

A9CC - Educational Access Committee

Area 9 Cable Council: <http://edaccess.a9cc.org/g/>

To: A9CC Ed Access Committee Members **Date:** February 10, 2025
From: Natalie Carrignan, Secretary
Re: **Minutes of Meeting for February 10, 2025** **Location:** Virtual ([Google Meet Link](#))

Attendance: (yellow highlight = present)

TOWN	Member(s)
Darien:	Tim McGuire
Easton/Redding:	Mike D'Agostino
Greenwich:	Sean Mayo (excused)
Greenwich /Sacred Heart:	David Pisani joined at 4:20
CSCC-Norwalk:	Julie Casper Roth
New Canaan:	Roman Cebulski
Norwalk:	Trevor Kline
Stamford:	Alec logman
Weston:	Vacant
Westport:	Natalie Carrignan
Wilton:	Maria Brecee
Altice:	Esme Lombard

Roman called the A9CC Ed Access Meeting to order at 4:02 pm. x towns were represented; x districts/locations.

1. Old Business/Approval of Minutes

Approval of [December 9, 2024 minutes](#). Natalie motioned to approve. Maria seconded. Approved unanimously.

2. Grants (David)

o Round 1 Grants for 2025

- The larger committee gave \$65,000 for this year for E and G
- Amount per district: \$8,100 for Round 1
- [Eligible](#) / Ineligible districts - Norwalk, Stamford, Weston not eligible per E committee, Hal said New Canaan and Wilton still owe things to the larger committee
- Max \$3,000 for technical operations
- Hal said deadline for education Round 1 grants, Sept. 13, 2025, but it is open now so you can apply for our March 10 meeting.

3. Access Awards (Maria)

- o Updates/Status- Maria is all set. Entries due May 2, Committee members review by May 8 and upload files, judging will be May 12.
- o All entries should be uploaded to the Google Drive Maria creates and it will be sorted by category rather than school.

- Maria will reserve the library for the 12th.
- We need to finalize the categories: Tim will draft language for the three additional categories.
 - Highlight reel- up to 90 secs
 - Announcer Reel/Play-by-play - up to 3 minute section of the best call
 1. Match the regular entry number per district, which is currently 3, for first year
 2. Or it could be an announcer team for three minutes over multiple games or single game
 3. Must be matched to footage and not just a podcast
 4. Must be aired on Channel 78 just as the other submissions are
 - Adult Assisted at the HS
 1. Right now we have one school that has regularly scheduled students who have students with assigned paras
 2. Dave said we could have the category to recognize the students and without a large number of students participating it won't take a long time
 3. Maria said her students work really hard
 4. Tim said he feels we should add the category for equity. I would propose shortening the duration of the video. Maria offered 2 minutes with no trimming. Tim offered 5 minutes. It can be more of a recognition vs a judging. We agreed upon 4 minutes after discussion.
- AI Discussion
 - David shared what his students are doing with AI for voiceovers. He asked if we should we give them the opportunity to use all tools at their disposal this year or have it AI free.
 - Roman thinks that there should be at least an AI disclosure. David agreed. Roman asked for that to be added to the rules.
 - Tim shared the link to the rules and proposed language.
- Mike has reached out to Esme for the money again. Mike is confident that we will get the funding. Roman is wondering if we can factor in a thank you for the students for them. Mike suggested to create a compilation video with a thank you in the front. Roman said we might do a shorter version with a shorter wrapper with their logo to make it more official. Roman said something physical for Altice for a waiting room in business can go a long way.
- Roman has reached out to the designer again. Tim had provided us with 2 or 3 sample Canva posters to look at. Mike wondered if a digital version with some previous winners that students access on their phone may be more engaging. Roman liked the idea. Tim said he would link the highlight reel to the posters via QR code.

Notes from Dec. 9 meeting are below

- Website - <https://sites.google.com/view/edaccess>
- What questions do we want to consider this year
 - Tim wanted to know if we are open to AI generated video content creation/content use, or use of AI audio and if so portion or entire submission
 - Dave- in his class this year for the first time, for the voiceover project got an AI to read their script, you can prompt the script, there are different levels, what if there is an AI category

- Maria was wondering if we could think about a short film category, could we do 5-7 minute. The narrative limit is 4 minutes. Maybe we don't watch their full film
 - Maria was wondering if an Adult assisted at the HS level. We have had a lot of special ed students entering the classes with para assistants.
 - Maria would like to use of only Google Drive to put in submissions for this year's consideration. Then Maria can play the videos for the judging categories and also for showing the larger council in May if we don't feel we need a formal reel. It will take less time.
- Review of pieces needed
 - **Poster/Advertisement materials**- Roman would like to use Canva to make a nice flyer, who would do it, due dates, etc. Tim doesn't mind making the poster in Canva. Roman had also talked about getting the posters professionally printed.
 - **Judging Rubric**- we should review for any changes, none was suggested at this time.
 - **Repicky award amounts**- most agreed to keep it if we have the extra funds again to keep HS at \$1,000 and MS and EL at \$500. This is an equipment award for the school, not a cash award for school or student.
 - **Rules document**- no changes suggested at this time, will need to update based on outcomes of discussions listed above.
 - **Google form to collect the applications**- We need to make sure all of the schools are listed.
 1. We need to add Middlesex Middle School- MMSD.
 2. If a student did the project alone, it keeps asking who else worked on it, can we say N/A or just add yourself again? Can we add guidance in a subheading for that section? Tim will work on this
 - **Updating rules/Google form on the website**- Tim said he would work on this for us when ready
 - **Medals for individuals?** Y/N - YES
 - **Trophies for schools for winners?** Y/N - YES
 - **Special Repicky award trophies for winners?** Y/N - YES
 - **Highlight reel of winners for full council (and districts) by May 28, 2024**
- Scheduling dates/deadlines for ourselves.
 - Final decisions on rules, etc - Jan 13 or Jan 31
 - Poster design- Feb 10
 - Posting/promoting of contest starts.... February 24/25
 - When entries forms are due- May 2, 2024
 - When entries are due to committee- May 8
 - **Judging day**- First suggestion is Monday, May 12- we are checking school calendars- CSH last day of classes is Monday, May 19
- Sports Category proposed details
 - Highlight reel- up to 90 secs
 - Play-by-play - up to 3 minute section of the best call
 1. Do we do it by one entry per school and they pick the various pairs
 2. Or it could be one pair (one announcer team) for three minutes over multiple games or single game
 3. Must be matched to footage and not just a podcast
 4. Must be aired on Channel 78 just as the other submissions are

- Any other proposed changes to process/categories/definitions

4. Share- CSCC-Norwalk (Julie)

- Julie Casper Roth shared the great work happening with her students and the community
- Roman was intrigued by what Julie shared via email and invited Julie to present
- SoFa was a nice way to help solidify the identify of Norwalk with the community with all of the restructuring.
- Julie wanted to know if any students were interested in creating material for this show. About their high school, or what is going on in their community.
- Julie can provide the parameters they need to follow
- Julie shared the fall show and where they hope to head
- Some of the work has been done by her students and some by Julie and her colleague.

5. New Business - None stated

6. Upcoming Meeting Schedule- Next Meeting

- March 10, 2025 @ 4pm
- April 14, 2025 @ 4pm (Westport & Darien have spring break, Wilton is the week after,)
- May TBD for judging

We need to all check our April schedules and meeting availability

Meeting adjourned at 5:01 pm. Mike motioned to adjourn. Maria seconded. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Carrigan,
Secretary