve the budget for FYE 2026-2027 as presented

MOTION:	**Katherine Paulhus motioned to approve the 2026-2027 budget as presented**
SECOND:	**Maryellen Donnelly**
VOTE:	**Unanimous**
ABSTENTIONS:	**None**

Item #2

Approve the Application of the Community Investment Fund Round 9 grant as presented

Motion:

I move that the EASTCONN Board of Directors authorize the Executive Director to apply for, accept, and execute all documents necessary to secure financial Assistance from the Community Investment Fund Round 9, pursuant to Applicable state statues, for the **Westcott Road Acquisition and Renovation Project,** in an amount not to exceed $5,000,000

MOTION:	**Katherine Paulhus motioned to approve the Application of the Community Investment Fund Round 9 as presented**
SECOND:	**Maryellen Donnelly**
VOTE:	**Unanimous**
ABSTENTIONS:	**None**

Item #3

Approve the following policies (first read was done at the April 2026 meeting) as presented:

5024.1.2 Student Dress
5032.1.1 Use of Private Technology Devices by Students
5043.1.1 Restorative Practices Response Policy

MOTION:	**Katherine Paulhus motioned to approve the Policies as presented**
SECOND:	**Maryellen Donnelly**
VOTE:	**Unanimous**
ABSTENTIONS:	**None**

Item #4
Approval of the full schedule for all Board meetings for 2026-2027 as presented at the April 2026 Board Meeting with the following changes:

Change the Finance Committee meeting date to May 12th
Change the November Finance Committee meeting date to November 11th

MOTION:	**Katherine Paulhus motioned to approve the 2026-2027 calendar for all Board meetings as presented with changes**
SECOND:	**Maryellen Donnelly**
VOTE:	**Unanimous**
ABSTENTIONS:	**None**

MOTION to ADJOURN:

MOTION:	**Katherine Paulhus motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 pm**
SECOND:	**Shana Boland**
VOTE:	**Unanimous**
ABSTENTIONS:	**None**

Respectfully Submitted

Carol Klemyk
Executive Assistant