

**DRAFT****MINUTES – C.E.S. REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING  
April 6, 2017****PRESENT:**

Debbie Appelbaum	-	GREENWICH
Carlos Reinoso, Jr.	-	MONROE
Tracey O'Connor	-	RIDGEFIELD
Arlene Liscinsky	-	SHELTON ( <b>President</b> )
Andy George	-	STAMFORD
Terri Sheehy	-	STRATFORD ( <b>Vice President</b> )
Mike Ward	-	TRUMBULL ( <b>Secretary</b> )
Elise Major	-	WESTON
Karen Kleine	-	WESTPORT

**ABSENT:**

Sauda Baraka	-	BRIDGEPORT
Chris Hocker	-	EASTON/Reg. 9
Christa McNamara	-	DARIEN
Jeff Parker	-	EASTON/Reg. 9 (Alt.)
Philip Dwyer	-	FAIRFIELD
John Llewellyn	-	FAIRFIELD
Maria Naughton	-	NEW CANAAN
Mike Barbis	-	NORWALK
Tom Minotti	-	SHELTON (Alt.)
Christine Finkelstein	-	WILTON

**C.E.S.:** **Present:** Evan Pitkoff, Chris La Belle, Mark Ribbens, Esther Bobowick, Mike Regan, Anna Nelmes-Stoughton, Peggy Sullivan, Terri Garrity.

**GUEST:** Robert Trefry, CABA

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM – Arlene Liscinsky called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. Quorum was confirmed.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Terri Sheehy, the minutes of the March 2, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved.
- III. CONSENT AGENDA - On a motion by Terri Sheehy and seconded Karen Kleine, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved by the Council.
- IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT – Evan introduced Bob Trefry from CABA, who presented the CABA Excellence in Communications award to C.E.S. for our 2016-17 District Member Calendar. C.E.S. also received an Honorable Mention for the 2014-15 Annual Report. Arlene also took the opportunity to welcome Tracey O'Connor who will be our representative from Ridgefield.

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2 V. NEW BUSINESS:  
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- 4 1. Building Committee Update: Committee chair Mike Ward advised that the Building  
5 Committee met prior to today's meeting. Mike asked Director of Finance &  
6 Operations, Peggy Sullivan, to give the Council an update regarding capital  
7 projects. Peggy reported that: Generator upgrade work at RCA has begun. We  
8 had budgeted \$400,000 and actual cost is projected at \$212,300. Metal exterior  
9 doors at the 25 Oakview Drive location have been completed. Budget was  
10 \$300,000 actual cost was \$55,000. Ceiling tile replacement at Six to Six: all  
11 classrooms have been completed; hallways and cafeteria tiles will be replaced in  
12 June so as to limit disruptions during the school day. Budgeted cost for this project  
13 was \$150,000 with actual total cost being \$95,246. High impact glass has been  
14 installed at Six to Six as well as at 25 Oakview Drive. Regarding the installation of  
15 LED lighting at RCA, after meeting with UI officials and one contractor, it was  
16 deemed that it is not financially cost-effective to go forward with the installation.  
17 RCA has natural lighting coming in throughout the building and since it is used half  
18 days for classes, the savings would be minimal. Peggy advised that she will be  
19 meeting with one additional contractor to confirm these findings.  
20

21 Mike advised that at this time there is nothing on the agenda for the 2017-18 fiscal  
22 year regarding capital projects. Mike offered his sincere thanks to Louis Fronte,  
23 Facilities Manager, for his wonderful job in maintaining and managing all of our  
24 buildings. Lastly, Evan advised that C.E.S. received a notice from the Trumbull  
25 Planning and Zoning Commission advising C.E.S. of a hearing regarding property  
26 located at 100 Oakview Drive for approval of a multi-family residential development  
27 consisting of 202 residential units. Evan wrote a letter to the Commission advising  
28 them of some concerns he had regarding parking, traffic, enforcement of speed  
29 limits, excavating and/or blasting, given the proximity of the property to our schools  
30 at 23 and 25 Oakview Drive. To date no response has been received.  
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32 VI. REPORTS  
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- 34 1. **Representative Council President** – Arlene reported that a Finance  
35 Committee meeting will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup> to review the proposed 2017-18  
36 budget which will be voted on in May. Regarding Evan's evaluation, everyone  
37 received the forms via email as well in hard copy. Arlene asked that everyone  
38 take some time to complete the forms and return them to her directly. Arlene  
39 will then compile the comments and ratings and this summary will be discussed  
40 during Executive Session at the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Arlene asked those members  
41 who do not feel they know Evan well enough to complete the evaluation, to  
42 please speak to their superintendent since Evan works with all C.E.S. district  
43 superintendents. Arlene asked everyone to return their forms to her as soon as  
44 possible but no later than April 24<sup>th</sup>. Arlene also reported that on March 25<sup>th</sup>,  
45 the C.E.S. Foundation held a hugely successful fundraiser, raising over  
46 \$17,000, at Mill River Country Club in Stratford. Arlene and Evan thanked Rep

1 Council and administrative liaisons Terri Sheehy (Stratford) and Barbara Pace,  
2 respectively, for their leadership in planning and implementing the event.  
3

- 4 **2. Executive Director** – Evan reported that the RESC directors met with the  
5 Commissioner of Education who indicated that the magnet school tuition grant  
6 will be reduced by 3.8% for the current year, and by at least an additional 3.8%  
7 for the next fiscal year. This reduction equals approximately \$300 per student  
8 this year and \$600 per student for the next year for Six to six students as well  
9 as \$200 this year and \$400 next year for students at RCA. Evan mentioned  
10 that earlier this year he indicated to the superintendents and Rep Council  
11 members that C.E.S. would absorb the current year’s reduction given that our  
12 districts did not budget for it. We will have to modify our district tuition  
13 obligations for next year to reflect compounded reduction for 2017-18. Evan  
14 also mentioned that the RESC directors met with Liz Donahue, chief legislative  
15 aide to the governor, to discuss the proposed language requiring the  
16 commissioner or her designee to be part of the RESC Representative Council.  
17 Our lobbyists have indicated that that language has now been removed.  
18

19 Update on our Executive Searches: We have completed the Region 6 and  
20 Region 8 superintendent searches with the appointment of Christopher Leone  
21 and Patricia Law, respectively. We are now in the initial interview phase for the  
22 Seymour superintendent vacancy. In addition to these superintendent  
23 searches, we are involved in the selection of a principal for Highville Charter  
24 School in New Haven, the Executive Director search for the Intensive  
25 Education Academy (IEA) in West Hartford and the development and  
26 administration of the supervising and teaching assistant principals’ exams for  
27 the Waterbury Public Schools. Lastly, Evan offered congratulations to Six to  
28 Six Principal, Anna Nelmes-Stoughton, on her acceptance to the Teacher’s  
29 College, Columbia University accelerated doctoral program in Educational  
30 Administration.  
31

- 32 **3. Associate Executive Director**– Chris La Belle advised the Board that there  
33 are two proposed bills in the House: H.B. 7207 which would delay the  
34 implementation of the requirements of the student data privacy act of 2016  
35 until July 1, 2018 and H.B. 7276 which would make the uniform calendar  
36 optional for districts. Chris also reported that there is a new law in effect July  
37 1, 2017 whereby all school employees must be trained in both restraint and  
38 seclusion. Chris also mentioned that with regard to background checks for  
39 potential employees, school districts must make attempts to contact prior  
40 employers going back at least 20 years. Chris also reported that the State has  
41 announced that school districts will not have to submit their 2017-18 teacher  
42 and administrator evaluation and support plan for approval. The only  
43 exception is if a district has made significant changes to their plan. C.E.S. has  
44 not proposed any changes to our plan for 2017-18. Chris offered his thanks  
45 to TDP teachers Deb Pontbriant and Erica Christopher who oversaw the  
46 administration of this week’s SATs for our 11<sup>th</sup> grade students in special

1 education. Staff is now gearing up for the SBAC, CTAA and CMT Science.  
2 Lastly, Chris mentioned that the C.E.S. Fairfield County Recruitment Fair is  
3 scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 2017 at Fairfield Warde High School. There  
4 are currently 15 districts participating. Chris expects over 200 candidates to  
5 meet with district representatives about anticipated vacancies in 2017-18.  
6

- 7 **4. Director of Professional Development Services** – Esther Bobowick  
8 informed the Council that she and Lyn Nevins just finished conducting the 10<sup>th</sup>  
9 annual Academy for Teacher Leadership. This year's cohort of 28 teachers  
10 was the largest group over the last 10 years. Participants were from  
11 Bridgeport, Darien, Fairfield, Greenwich Stamford, Six to Six and Trumbull.  
12 Esther also mentioned there is now a "Seal of Biliteracy" which is an award  
13 given by a school, district, or state in recognition of students who have studied  
14 and attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation.  
15 The Seal of Biliteracy encourages students to pursue Biliteracy, honors the  
16 skills the students attain, and can be evidence of skills that are attractive to  
17 future employers and college admissions offices. Esther will send the link  
18 about this initiative to Barb who will send it out to the Board. Lastly, Esther  
19 reported that the professional learning staff in each of the six RESCs will work  
20 together to conduct a comprehensive and exciting statewide conference in the  
21 fall on personalized learning. Esther will share details as they emerge. See  
22 written report for additional highlights.  
23

- 24 **5. Principal, Regional Center for the Arts** – Mark Ribbens recapped some of  
25 his highlights: Auditions for the 2017-18 school year at RCA have concluded.  
26 Feedback from teachers indicates that all of the students were prepared and  
27 will be well suited for RCA. For the second year, RCA students participated in  
28 "Arts Day" in Hartford on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thanks to funding through a C.E.S.  
29 Foundation program grant, RCA staff were able to obtain the Saakumu Dance  
30 Troupe from Ghana who performed and presented a master class on West  
31 African Drumming and Dance for the entire school on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Both staff  
32 and students expressed that this experience was one of the best they've  
33 participated in.  
34

- 35 **6. Director, Special Education** – Mike Regan reported that science teacher Bob  
36 McVeigh, along with some of his high school seniors built a "hovercraft"  
37 powered by a shop vacuum which actually "floats" above the ground. Video  
38 can be viewed at the C.E.S. Facebook page. Students and faculty thoroughly  
39 enjoyed this project and both Evan and Mike were able to take a ride! Mike  
40 advised that the last professional development day for this school year was  
41 held on March 24<sup>th</sup> for special education staff. See highlights for details on this  
42 day. Lastly, Mike advised that Dr. Paula Gill-Lopez conducted a workshop on  
43 "Self-Care: The Missing Link in Best Practice on March 31<sup>st</sup>." Mike informed  
44 the Board that Special Education will be undertaking a new initiative: Transition  
45 Learning Center (TLC) for students who will be transitioning out of our  
46 Development Learning Center (DLC) into the private sector, post-secondary

1 employment or post-secondary education. This model was developed by a  
2 group of our special education teachers who are some of the most talented and  
3 experienced teachers in this field who created this model for the State and the  
4 RESCs based on the needs we saw in our own school. The initiative was  
5 piloted this year and will be in full swing next year as we expand classrooms for  
6 those students in need of this service. Flyers and information will be going out  
7 R Ato our member districts soon.

8  
9 **7. Director, Six to Six Magnet School** – Anna Nelmes-Stoughton reported that  
10 Six to Six staff engaged in their last professional development day on March  
11 24<sup>th</sup> as well with session topics such as strategies to support students with  
12 special needs in the early classroom for PK; the next generation science  
13 standards for K-8, SBAC assessment practice and preparation and  
14 mathematical fluency. Anna also reported that staff and students are preparing  
15 for the SBAC, CTAA and CMT Science tests. Lastly, Anna mentioned that the  
16 application window for the registration lottery came to a close on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
17 Breakdown of applications received are as follows: Bridgeport: 862; Fairfield,  
18 1; Monroe, 7; Stratford, 127; Trumbull 24 and other towns, 61. Please see  
19 Anna’s written report for other updates.

20  
21 **8. Director of Finance & Operations** – Peggy Sullivan reported that all 2017-18  
22 budgets have been received and are being reviewed for presentation to the  
23 Finance Committee on April 24<sup>th</sup> and to the full Rep Council on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

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26 VII. ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Elise Major and seconded by Debbie  
27 Appelbaum, the Council unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

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30 Respectfully submitted,  
31 *Barbara Pace*  
32 Barbara Pace  
33 Recording Secretary

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37 **FUTURE MEETING DATES:**

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39 **MAY 4, 2017**  
40 **JUNE 1, 2017**  
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