

**MINUTES – C.E.S. REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
April 5, 2018**

PRESENT:

Sybil Allen	-	BRIDGEPORT
Christa McNamara	-	DARIEN
Chris Hocker	-	EASTON/REG. 9 (President)
Philip Dwyer	-	FAIRFIELD
Jennifer Dayton	-	GREENWICH
Barbara Meyer-		
Mitchell	-	NORWALK
Tom Minotti	-	SHELTON
Andy George	-	STAMFORD
Vincent Faggella	-	STRATFORD
Mike Ward	-	TRUMBULL (Secretary)
Karen Kleine	-	WESTPORT (Vice President)
Debbie Low	-	WILTON

ABSENT:

Jeff Parker	-	EASTON/Reg. 9 (Alt.)
Jennifer Jacobsen	-	FAIRFIELD
Maria Naughton	-	NEW CANAAN
Dan McNeil	-	WESTON

C.E.S. Present: Evan Pitkoff, Chris La Belle, Mark Ribbens, Esther Bobowick, Mike Regan, Anna Nelmes-Stoughton, Peggy Sullivan, Meghan Pogonelski, Stephanie Wanzer

GUEST: Dr. Charles “Chip” Dumais

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM – Chris Hocker called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. Quorum was confirmed. Chris welcomed new Stratford Board member Vinnie Faggella.
- II. APPOINTMENT OF NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: On a motion by Karen Kleine, and seconded by Debbie Low, the C.E.S. Representative Council unanimously voted to approve the employment of Dr. Charles Dumais as Executive Director of C.E.S., starting July 1, 2018, in accordance with the contract terms presented to the Search Committee as a Whole, subject to legal review and final documentation; and to authorize the President of the Representative Council to execute a contract with Dr. Dumais reflecting such terms. Chris offered his thanks to our search consultants, Jim Ritchie and Tom Jokubaitis, as well as to the Executive Committee of the Rep Council and to the entire Board.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Andy George, the minutes of the March 1, 2018 meeting were approved with two abstentions: V. Faggella (Stratford) and B. Meyer-Mitchell (Norwalk).

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2 IV. CONSENT AGENDA - On a motion by Jennifer Dayton and seconded Tom
3 Minotti, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved by the Council.
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5 V. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT – Stephanie Wanzer, CESEA
6 president and CESEA secretary welcomed new board members and
7 congratulated Dr. Dumais.
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9 VI. REPORTS
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11 1. **Representative Council President** – Chris Hocker - No further report.
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13 2. **Executive Director** – Evan Pitkoff reported that he conducted part one of the
14 Superintendent Aspirant workshop series on March 22nd. Nine administrators
15 who are considering becoming superintendents attended. Candidates will
16 shadow area superintendents for a day and will return on April 26th for the final
17 session on interviewing for the job. Evan informed the Board that the C.E.S.
18 Foundation raised more than \$16,000 at its March 24th event held at Mill River
19 Country Club. Evan thanked the Board members who contributed to the event.
20 The C.E.S. Finance Committee will review the 2018-19 proposed budget at its
21 next meeting on Friday, April 27th at 3 p.m. The budget will be on the May Rep
22 Council agenda for approval. Search Services update: C.E.S. has been
23 selected to conduct the Region 15 superintendent search (Southbury and
24 Middlebury); we are in the beginning phases of the Milford superintendent
25 search; we are assisting Westport in their searches for two assistant
26 superintendents; and our consultants worked with the Rep Council to bring
27 closure to the C.E.S. executive director search.
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29 3. **Associate Executive Director**– Chris La Belle referred the Board to his written
30 report. Chris reported that the TEAM 3 Year Plan will now have teachers
31 submitting a reflection outline vs. a reflection paper. Chris also mentioned that
32 all 20 beginning teachers at C.E.S. are finalizing their spring TEAM modules.
33 Currently legislation has been proposed to eliminate all the State requirements
34 under TEAM and shift responsibility to local school districts. In light of that fact,
35 C.E.S. has redesigned the requirements to meet our needs. Chris also
36 mentioned that due to improved hiring practices and inductions programs,
37 C.E.S. has reduced the number of staff leaving by 42% this year over last year.
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39 4. **Director of Professional Development Services** – Esther Bobowick referred
40 the Board to her written report and highlighted a few items: Esther and George
41 Coleman are meeting with a committee in Region 15 to assist with developing a
42 plan to expand their efforts related to diversity. Region 15 would like to
43 enhance curriculum materials, instruction and support parent engagement.
44 Esther also mentioned that PDS submitted a letter of support to the Yale Child
45 Study Center in their quest for funding the implementation of the RULER
46 program for social emotional learning in preschool classrooms in the Bridgeport

1 Public Schools. Staff members Suzanne Clement and Christina Lye will have a
2 pivotal role in this project should it receive funding. Esther reported that staff
3 member Lisa Doran will be expanding her middle school coaching work in
4 Norwalk to include multiple elementary schools. Elementary school coaching
5 will support writing SPED aspirant program and HS aspirant program.
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7 **5. Principal, Regional Center for the Arts** – Mark Ribbens reported that
8 auditions for the 2018-19 school year at RCA are concluding. Feedback from
9 teachers indicates that all of the students were prepared and will be well suited for
10 RCA. Mark also mentioned that on March 24th, Theatre students attended a
11 performance of “Father Comes Home from the Wars” at the Yale Rep. The afternoon
12 also included a talkback session with actors and others associated with the
13 production. The trip was made possible by a grant from the C.E.S. Foundation.
14 Lastly Mark reported that Dexter Singleton, chair of Theater Department at RCA has
15 been invited to direct a play at the University of Michigan about the Flint water crisis
16 which will then be performed in various venues in Michigan. Dexter will be going out to
17 Michigan in the fall. Mark will keep the Board posted on the progress of this event.
18 More details to follow. Mark also offered his congratulations to April Lichtman of
19 Easton who placed third in the regional August Wilson Monologue competition at Long
20 Wharf Theater.
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22 **6. Director, Special Education** – Mike Regan referred the Board to his written
23 report for detailed highlights. Mike mentioned that Dr. Christine Peck was invited to
24 spend 4 days at the University of California San Francisco with the research team that
25 developed the ADOS-2 (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule) in March.
26 Christine is one of about 40 people from around the world who are invited each year
27 to collaborate with top researchers working on the diagnosis of autism spectrum
28 disorder. Christine was nominated to apply to receive a national certification as an
29 Independent Trainer for the ADOS-2. Once she completes this process, Christine will
30 be the only independent trainer in the state of Connecticut. Mike also reported that a
31 second bilingual evaluator has been added to our staff due to the increased need.
32 Mike mentioned that we will be piloting a psych evaluation program with a new doctor
33 just entering practice who has an interest in working with schools. This will be another
34 service that we would be offering to our families and districts.
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36 **7. Director, Six to Six Magnet School** – Anna Nelmes-Stoughton reported that
37 on Saturday, March 24th, the Six to Six Magnet School team won first place in the
38 statewide Destination Imagination competition. They are now fundraising and
39 planning for the national championships which will be held in Tennessee in late May.
40 Anna also informed the Board that Six to Six received 999 applications through its
41 lottery system for 40 open slots. Pre-school slots will be filled as well as slots
42 scattered among the other grades. Anna invited the Board to attend this weekend’s
43 performance of Willy Wonka, Jr., which will be held Friday night at 7 p.m. and
44 Saturday at 2:30 at the auditorium at Six to Six. All are welcome. See Anna’s written
45 report for other updates.
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8. Director of Finance & Operations – Peggy Sullivan referred the Board to her monthly financial report; we are tracking on course for this time of year. Peggy reported that the 2018-19 is complete now in draft form and will be referred by the Finance Committee on April 27th and presented to the Board in May for approval.

Before adjourning the meeting, Mike Ward (Trumbull) took the opportunity to thank Chris Hocker for overseeing the hiring process for the new executive director.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Barbara Meyer-Mitchell and seconded by Sybil Allen, the Council unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Pace
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Recording Secretary