

**MINUTES – C.E.S. REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
June 7, 2018**

PRESENT:

Christa McNamara - DARIEN (arrived @ 3:12 p.m.)
 Philip Dwyer - FAIRFIELD
 Jennifer Dayton - GREENWICH
 Maria Naughton - NEW CANAAN
 Andy George - STAMFORD
 Mike Ward - TRUMBULL (**Secretary**)
 Karen Kleine - WESTPORT (**Vice President**)
 Debbie Low - WILTON

ABSENT:

Sybil Allen - BRIDGEPORT
 Chris Hocker - EASTON/REG. 9 (**President**)
 Jeff Parker - EASTON/REG.9 (Alt.)
 VACANT - MONROE
 Barbara Mitchell-
 Meyer - NORWALK
 VACANT - RIDGEFIELD
 Tom Minotti - SHELTON
 Vincent Faggella - STRATFORD
 Dan McNeill - WESTON

C.E.S.: **Present:** Evan Pitkoff, Chris La Belle, Esther Bobowick, Mark Ribbens,
 Mike Regan, Peggy Sullivan, Stephanie Wanzer

ABSENT: Anna Nelmes-Stoughton

GUEST: Dr. Chip Dumais; Charles Rothenberger, lobbyist, Rome Smith Lutz

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM: In Chris Hocker’s absence, Vice President Karen Kleine called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On a motion by Karen Kleine and seconded by Jennifer Dayton, the minutes of the May 3, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved.
- III. CONSENT AGENDA: On a motion by Karen Kleine, and seconded by Phil Dwyer, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved by the Council.
- IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:
 1. Stephanie Wanzer, on behalf of the C.E.S.E.A., wished everyone a great end to the school year and a wonderful summer.

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2 2. Evan introduced Charles Rothenberger, lobbyist from Rome Smith Lutz,
3 who gave an overview of the closing session of the legislature and fielded
4 questions from the Board members. Both Karen and Evan thanked
5 Charles for attending today’s meeting.
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7 V. NEW BUSINESS:
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- 9 1. On a motion by Debbie Low and seconded by Phil Dwyer the following
10 Empowerment Resolution was approved: That effective July 1, 2018, Dr. Charles
11 Dumais, Executive Director of Cooperative Educational Services (C.E.S.), a regional
12 educational service center organized and existing under the provisions of Connecticut
13 General Statutes Section 10-66 et seq., be empowered to apply for, negotiate and
14 execute contracts, grants and other agreements that arise in the course of C.E.S.
15 operations and that said empowerment shall continue unabated until revoked,
16 terminated or modified by the C.E.S. Representative Council.
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- 18 2. On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Jennifer Dayton, the Council
19 unanimously approved the 2019 Representative Council meeting dates as presented.
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21 VI. REPORTS
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- 23 1. **Representative Council President** – No report.
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- 25 2. **Executive Director** – Evan reported we are very busy with preparing search
26 proposals for Region 5, Region 14, Torrington, Greenwich, Darien, Ridgefield
27 and Windsor Locks. The Milford superintendent search has been completed with
28 the district naming Dr. Anna Cutaia, currently the Region 14 superintendent, as
29 their new superintendent. Evan also reported that he completed two assistant
30 superintendent searches for the Westport Public Schools with the appointments
31 of Dr. Anthony Buono and Dr. Tina Mannarino. Evan informed the Board that he
32 spent two days transitioning with Chip Dumais by visiting our school programs
33 and going over projects and protocols in our central office (e.g., budgeting, hiring,
34 executive searches, etc.) Evan mentioned that he and Chip will spend more time
35 together the last week in June once all of the end-of-the-year activities have
36 concluded.
37

38 Evan reported that several of our C.E.S. administrative leaders’ team members
39 participated in the RESC Alliance mini-convocation so they could share ideas and
40 vision for their respective areas of responsibility. Andrea Escobar from Six to Six
41 has been selected as our Paraprofessional of the Year for 2019. She will now
42 compete for the State Para of the Year award.
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44 Lastly, Evan thanked the current Board members as well as their predecessors for
45 their support for an “opportunity of a lifetime” of serving as the Executive Director
46 at C.E.S. for the last 11 years.

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3. **Associate Executive Director**—Esther Bobowick reported for Chris La Belle who was called away from today’s meeting. Esther reported on the new Connecticut Documentation and Observation for Teaching System (CT DOTS) which has now been finalized by the Early Childhood division at the State Department of Education. The CT DOTS is aligned with the CT Early Learning and Development Standards (CT ELDS) for Birth to age Five. The CT DOTS is replacing the Preschool Assessment Framework (PAF). A training of trainers session will be rolled out this summer by the RESCs with a September roll out. C.E.S. Early Childhood specialist Suzanne Clement will be conducting the training here at C.E.S. On behalf of Chris, Esther expressed to Evan his thanks and support over the last 11 years. Please see Chris La Belle’s written report for updates.
4. **Director of Professional Development Services** – Esther Bobowick also thanked Evan for his support and leadership over the last 11 years. Esther referred the Board to her written report. Esther reviewed the handouts which were distributed at today’s meeting. 1) The Administrator Aspirant brochure which is part of The Leadership Institute @ C.E.S. which highlights those who participated in the program. 2) The “Save the Date” announcement for The Second Annual RESC Alliance Thinkshop to be held on 10/24/18 at the Four Points Sheraton in Meriden. The seminar will offer alternatives to the assessment process. See announcement for speaker information. Registration forms to follow. 3) The C.E.S. Foundation awarded PDS a program grant for an event to be held on August 21st for teachers and school staff members on the topic “How Do I Unwind in Order to Gear-up?” – Tools and knowledge to build self-care and supportive effective teaching for educators. See flyer for information.
5. **Director, Regional Center for the Arts** – Mark Ribbens also expressed his thanks to Evan and thanked him for supporting RCA’s stand-up comedy class! Among the many end-of-year activities, Mark highlighted the RCA Alumni show on June 6th where graduates return to perform with current students. During Last night’s event, a guitar performance was dedicated to a 2014 graduate, Brian – who passed away suddenly earlier this year. Ben’s parents were in attendance.
6. **Special Education** – Mike Regan – Mike thanked Evan for 30 years of friendship and leadership and wished him a long and happy retirement. Graduation ceremonies are happening over the next two weeks including three graduation ceremonies; Therapeutic Day Program on Friday, June 8th; Transition Learning Center on June 15th and the RISE graduation on Monday, June 18th at Sacred Heart University’s Schine Auditorium. Mike indicated that all Board members are very welcome to attend. Mike reported that our TLC program now has an official classification as a community based public school transition program. Lastly, Mike reported that SERC (Special Education Resource Center) has been restructured and it is now much smaller. CSDE has asked the RESCs

1 to take on new work in the area of special education. We are doing the parent
2 forums and developing training modules to address areas of noncompliance
3 identified by the CSDE.
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5 7. **Director, Six to Six Magnet School** – Please see Anna Nelmes-Stoughton’s
6 written report for updates. Graduation will take place on Tuesday, June 18 at 4
7 p.m. at Six to Six. All are welcome to attend.
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9 8. **Director of Finance & Operations** – Peggy Sullivan offered her thanks to Evan
10 for his assistance and support during her own transition period when she started
11 at C.E.S. in 2017. Peggy indicated that we will finish the fiscal year just under
12 \$500,000 in surplus funds which will be added to our current reserve. USI of
13 Meriden will be our new employee benefits broker beginning July 1st for a flat rate
14 fee of \$55,000 per year. Summer capital projects include bathroom renovations
15 at 25 Oakview Drive and HVAC controls update at 40 Lindeman Drive. Carpet
16 replacement will also be done in the Executive Director’s area including all offices
17 and the Board room. Our Transportation Department will continue transporting
18 students for the magnet school in Stratford and we will be purchasing another
19 vehicle for transportation needs in Trumbull. C.E.S. will be raising magnet school
20 tuition rates for our districts due to the continued funding cuts from the State
21 Department of Education for magnet schools.
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23 VII. ADJOURNMENT
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25 On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Phil Dwyer, the meeting was
26 adjourned at 4:28 p.m.
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30 Respectfully submitted,
31 *Barbara Pace*
32 Barbara Pace
33 Recording Secretary