

1 IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by
2 Jennifer Dayton, the minutes of April 5, 2018 were unanimously approved.
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4 V. CONSENT AGENDA - On a motion by Andy George and seconded by Jennifer
5 Dayton, the consent agenda was unanimously approved.
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7 VI. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: Michelle Embree Ku, CABA
8 representative from Newton, presented the Board with the CABA Excellence in
9 Communications award for our 2017-18 District Wide Calendar. Evan thanked
10 Michelle for making the trip to Trumbull and thanked Scott Griffin (Public
11 Relations & Marketing Specialist) for his work on the calendar.
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13 VII. NEW BUSINESS:

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15 1. On a motion by Tom Minotti and seconded by Mike Ward, the 2018-19 Operating
16 Budget in the amount of \$45,345,489, including tuition rates and other service
17 rates, was unanimously approved as submitted.
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19 2. On a motion by Jennifer Dayton and seconded by Andy George, the Annual
20 Budget Operation Resolution which states: being resolved that the 2018-19
21 approved budget is designated as a spending plan to be executed by C.E.S. In
22 the event of increased or decreased revenues from either state grants or service
23 fees/tuitions, the Executive Director is authorized to increase or decrease
24 programming, including staff, commensurate with revenue and service needs.
25 Such actions shall be reported to the Council at the next regular meeting and shall
26 be ratified for record through inclusion on the Consent Agenda. This budget
27 resolution shall cover the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.
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29 Evan offered his thanks to the Finance Committee members: Chris Hocker, Tom
30 Minotti, Karen Kleine and Andy George for their input and support during the
31 budget process.
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33 VI. REPORTS

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35 1. **Representative Council President** – Chris Hocker reported that Chip Dumais’
36 contract with C.E.S. has been signed. Chris also reminded everyone that Evan’s
37 retirement party will be held on May 17th at Mill River Country Club in Stratford,
38 beginning at 6 p.m. Deadline for RSVPs is May 11th. Please contact Barb for further
39 information.
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41 2. **Executive Director** – Evan Pitkoff reported that much of this past month’s work
42 centered on preparing the 2018 budget. Evan thanked the Finance Committee for
43 their input on the budget process. The Superintendent Aspirant program was
44 completed in April and Evan thanked the area superintendents who either participated
45 on the panel discussion and/or allowed an aspirant to spend a day shadowing them.
46 Staff appreciation luncheons took place this week at all of our buildings. Evan

1 mentioned that our lobbyist will be at the June 7th meeting to present a legislative
2 wrap-up session, including an update on the gubernatorial race. Executive Search
3 Services update: Milford superintendent search is in the initial interview stage;
4 Westport has selected Dr. Anthony Buono, current assistant superintendent in
5 Branford, as their new assistant superintendent. Westport is also in the final stages of
6 interviewing for the assistant superintendent for pupil personnel services.

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8 Lastly, Evan announced that Dr. Michael Regan will not be retiring from the State of
9 Connecticut at this time and will remain at C.E.S. as the Director of Special Education
10 for the foreseeable future.

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12 **3. Associate Executive Director**– Chris LaBelle reported that the Fairfield
13 County Teacher Recruitment Fair was held on April 21st at Fairfield Warde High
14 School with 15 school districts and approximately 200 candidates looking for special
15 education, secondary or specialist teaching positions. Reports from districts were that
16 they identified many high-quality teaching candidates for 2018-19. Chris also
17 mentioned that C.E.S. administered the SAT to our 11th grade students in special
18 education on April 24th. Chris offered his thanks to Meghan Trubiano and Deb
19 Pontbriant, the two special education component leaders, who worked to ensure a
20 successful administration of the SAT. We are now administering the SBAC, CAA and
21 NGSS Field Test in Science. Lastly, Chris advised that on April 26th he attended,
22 along with Anna Nelmes-Stoughton and six teacher leaders from Six to Six, a program
23 on the NGSS at the CT Science Center. Staff came away with good planning tools
24 and implementation ideas for the new school year.

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26 **4. Director of Professional Development Services** – Esther Bobowick added a
27 few additional highlights to her written report: through a program grant from the
28 C.E.S. Foundation in the amount of \$5,500, PDS will be hosting a day for educators in
29 August on the topic of self-help, self-regulation and how to help students and staff with
30 their emotional health and well-being in the aftermath of school tragedies. There is no
31 cost to participants. Scheduled speakers are Dr. Peg Donahue, Assistant Professor
32 and School Counseling Program Coordinator from Central Connecticut University and
33 Dr. Chris Kukk, Director, Compassion, Creativity and Innovation Center at WestConn.
34 Esther budget for 50 participants; however, if more sign up, Dr. Nancy Cetorelli,
35 President of the C.E.S. Foundation, indicated that the Board will cover additional
36 registrations. Esther also mentioned PDS successfully implemented two new
37 aspirant series for high school principals and special education directors under the
38 Leadership Institute at C.E.S.

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40 **5. Principal, Regional Center for the Arts** – Mark Ribbens reported that as part
41 RCA’s ongoing collaboration with the Quick Center for the Arts, this past Sunday our
42 music students participated in the work “En Masse” created by Daniel Bernard
43 Roumain (DBR). Mark indicated that he is in the early stages of writing a grant
44 proposal with the US State Department for an overseas project with Nepal. Mark will
45 keep the Board posted on this initiative.

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2 6. **Director, Special Education** – Mike Regan referred the Board to his written
3 report. Mike mentioned that staff are getting ready for the summer session which will
4 begin on July 5th and run through August 3rd. Mike also advised that we have applied
5 for a specific school program code for our new Transition Learning Center. This will
6 enable the program to be recognized as an existing transition program with its own set
7 of requirements and descriptors.

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9 7. **Director, Six to Six Magnet School** – Anna Nelmes-Stoughton reported in
10 addition to her written report that staff are working on implementation of the NGSS for
11 the fall along with a social emotional learning component for grades PK-3. Anna
12 thanked the C.E.S. Foundation for their funding (\$10,400) of a summer writing institute
13 for teachers which will be held at Teachers' College at Columbia. Anna also
14 acknowledged The Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk which is holding a free event tonight
15 for all students and parents of C.E.S., as part of their partnership with Six to Six.

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17 8. **Director of Finance and Operations** – Peggy Sullivan referred the Board to
18 the budget summary through April 16, 2018. The summary includes a 5.2% reduction
19 in magnet school grants from the State. Peggy reported that the health insurance
20 premiums renewal rate for Connecticare is a 3.84% increase. Dental insurance
21 premium rate increase is 3.98%. Regarding RFP responses for employee benefit
22 broker/consultant: Five responses were received and Peggy is in the process of
23 reviewing them. Lastly, Peggy advised that the finance directors will be meeting here
24 at C.E.S. on Friday, May 11th along with their district directors of special education.

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27 VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

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29 On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Tom Minotti, the Board unanimously
30 voted to adjourn from Executive Session and adjourn the regular meeting at 4:05 p.m.

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34 Respectfully submitted,

35 *Barbara Pace*

36 Barbara Pace

37 Recording Secretary