

A9CC - Educational Access Committee

Area 9 Cable Council, 17 Crawford Road, Westport, CT 06880 | <http://edaccess.a9cc.org/>

To: A9CC Ed Access Committee Members
From: Natalie Carrigan, Secretary
Re: Minutes of Meeting for February 22, 2021

Date: February 22, 2021
Location: Virtual ([Zoom Link](#))

Attendance: (yellow highlight & asterisk(*) = present)

TOWN	Member(s)
Darien:	Joan McGettigan*
Easton/Redding:	Mike D'Agostino*
Greenwich:	<i>unfilled</i>
Greenwich /Sacred Heart:	David Pisani*
NCC:	Julie Casper Roth*
New Canaan:	Roman Cebulski* (Committee Chair)
Norwalk:	Trevor Kline*
Stamford:	Paula Ward*
Weston:	Gabe Tully*
Westport:	Natalie Carrigan*
Wilton:	Fran Kompar*
Altice:	Esme Lombard

Roman called the A9CC Ed Access Meeting to order at 4:05. 8 towns were represented (10 entities).

Minutes from [12/7/2020](#) approved. Motion by Joan to approve the minutes; Fran seconded. Edited spelling for Paula and Julie's surnames.

1. Old Business

- a. New Members - Julie (NCC) & Trevor (NHS)- introduce new members to David who was not here last week. David introduced himself and his roles in the committee.
 - i. Hal has not received an appointment letter from Trevor's superintendent. Trevor sent another email to superintendent to remind him.
- b. A9CC Google Drive- Please go to Google Drive. In the EdAccess folder, Roman moved the grants out of resources. Please make sure all your grants are uploaded there. If you can put up previous grants into the folders, please do so. Roman will help support.
- c. A9CC E Website - <https://sites.google.com/view/edaccess/home>
Roman still has to talk to Hal to get this link to Hal to replace old link on the full A9CC website. Joan now has a different link to the editing side.

2. 2020 Grant Review (David)

- a. [Link to Google Doc](#)

- b. Roman asked people to update the grant document.
- c. David looked at minutes of the larger A9CC meeting, that is how the 2021 sheet eligibility list was created.
- d. Joan asked for clarification of the correct grant report form. She also has stuff backordered like Roman. Roman suggested that she submit her grant report anyway noting what has been backordered so that it shows she has done all that she can and he will advocate with Hal and the larger committee that she should then be eligible. Roman suggested that everyone should do the same thing. He will too.
- e. Julie doesn't know what an INet log is. Roman explained is that it is a report of everything that aired on the Cable Channel for the year. Mike shared how it could be simple. Roman showed how to find the form on the A9CC website.
- f. David asked for clarification on note regarding CSH to submit a report. What is he to submit? Mike provided a suggestion of how to fill out the form, listing the programs submitted to Greenwich E for availability to be broadcast. Then Greenwich E would submit an INet report if they start airing content again.

3. 2021 Grants

- a. General questions- David asked in the past, how are we reporting- by school year or calendar year? Mike mentioned in the minutes the attendance is school year for grant eligibility. The money is provided by calendar year.
- b. Roman said full council round 1 is \$125,000 from Altice. That is \$62,500 for E and G each. Within that we decide how to divide up our share and attendance is one piece of that.
- c. Amounts- \$62,500 total. Each district will can apply for a grant of \$6,250 with a cap of \$2,500 towards "technical services" (labor costs).
- d. Eligibility- Greenwich is clearly not eligible for this round.
Darien, Easton/Redding, Sacred Heart, New Canaan, Stamford, Weston, Westport, Wilton, Norwalk (dependent on Trevor's appointment), NCC are currently eligible for the grant.
 - Mike asked for clarification -Did Hal say that Julie is not part of the council? If that is the case then how are they getting funds? Roman said he was confused at that meeting too. Stoney was on the council for years. **Roman said he will follow up with Hal.** Natalie brought up the question if that isn't parallel to CSH? They have both been members for years with voting rights and funding eligibility.
 - Mike's other question- Do you have to be eligible by the time the grant is available or by the end of the year? Roman said if the district doesn't maintain their eligibility by the year is done then they *would not* be eligible for Round 2.
 - Paula asked for advice on how to determine how to best allocate the money? Roman said that the grant is designed to get content on the cable channel so whomever is creating content is who should receive funding. Mike asked if Stamford broadcasts on their educational channel?
 - **Mike moved to set up 10 grants for \$6,250. David seconded the motion. Motion**

passes unanimously.

- e. Deadlines- The final deadline is two weeks before May 26 per the A9CC. The earliest deadline for A9CC-E is the E March meeting to get to the full council on March 24.
- f. Mike asked if we could hold round 1 money until round 2. Dave is OK with it. Natalie is OK with it. No motion or vote was taken yet. Roman worries from the minutes of the full committee that it seems they will collect back anything not spent by May 26 and that it will then be redistributed. **Roman will ask Hal if we will get the remaining funds and uVerse funds before May 26? Roman will also ask if E can hold off on the final round 1 funds until Sept. to see if we can join grants together for a larger slice?**

4. **2021 Access Awards**

- a. We usually have annual contest. We did not run it last year with the pandemic.
- b. Fran had an idea about what we can do this year and is willing to oversee it with a teacher from Wilton.
 - i. Create more of a film festival.
 - ii. For kids putting a lot of effort in, wanted a way to still recognize them without the full judging process
 - iii. Need to have a way to broadcast the entries and each member will need to do promotion of the festival in their district.
- c. Questions from the Group
 - i. If is more of a showcase, how many pieces per school? What is the best way to vet them? Do we set up streaming them all at the same time across all our channels?
 - ii. At the school level we could make an announcement and then is it a time thing or a number? It will also depend on how long each piece is too.
 - iii. We do not want to put ourselves in the position of judging everything as a whole group. Can it be done at the district level?
 - iv. If this is a showcase, can anyone's piece go in or are we doing it per category?
 - v. In thinking of time, each district submit best piece from the district. Then Fran just strings them together....
 - vi. We should probably do three divisions (levels) and then by category from there. We then decide on the categories, which can differ by levels
- d. Roman wants to see if we can get to an agreement of what we call it and get some promotion of it started.
 - i. Festival, Celebration - words to think about while allowing Fran to have creative license.
 - ii. **Fran put in motion, in lieu of A9-E contest this year to have a festival/celebration this year instead. Natalie seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.**
 - iii. Mike asked if there is a cash prize? Dave thought that judging would be needed for that. Roman said that Fran's committee should think about what the recognition could be, plaque/certificate etc., but the large cash prize to the districts would not happen and then Roman/Fran would ask Esme to fund the

costs of the recognition.

5. Technology Showcase - [Black Magic ATEM Mini Pro](#) (Roman)

- a. Overview- portal mixer with audio inputs as well. Relatively small. Updated version, a few less buttons but inputs are the same. 4 HDMI switcher, two mic inputs, HDMI out, USB out. This will stream to YouTube right from it. Does need an Internet connection. NC theory on this is to go down to IceRink and one camera and announcer mixer and connect to it via laptop.

6. Next Meeting

- a. Tentative- March 15, 2021 at 4 pm via Zoom.

Motion to adjourn by Mike ; seconded by Trevor

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Carrignan

Secretary