

MINUTES – C.E.S. REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
April 4, 2019

PRESENT:

Chris Hocker	-	EASTON/REG. 9 (President)
Jennifer Dayton	-	GREENWICH (Arrived @ 3:20 p.m.)
Margaret Stamatis	-	RIDGEFIELD
Tom Minotti	-	SHELTON
Andy George	-	STAMFORD
Jackie Pioli	-	STAMFORD
Vincent Faggella	-	STRATFORD
Mike Ward	-	TRUMBULL (Secretary)
Karen Kleine	-	WESTPORT (Vice President)

ABSENT:

Sybil Allen	-	BRIDGEPORT
Christa McNamara	-	DARIEN
Jeff Parker	-	EASTON/Reg. 9 (Alt.)
Christine Vitale	-	FAIRFIELD
Nick Aysseh	-	Fairfield
Maria Naughton	-	NEW CANAAN
Barbara Meyer-		
Mitchell	-	NORWALK
Dan McNeil	-	WESTON
Debbie Low	-	WILTON

C.E.S.: Present: Charles Dumais, Chris La Belle, Mark Ribbens, Esther Bobowick, Mike Regan, Anna Nelmes-Stoughton, Peggy Sullivan, Stephanie Wanzer, Jeremie Hittenmark.

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM – Chris Hocker called the meeting to order at 3:00. Quorum was confirmed
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Tom Minotti the minutes of the March 7, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved.
- III. CONSENT AGENDA - On a motion by Tom Minotti and seconded Karen Kleine, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved by the Council.
- IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT – Stephanie Wanzer, CESEA president, welcomed everyone. Anna Nelmes-Stoughton introduced Jeremie Hittenmark, 4th grade teacher from Six to Six who is observing the Council meeting today.

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2 V. REPORTS
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- 4 **1. Representative Council President** – Chris Hocker –Chris thanked the Board
5 members who have donated to the C.E.S. Foundation Signature Event. As of
6 today we have approximately \$325. Chris stated that he was very impressed
7 by Dr. Cetorelli’s talk last month and the amount of funded mini-grants and
8 program grants have been given to C.E.S. staff. If you’d like to contribute,
9 please send checks to Barb made payable to the C.E.S. Foundation. Chip
10 mentioned that he bought a table and has invited several district
11 superintendents to attend that evening. Lastly, Chris asked that all board
12 members return their executive director evaluation forms to him directly no later
13 than April 26th. If anyone has any questions, please contact Chris.
14
- 15 **2. Executive Director** – Chip advised that he is currently participating in
16 UCAPP’s supplemental sessions for their leadership program. Topics include
17 School Safety & Crisis Management and Social Media & School Leadership.
18 Regarding C.E.S. Executive Search Services, Chip mentioned that he met
19 earlier this week with a new group of retired superintendents who will be joining
20 our search team. The team will be updating our process and presentations,
21 offering additional Board services and extended transition services after
22 placement. Chip advised that the 2019-20 budget is in the works and will be
23 presented to the Finance Committee on April 26th. Budget summaries will be
24 emailed to the Board the week of April 28th for review and approval at the May
25 2nd board meeting. As the assistant chair of NEASC, Chip participated in a
26 three day accreditation visit earlier this month. Dave Erwin has been hired at
27 the RESC Alliance coordinator to assist the RESC directors and the alliance in
28 efficiency, help coordinate services. Dave’s salary will be split among the six
29 RESCs. Our lobbyist usually attends our June meeting, but members asked if
30 perhaps he would be able to come to the May meeting. Chip will check on this
31 request. C.E.S. will be hosting part 2 of our Leadership Development seminar
32 on May 1st. Area superintendents have also been invited to attend this event
33 as well.
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- 35 **3. Associate Executive Director**–Chris La Belle reported that all beginning
36 teachers are finalizing their TEAM spring modules. We have also confirmed
37 that the State allocation to support the TEAM program is set at \$7,718 and will
38 those funds will be used to offset the cost of TEAM mentor stipends. Chris
39 mentioned that as of this week, C.E.S. has moved to electronic on line
40 enrollment for all benefits. Summer hiring is in process and while a few glitches
41 have occurred, overall the system is working. Chris stated that we will be fully
42 on target for our fall hiring process this summer. Chris thanked Peggy Sullivan
43 and her staff for their work in this transition phase. All C.E.S. teachers are
44 reviewing their goals and evaluations re student data. Regarding 2019-20
45 enrollment, Six to Six received over 1000 applications for 40 pre-school slots

1 and approximately 15-20 grade level openings. RCA's projected enrollment is
2 on target as well. See Chris' written report for further updates.

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4 **4. Director of Professional Development Services** – Esther Bobowick reported
5 that her department has been very busy this past few months. Through a
6 program grant from the C.E.S. Foundation, PDS hosted a seminar for 65
7 teachers from the C.E.S. catchment area on Mindfulness Practices. The grant
8 from the Foundation covered presenter Suzy Boss' travel expenses as well as
9 the cost for all attendees. On July 8th through another Foundation grant award,
10 we will be hosting Dr. Rivers Murphy who will conduct a seminar on
11 Mindfulness Practices and Heart Centered Schools. Participants from the
12 C.E.S. districts will be able to attend free of charge and will receive Dr. Rivers
13 Murphy's book as well. Esther also advised that she will be working with
14 trainers from a consulting group in Rhode Island who will provide a 5 day
15 training in October on the national NGSX framework enabling district science
16 leaders and teachers. See written report for detailed info and other topics.

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18 **5. Principal, Regional Center for the Arts** – Mark Ribbens reported that our
19 exchange students from Nepal are here now for the next two weeks. Today
20 they are Yale observing a seminar on preserving cultural heritage. They will
21 travel to New York on Friday. Next week students will visit four area schools
22 performing and participating in workshops. Friday, April 12th, the group will
23 perform at RCA and also host a Q&A. Mark invited all Council members to
24 attend at 7:30 p.m. There is a chance that the consultant from Nepal may
25 attend as well. Please see written report for other updates.

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27 **6. Director, Special Education** – Mike Regan reported that the Special
28 Education Division has been using Mindfulness practice which was embedded
29 in the SPED program several years ago. These practices are extremely
30 important for staff and students and hopes to see all districts using them.
31 Regarding professional development, the RESC special education directors
32 met today. The RESC SPED directors currently have a contract with the State
33 Department of Education through the RESC alliance which was basically a pilot
34 year on how the RESC Alliance can help work with the SDE; the group found
35 out that the contract will be continued through the next year and greatly
36 expanded; they will be doing work funded by SDE around all the areas of
37 SPED. The SDE is planning to roll out a new IEP form which will be much less
38 cumbersome than the current form. The SDE also hopes to have everyone on
39 a State platform for IEPs which would reduce the costs to districts since it will
40 be funded by the State Department of Education.

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42 **7. Director, Six to Six Magnet School** – Anna Nelmes-Stoughton reported that
43 Six to Six received over 1000 applications for 40 preschool slots and
44 approximately 15-20 openings in other grades. Capacity at the school is 450.
45 Seventh graders recently took a trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art where
46 some of our teaching staff were trained as docents for the event. Anna offered

1 her thanks to the C.E.S. Foundation for their continued support of the
2 implementation and training for the Teachers College Writing Workshop. A
3 team of four teachers has applied to attend the Columbia University Writing
4 Workshop Summer institute this year. Please see written report for other
5 highlights.

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7 **8. Director, Finance & Operations** – Peggy Sullivan reported that our budget is
8 tracking as predicted; income is slightly ahead. Peggy advised that we have
9 received confirmation that C.E.S. will be receiving the Open Choice
10 supplemental reimbursement for transportation in the amount of \$500,000.
11 Regarding the Early Diagnostic Center, staff are working diligently with the
12 landlords, architects and engineers and we should be going out to bid soon.
13 Peggy advised that for the 2019-20 school year, we will have a 3% reduction in
14 our health insurance coverage. We will be going out to bid for dental, life and
15 disability insurances.

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17 VI. MEMBER REPORTS –

18 Members discussed the various stages of their district's budget status. Chris
19 Hocker also shared that the Danbury News-Times recently published an article
20 featuring their tri-districts reporting that a teacher and student at Barlow High
21 School were named STEM women of the year.

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23 VII. ADJOURNMENT - On motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Jennifer Dayton,
24 the Council unanimously adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

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27
28 Respectfully submitted,

29 *Barbara Pace*

30 Barbara Pace

31 Recording Secretary

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