

**MINUTES – C.E.S. REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 7, 2019**

PRESENT:

Chris Hocker - EASTON/REDDING/REG.9 (**President**)
Jennifer Dayton - GREENWICH (arrived @ 3:11 p.m.)
Tom Minotti - SHELTON
Vinny Faggella - STRATFORD
Mike Ward - TRUMBULL (**Secretary**)
Dan McNeill - WESTON
Debbie Low - WILTON (arrived@ 3:08 p.m.)

ABSENT:

Sybil Allen - BRIDGEPORT
Christa McNamara - DARIEN
Jeff Parker - EASTON/Reg. 9 (Alt.)
Christine Vitale - FAIRFIELD
Nick Aysseh - FAIRFIELD
VACANT - MONROE
Maria Naughton - NEW CANAAN
Barbara Meyer-
Mitchell - NORWALK
Margaret Stamatis - RIDGEFIELD
Andy George - STAMFORD
Jackie Pioli - STAMFORD
Karen Kleine - WESTPORT (**Vice President**)

C.E.S.: Charles Dumais, Chris LaBelle, Esther Bobowick, Mike Regan, Mark Ribbens, Peggy Sullivan, Anna Nelmes-Stoughton, Stephanie Wanzer

GUESTS: Dr. Nancy Cetorelli, President, C.E.S. Foundation, Inc., and Dr. Jim Castonguay, Foundation Board member.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

President Chris Hocker called the meeting to order at 3:16 p.m. Quorum was confirmed at this time. Chris asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add in “Board Member Reports” after the directors’ reports. On a motion by Jennifer Dayton and seconded by Debbie Low, the agenda was so amended.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Tom Minotti and seconded by Mike Ward the minutes of the January 10, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved.

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III. CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Vinny Faggella and seconded by Tom Minotti, the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Introduction of C.E.S. Foundation Board members: Chip Dumais introduced Dr. Nancy Cetorelli, President, and Dr. Jim Castonguay, Board of Directors member who spoke to the Council about the upcoming fundraiser for the Foundation which will be held on May 4th at Mill River Country Club in Stratford (Welcome letter and invitation at the table.) Please see Barb if anyone would like additional invitations. To date, the Foundation has awarded over \$80,000 to C.E.S. teachers in various programs with over \$100,000 awarded to staff via program grants, including PDS which was included for the first time last summer. Nancy and Jim explained the mission and vision of the Foundation which was founded by Dr. Cetorelli upon her retirement from C.E.S. in 2007. Chris Hocker indicated that he will discuss with the board members how the Rep Council can support the Foundation's efforts for this event by perhaps placing an ad in the program book or through monetary donations. Chris will get an email out to the Board. Chris also asked Barb to mail out info packets about the Foundation event to all Council members. Chip mentioned that the Foundation's program grant to our PDS division was a huge success this past summer and the program for this spring is filled to capacity. Chip thanked Nancy and Jim as well as the Board of Directors of the Foundation for their dedication to the students and staff of C.E.S.

- Board Member Appreciation – March is designated as “Board Member Appreciation Month.” Chip thanked the Board for their dedication to the C.E.S. Representative Council and as a small token of our thanks, distributed C.E.S. umbrellas to all members present.
- Stephanie Wanzer, president of the CESEA, thanked everyone on behalf of the members of the CESEA for their dedication to C.E.S.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Tom Minotti, the 2019-20 salaries as recommended by the Finance Committee, were unanimously approved as presented.
2. On a motion by Jennifer Dayton and seconded by Tom Minotti, the Board unanimously approved Venman & Co., as auditors for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. Brief discussion took place on the possibility of using a different auditing firm for next year. Both Chip and Peggy will look into this.
3. On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Vinny Faggella, the Council adjourned to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the tentative agreement between the C.E.S. Representative Council and the CESEA and invited Dr. Dumais to remain for the session. The time was 3:20 p.m.

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2 4. The Council returned to regular session at 3:47 p.m.
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4 5. On a motion by Tom Minotti and seconded by Mike Ward, the Council
5 approved to ratify the Teachers' Contract effective July 1, 2019 through
6 June 30, 2022 allowing editorial changes and authorizing the
7 Representative Council chairman to sign and execute a copy. There
8 was one abstention (J. Dayton, Greenwich).
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10 6. Building Committee Report:

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12 Chair Mike Ward asked Peggy Sullivan to report on the capital project
13 plans for 2019-20 as well as looking out five years. Peggy distributed a
14 spreadsheet showing that most of the 2018-19 capital improvement
15 plans have been completed with the exception of the replacement of the
16 Six to Six make-up air handler unit which will be completed by the end of
17 June. That project will come in under budget as well.
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19 Capital projects for 2019-20 are listed on the spreadsheet Peggy
20 distributed which includes wall enforcement in timeout rooms, upgrades
21 in student bathrooms and fire alarm panel upgrade all at 25 Oakview
22 Drive. At Six to Six, repairs/replacements of classroom sinks and
23 cabinets, ceiling tile replacement in TMMS are projected for 2019-20. At
24 40 Lindeman Drive, the expansion of the School Readiness playground
25 and the addition of a shade canopy will begin in the new fiscal year but
26 was budgeted in this current fiscal year. RCA will have two small
27 cooling units installed to save money over the summer when most of the
28 building is unused. See handout for additional expenditures at current
29 locations.
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31 Mike Ward asked Dr. Michael Regan and Peggy Sullivan to present
32 information on C.E.S.'s proposed Eastern Fairfield County Diagnostic
33 Center (EFCDC), a consortium-based interim educational program for
34 students experiencing significant learning and/or behavioral challenges
35 in their own school or transitioning between educational settings. Peggy
36 reported to the Board that C.E.S. has secured a rental space at 7
37 Cambridge Drive, Trumbull, almost directly across the street from RCA,
38 with a renovation budget up for approval today of approximately
39 \$900,000. Peggy advised that C.E.S. would rent and renovating the
40 entire front of the first floor of the building (which previously housed
41 Sacred Heart's College of Nursing) into 8 classrooms, offices, open
42 space areas, etc.
43

44 Mike Regan explained the function of the diagnostic center which will
45 identify students K-3 who are potentially in need of special services.
46 The assessment will involve family members and LEA officials

1 throughout the process, including transition back to the student's home
2 school. Students will be evaluated by EFCDC staff according to PPT
3 recommendations. The LEA will receive weekly progress reports for
4 each of their students. Students will attend the center every day from
5 8:30-2:30 and on Wednesdays from 8:30-12:30 p.m.

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7 Chip stated that as part of the design of this program - which is being
8 operated locally in Trumbull - in order to ensure program continuity,
9 resource efficiency, and service sustainability – we are initiating it with
10 the intention of replicating it in Western Fairfield County within three
11 years. Also part of the design is the opportunity for YOUR teachers to
12 spend time in the program developing student-specific strategies for
13 success that they can take back to your district.

14
15 Seats for the program (each seat serving, on average, five [5] students
16 annually) are anticipated to cost approximately \$59K. The
17 program/space is designed for a daily enrollment of forty [40] for the first
18 year.

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20 On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Tom Minotti, the Council
21 approved C.E.S. to proceed with the Eastern Fairfield County Diagnostic
22 Center proposed total summary budget of \$2,388,794 as presented.
23 There was one abstention. (J. Dayton, Greenwich).

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26 **VI. REPORTS**

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28 **1. Representative Council President** – No report.
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30 **2. Executive Director** – Chip Dumais reported that on the Legislative front the
31 RESC Alliance met with Education Committee Leaders and with Senate
32 Majority Leader Duff. RESC directors will be preparing testimony on
33 Regionalism vs. Regionalization. Chip continues his work with local
34 universities which included a guest lecture at Sacred Heart's 093 program
35 speaking on Educational Technology, instructing at UCONN, UCAPP 3.0
36 Curriculum Development as well as supplemental sessions. Chip also
37 participates on the CAS Board of Directors, the Bridgeport Higher Education
38 Alliance (BHEA) and is involved in the development of Alternate Learning
39 Sessions for CAPSS. Regarding our Executive Search Services, Chip advised
40 that we are in the process of expanding the search team which now includes
41 former Milford superintendents, Dr. Betty Feser. Chip will be facilitating a follow
42 up session with the Board of Education in Region 15, one year after placement
43 of their superintendent, which is part of the services offered with our Search
44 services.
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1 Budget preparation will be in full swing now that the Board has approved the
2 2019-20 salaries. The 2019-20 budget will be brought to the Board in May for
3 final approval.
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6 3. **Associate Executive Director** – Chris LaBelle reported that the State
7 Department of Education announced the Educator Networking Events to meet
8 with shortage area certified teachers: dates are: March 20th, April 8th and 11th.
9 This year’s Recruitment Fair is scheduled for April 27th at Fairfield Warde High
10 School. The focus of the fair will be all certified positions. Chris reported that
11 the dates for standardized testing window (accommodations and state
12 monitoring of CTAA) are: LAS links which will be completed this week; SAT,
13 March 27th and the SBAC & NGSS dates scheduled after the April break. Chris
14 and PDS director Esther Bobowick led Teacher Evaluation training for all
15 C.E.S. administrators on February 20th. The training covered calibration,
16 evidence collection and analysis and observer bias. The training will be
17 followed up with a session on Process and Act. Chris referred the Board to his
18 written report for other updates.
19

20 4. **Director, Professional Development Services** – Esther Bobowick thanked
21 the C.E.S. Foundation for the program grants awarded last summer and again
22 this year. On March 29th, Suzie Boss, author of the ASCD book *Project Based*
23 *Teacher*, will conduct one full day advanced session with a one hour video
24 based follow up on high leverage projects that have high intellectual challenges
25 and real world connections. Over 50 educators have registered and the
26 session is now closed. This program was made possible by a program grant
27 from the C.E.S. Foundation. Esther mentioned that she and a colleague from
28 CREC were asked to travel in Washington, D.C., on February 6, to be in
29 attendance when **Learning Forward** presented the Proclamation for
30 Professional Learning to members of Congress. Signed by more than 1,600
31 Learning Forward members, the proclamation states that professional learning
32 is essential to improving teaching practice and student outcomes. The
33 proclamation calls on all policymakers to support and fund effective, job-
34 embedded professional learning every year.
35

36 During the Capitol Hill visits, members had the opportunity to talk about the
37 importance of professional learning and continued investments in Title IIA.
38 Colleagues from Learning Forward Virginia and Learning Forward New
39 England joined as well to visit their respective Representatives and Senators.
40 The appropriations process for the next fiscal year will start soon, beginning
41 with a proposed budget from the President’s office, to be shortly followed by a
42 budget from the House of Representatives. Learning Forward is ready to work
43 with all educators to share evidence about the impact of Title IIA and to build
44 the case for increased funding.
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2 5. **Principal, Regional Center for the Arts** – Mark Ribbens reported that three
3 students from the Interdisciplinary Performance class traveled to Kathmandu,
4 Nepal with Dr. Anthony DeQuattro in February. While there, the students
5 collaborated with their Nepalese partners to create performances and
6 workshops that they presented in local schools highlighting the need to learn
7 about and preserve one’s cultural heritage. The students also performed at the
8 opening of the Mandala Theater’s International Theatre Festival. Mark advised
9 that in April, students from Nepal will be joining students and staff at RCA to do
10 similar work in schools ere and present their work on the main stage at RCA on
11 Friday, April 12th. All Board members are invited to attend. Mark indicated that
12 this experience has been life changing for our students and Dr. DeQuattro.

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14 Mark reported that one of our students who traveled to Nepal placed third in the
15 August Wilson Monologue Competition in New Haven. Congratulations to
16 Sarah Williams of Stratford.

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18 Please see written report for additional highlights.

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20 6. **Director, Special Education** – See written report for additional highlights.

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22 7. **Principal, Six to Six** – Anna Nelmes-Stoughton reported that to date the Six to
23 Six lottery has received over 1000 applications for 40 slots for 3 year olds and
24 individual openings as students age out or move out of district. The Six to Six
25 Student Council hosted a school dance on Friday, February 22nd to raise funds
26 for the Beardsley Zoo Tiger exhibit. Lastly, on April 9th the students will perform
27 with the Chordsmen a local vocal acapella group who will spend time with the
28 students leading up to the event.

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30 8. **Director of Finance & Operations** – Peggy Sullivan referred the Board to her
31 monthly financial report which is tracking as expected.

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33 9. **Member Reports** – Chris Hocker asked the Board members to update their
34 districts’ current 2019-20 budget status. Reminder from Jennifer Dayton:
35 Please try to attend CAFE’s Day on the Hill: March 20, 2019.

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37 **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

38 On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Tom Minotti, the Board
39 unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:09 p.m.

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42 Respectfully submitted,
43 *Barbara Pace*
44 Barbara Pace
45 Recording Secretary