

# A9CC - Educational Access Committee

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

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**To:** A9CC Ed Access Committee Members **Date:** December 8, 2021  
**From:** Natalie Carrignan, Secretary  
**Re:** **Minutes of Meeting for December 8, 2021** **Location:** Virtual ([Zoom Link](#))

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

TOWN	Member(s)
Darien:	*Joan McGettigan
Easton/Redding:	*Mike D'Agostino
Greenwich:	Michael Reid
Greenwich /Sacred Heart:	*David Pisani
NCC:	*Julie Casper Roth
New Canaan:	*Roman Cebulski
Norwalk:	Trevor Kline
Stamford:	*Alec logman- joined at 4:35, left at 5:00
Weston:	Gabe Tully
Westport:	*Natalie Carrignan
Wilton:	*Fran Kompar
Altice:	Esme Lombard

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Roman called the A9CC Ed Access Meeting to order at 4:05 pm. 5 towns were represented (7 districts/locations).

## 1. 2021-22 A9CC EDU Representatives

- a. Roman asked everyone to check that the info is correct and they have access

## 2. 2021 Grant Overview

- a. Grant Recap (David)
  - Roman asked everyone to check the info and they have access to
  - Roman asked everyone to update the grant report page
- b. Grant Documents ([Google Drive](#))

## 3. Remaining Round 2 Grant Proposals

- a. At the last A9CC meeting, EDU was given \$15,000.
- b. That money was held for any district who did not get a larger grant in September.
- c. NCC/Julie presented her grant proposal. The request will be for \$10,210.36. Roman asked if they are an OMNI partner. Julie said that whatever their relationship is, they do get discounts. NCC needs updated equipment for the students. They will be updating and running Podcasting and audio. This will be available for students and faculty etc. Mike suggested that she be clear at the outset that her grant is for developing content for Channel 78. Need to repair/replace the RoadCaster system. Providing more opportunities for students to get professional level audio is also a focus. Went for

- quantity vs quality so pro-sumer level so more students can participate. NCC is doing partner projects out in the community and this supports that as well. See grant for full detailed list. David motioned, Joan seconded. Discussion: Mike shared that this year is somewhat unique with only 7 towns qualifying for grants so it was a good year to have larger grants and get equipment we can't normally get. Mike said that it would be good to make sure it was fairly equal in the end David \$68,800 was the total grant for Round 1 and Round 2 together. Vote is unanimous.
- d. Fran is negotiating with the district to see if they will pay half. So officially there is a remaining \$4,700 and so Roman wants to open it up to the remaining members. Fran has two. Wilton/Fran presented the grant. Their head-end is the original from when John Ripicky was there. They have many technical problems with it. This past year they have done much more with streaming. The total was for \$18,000 and she would want the school to cover \$10,000. Roman suggested since they look for something besides TightRope since New Canaan is not happy with it. Natalie said they use Latronix and is happy. Natalie said she will meet with Fran and her team to show them what Latronix can do. David suggested to buy parts of the head end project to start the purchasing/upgrading process. Roman wanted to know if any ESSER funds might be able to be applied. Fran said that Wilton grant is supporting student learning, not technology. Alex asked if he could have additional teachers join him as non-voting members to see the process and have a better understanding of what the grant can be used for. The total is \$4,789.64 that is available. Fran is going to take David's advice and make it a tiered/phased project. Her request is for components for a head end unit totaling \$4,789.64. Mike would suggested a motion to be for a total up to \$4,789.64 to be applied toward the purchase of the head-end unit (cablecast) Mike made the motioned, David seconded. Approved unanimously.

#### **4. Access Awards**

- a. Roman wanted to talk about bringing back the content is full. The end of the first semester is coming up right after the new year. Roman wanted to get the sense of the committee about what they wanted to do. Fran would like to go back to the full process. She feels that being able to recognize students is important. Mike wanted to know if Esmee funded the medals last year and wants to make sure that they will fund it for this year and use the drafted letter. Mike thinks it is important. Roman said yes, we have the letter and we should get out ahead of it in the spring when the funding is announced. It does seem to be less each year overall with fewer subscribers. Roman said that it has to have a coordinator, and it is looking like it would be Fran. It would be great to have someone assist Fran. Julie said that she could assist somehow. Roman suggested that we could look at it more after the holidays. Roman suggested that this would be a nice high/celebration for students since so many are seemingly just coasting and not being connected. Roman thanked Fran and Julie for spearheading this.

#### **5. Other Items**

- a. We had a discussion about what differences we have noticed in students and their skills post-Covid shutdown. Roman asked anyone to report back what any district is doing to address this.
- b. Mike has been reading about how social media/media has been affecting our students, but he is curious whether we have thought about that and are there things we need to advocate for or advise. David's school focuses on documentaries and it shows the good

that it can come from media communications. It is near impossible to combat the negative, but this one small step. Roman also mentioned how important media literacy is and helping students understand what they see and how it is created and manipulated/curated.

- c. Frank wanted to also ask this group, there has been a lot of discussion about YikYak and Instagram to make threats, does that have something to do with the video to be used by students.... Students are using their phones so we can never block it. What can we do to turn it around?
  
- 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

**6. Next Meeting- Noted only**

- a. TBD in January, Mike said we need to talk about attendance because we have to be careful so we are clear about who qualifies and who doesn't. We need to lock in the rest of the year at the January meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Natalie seconded by Roman.  
Meeting adjourned at 5:24 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Carrigan  
Secretary