

**MINUTES – C.E.S. REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2018**

PRESENT:

Sybil Allen - BRIDGEPORT (Arrived @ 3:22 pm)
 Christa McNamara - DARIEN
 Chris Hocker - EASTON/REDDING/REG.9
 Philip Dwyer - FAIRFIELD
 Jennifer Dayton - GREENWICH
 Maria Naughton - NEW CANAAN
 Barbara Meyer-
 Mitchell - NORWALK
 Tom Minotti - SHELTON
 Andy George - STAMFORD
 Mike Ward - TRUMBULL (**Secretary**)
 Karen Kleine - WESTPORT
 Debbie Low - WILTON

ABSENT:

Jeff Parker - EASTON/Reg. 9 (Alt.)
 Jennifer Jacobsen - FAIRFIELD
 VACANT - MONROE
 VACANT - RIDGEFIELD
 VACANT - STRATFORD
 Dan McNeill - WESTON

C.E.S.:

PRESENT: Evan Pitkoff, Esther Bobowick, Anna Nelmes-Stoughton,
 Mike Regan, Mark Ribbens, Peggy Sullivan; **ABSENT:** Chris LaBelle

ANNUAL MEETING

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM – Executive Director
 Dr. Evan Pitkoff called the Annual Meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. Quorum was confirmed. Board members introduced themselves and Evan welcomed all of our new Board members to the Council.
- II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2018
 Based on the recommendation of the Nominating Committee at the November 2, 2017 meeting, the following Slate of Officers for 2018 was presented: Chris Hocker (President); Karen Kleine (Vice President) and Mike Ward (Secretary). There were no nominations from the floor. On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Tom Minotti the Council unanimously approved the slate of officers for 2018 as presented. Evan offered his congratulations to Chris, Karen and Mike.

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2 **III. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

3 Evan advised that we have two standing committees: Finance and Building.
4 Finance Committee, on which Chris Hocker currently serves, meets about twice
5 a year with the Executive Director regarding budget and salary issues and
6 would meet if financial issues should arise which need to be brought before the
7 Board. The Building Committee, of which Mike Ward is the chair, meets on an
8 as-needed basis with the Executive Director and the Director of Finance and
9 Operations. Please let Barb know if you have any interest in joining these
10 subcommittees. Andy George expressed interest in serving on the Finance
11 Committee.
12

13 **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

14 On a motion by Phil Dwyer and seconded by Andy George the Board
15 unanimously moved to adjourn the 2018 Annual Meeting at 3:11 p.m.
16

17 **REGULAR MEETING**

18
19 **I. CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM**

20 President Chris Hocker called the meeting to order at 3:13 p.m. Quorum was
21 confirmed. Chris also welcomed the new members to the C.E.S.
22 Representative Council. Chris stated that the most important task facing the
23 Board this year is the search for the new Executive Director.
24

25 **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

26 On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Karen Kleine the minutes of the
27 November 2, 2017 were unanimously approved.
28

29 **III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

- 30 • Introduction of Patrice McCarthy – Evan introduced Patrice McCarthy,
31 Associate Executive Director and General Counsel for C.A.B.E. Patrice
32 reviewed legislative updates and fielded questions from Board members.
33 It was noted that new board member Jennifer Dayton (Greenwich) is the
34 C.A.B.E rep for our region. Patrice encouraged all board members to
35 contact their legislators via email with any concerns. Day on the Hill will
36 be held on March 7, 2018. Evan thanked Patrice for once again making
37 the trek down to Fairfield County and visiting with us.
38

39 **IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

40 On a motion by Phil Dwyer and seconded by Karen Kleine the consent agenda
41 was unanimously approved.
42

43 **V. NEW BUSINESS**

44 Chris Hocker explained that this motion (to make the Rep Council a committee
45 of the whole for the Executive Director search) is a necessary formality. The
46 committee would be exempt from FOIA requests in regard to the search. A

1 motion was made by Mike Ward and seconded by Tom Minotti. Discussion:
2 Chris Hocker explained that there is usually a subcommittee formed to work
3 with the search consultants. We will find out more about this once the Board
4 as a whole has met with the consultants. Chris encouraged all Board
5 members to be as involved as possible in the search process. Chris also
6 asked the Board to indicate if they had previously participate in a
7 superintendent search. Members Dayton, Dwyer, McNamara, Kleine indicated
8 that they had been involved in past searches on their home boards. Evan took
9 the opportunity to inform the Board that new Wilton Board member Debbie
10 Low is the former Ridgefield superintendent. Being no further discussion a
11 vote was taken on the motion: the Board unanimously voted to appoint the
12 Representative Council as a committee of the whole for the purposes of the
13 Executive Director Search.

14
15 **VI. REPORTS**

- 16
17 1. **Representative Council President** – Chris had nothing further to report.
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19 2. **Executive Director** – Evan reported that the State Department of Education
20 has communicated with the RESCs that there will be an additional 6.3%
21 reduction to us in the magnet school tuition reimbursement grant for the current
22 school year. This will bring the combined two-year reduction in our grant to
23 10%. In the past, C.E.S. has absorbed the reduction and built in a partial
24 tuition increase this year to our participating districts. We will most likely need
25 to do the same for next year. Evan mentioned that he will be conducting the
26 Aspirant Superintendent Workshop series in March. Superintendents are
27 asked to identify promising candidates from their district. Flyer is in this month's
28 Board packets. Lastly, Evan will be conducting a new Board Member
29 orientation session on Thursday, February 8th from 2-4:30 p.m. for all new
30 Board members. This will also include a tour of our school facilities. Please let
31 Evan or Barb know if you are interested.
32
33 3. **Associate Executive Director** – Evan reported that Chris La Belle is covering
34 a meeting for him in Hartford with the RESC directors and a state senator
35 today; please see Chris' written report for updates.
36
37 4. **Director, Professional Development Services** – Esther Bobowick welcomed
38 the new Board members and referred them to her written report. Esther
39 advised that her division deals with teachers and administrators through
40 professional development services to our member districts. Esther welcomes
41 the board members to contact her with any questions they may have regarding
42 the services that are provided through her department.
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2 5. **Principal, Regional Center for the Arts** – Mark Ribbens reported that on
3 December 13th, two representatives (one an RCA alum) from Long Wharf
4 Theater visited RCA and worked with the theatre students and began preparing
5 them for the August Wilson Monologue Competition taking place in Fairfield.
6 Mark also mentioned that five music college graduates are at RCA today
7 meeting with students on the topic of “what I wish I knew in high school before I
8 went to college.” Please see Mark’s written report for additional highlights.
9
- 10 6. **Director, Special Education** – Mike Regan welcomed the new Board
11 members and referred them to his written report. Mike mentioned that back in
12 the fall of 2017, Westport public schools contracted with C.E.S. to conduct a
13 special education program review and as of this past week, the report was
14 completed. Mike mentioned that we have done this type of review for several
15 of our member districts. Please feel free to contact him if your district is
16 interested in this service.
17
- 18 7. **Principal, Six to Six** – Anna Nelmes Stoughton welcomed the new Board
19 members and referred them to her written report. Anna mentioned that the
20 application process is now open for Six to Six and to date they have received
21 more than 400 applications. Open House will be held on January 23rd. The
22 winter concert is being held this evening.
23
- 24 8. **Director of Finance & Operations** –Peggy Sullivan reported that the Board
25 has her budget summary for the first six months of the fiscal year. Peggy
26 reported that C.E.S. is compiling a five-year Capital Plan for C.E.S. and will be
27 meeting with the Building Committee over the next couple of months. Peggy
28 thanked the Facilities Department who during the recent cold snap maintained
29 all of buildings with one a minor water issue occurring.

30 **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

31 On a motion by Sybil Allen and seconded by Jennifer Dayton, the Board
32 unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 4:18 p.m.
33

34 Respectfully submitted,

35 *Barbara Pace*

36 Barbara Pace

37 Recording Secretary

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