

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 September 13, 2021**

Date: September 13, 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
Norwalk:	Trevor Kline
Stamford:	Alec logman
Weston:	*Gabe Tully
Westport:	*Natalie Carrigan
Wilton:	*Fran Kompar
Altice:	Esme Lombard

Roman called the A9CC Ed Access Meeting to order at 4:06 pm. 8 towns were represented (8 districts).

1. A9CC Overview

- a. Welcome & Introductions
 - Alec has taken over for Paula from Stamford
 - Shared take aways from summer
- b. A9CC Overview & Goals
 - Roman would like to solicit feedback on goals. Roman would like to encourage someone else to take the helm over via a co-chair to start the transition in the future

2. 2021 Grant Overview

- a. Grant Recap (David)
 - Everyone was eligible last year except for Greenwich
 - So \$6,250 was available for each eligible district
 - Darien and Wilton already got their grants in the spring
 - If the two districts don't show up this meeting we have to talk about what to do with that money so we don't, as a committee, leave money on the table.
 - Dave went over who is eligible and who is not, and if not why.
 1. Anything remaining, email to have Hal before next Wednesday, by this week it is
- b. Grant Documents ([Google Drive](#))

3. Remaining Round 1 Grant Proposals

- a. **Region 9-** Mike has two grants depending on where we end up money so we don't leave on the table. Everyone was OK with Mike presenting the higher grant. Julie said she doesn't have anything for this round. Mike is requesting \$9,995.00 for a TC410+ Tricaster from B&H. It would allow them to get up and running in the auditorium. Natalie moved to approved. Dave seconded. Roman asked if Region 9 is an OMNI member. They are not yet, but they will when the new director of tech is fully on board. Approved unanimously. Mike had to leave after his presentation. We all wished Mike best of luck in the election.
- b. **Westport Revised** - Part I: 2 PTZ cameras and 2 mounts to finish the PTZ replacements she started in the previous round. This will make all of the cameras HD capable that capture the BOE meetings and the model works with the controller that is the same model as the town so they will now have built in redundancy too. Part II: After the school TV studios were shuttered during CoVID they are reopening. One school's ATEM Production board did not start back up. Natalie is replacing it with the same model. All of the studios have the same set up for easy training and redundancy. Natalie will take the broken board and see if it is repairable so it can be a hot swap when needed. The BOE will pick up that cost. Natalie is requesting \$8,135.76. Julie motioned to open discussion, Dave seconded. Roman asked clarifying question about compatibility with the town equipment. Approved unanimously.
- c. **New Cannan Revised-** Roman is wanting to continue to install PTZ cameras to other parts of the school that can be controlled by any Tricaster on the same network. This one would be installed in the auditorium and to capture different events, concerts, etc. to then be broadcast on cable. He wants to get more of these installed in that location over time to enhance school productions. NC also needs a new production laptop as well as some additional field equipment, cables, etc for a total of \$10,220.50. Natalie motioned to open comments. David seconded. Approved unanimously.
- d. **Sacred Heart Revised-** Looking to get 3 Canon camera bodies, 2 special lens, and three tripods. There are up to 75 students in the program. The students created 42 projects last year. Fran motioned to open up discussion. Julie seconded. Julie asked David why he chose Cannon. Dave said it will bring consistency for the teaching environment as they have others of the same model, and it is designed for the larger frame, higher quality film capture. The tripods are designed to support the heavier weight. The total is \$10,556.85. Approved unanimously.
- e. **Darien** - Joan is applying for a Padcaster setup for the last elementary school. This now allows all schools to be able to create content for Channel 78. Total request is for \$2,314.00. David motioned to approve for discussion. Fran seconded. Joan was asked about plans for the HS after this. Joan said the HS is not ready yet based on staffing and maturity of program at this time. Approved unanimously.
- f. **Wilton-** Fran was thinking about using grant funds to replace the head-end. Roman said that most likely Altice will replace it as part of their cable agreement and she should ask them to come out and assess the equipment before creating a grant. Julie said that Altice came out to Norwalk and it appears that they are going to replace her equipment to get them back up and running.
- g. **Remaining Funds** - Roman asked for input on what to do with remaining funds from the others who didn't qualify and what we could do next time instead of leaving money on the table and scrambling at the last minute. Julie suggested that everyone must declare at the meeting prior to the final meeting and then we can figure out then what would be

left and have all other districts bring options to the final meeting. We all agreed that the remaining funds would be used to help build up each others programs as much as possible on a rotational basis.

- h. Motion to approve amended grants were unanimous. Grants amended were Westport, New Canaan and Sacred Heart
- i. There is \$8,728 to return back to the full committee

4. Future Meetings

- a. Discussion about virtual meetings and plans for this school year- we will stay with Zoom for now. Roman proposed we discuss moving back to 1:00/1:30 time frame. Natalie will set up a Doodle Poll.
- b. Requests topics for this year
 - Julie would like to talk to our students and recruit and or be an expert.
 - Julie is looking at working with different high schools to offer dual credit.
- c. Meeting dates for Educational Committee include:
 - October 4 , 2021
 - November 1, 2021****Additional meeting dates will be set at the next meeting
- d. Meeting dates for the A9CC Full Council are as follows:
 - September 22, 2021 at 5pm on Zoom
 - October 27, 2021 at 5pm on Zoom
 - December 15, 2021 at 5pm on Zoom
 - February 2, 2022 at 5pm on Zoom
 - March 23, 2022 at 5pm on Zoom
 - May 25, 2022 at 5pm on Zoom

5. School/Individual highlights/tips from last year

- a. HS broadcasting students nationwide are offered to be part of ESPN's Kidscast during the Little League World Series. One of Roman's students was chosen and did a fabulous job. Natalie suggested he share this with the full committee. [Recap Here](#)

6. Next Meeting- Noted only

- a. October 4, 2021 time TBD (Via Zoom, Virtual)

Motion to adjourn by David and Julie seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Carrigan
Secretary