

**MINUTES – C.E.S. REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
September 6, 2018**

PRESENT:

- Sybil Allen - BRIDGEPORT
- Christa McNamara - DARIEN
- Chris Hocker - EASTON/REG. 9 (President)
- VACANT - MONROE
- Barbara Mitchell-
Meyer - NORWALK
- VACANT - RIDGEFIELD
- Tom Minotti - SHELTON
- Vincent Faggella - STRATFORD
- Dan McNeill - WESTON
- Andy George - STAMFORD
- Mike Ward - TRUMBULL (Secretary)
- Karen Kleine - WESTPORT (Vice President)

ABSENT:

- Philip Dwyer - FAIRFIELD
- Jennifer Dayton - GREENWICH
- Jeff Parker - EASTON/REG.9 (Alt.)
- Maria Naughton - NEW CANAAN
- Debbie Low - WILTON

C.E.S.: **Present:** Charles Dumais, Chris La Belle, Esther Bobowick, Mark Ribbens, Mike Regan, Meghan Pogonelski

ABSENT: Peggy Sullivan

GUESTS: Sabine Januski, Andrea Escobar

I. CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM: President Chris Hocker called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. Quorum was verified.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Tom Minotti, the minutes of the June 6, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Dr. Dumais introduced Sabine Januski, C.E.S. Teacher of the Year and Andrea Escobar, C.E.S. Para Educator of the Year. Both Sabine and Andrea teach at Six to Six Magnet School and will represent C.E.S. at a ceremony in Hartford on December 5th. The Board offered their congratulations to both.

1 IV. CONSENT AGENDA: On a motion by Tom Minotti, and seconded by Barbara
2 Meyer-Mitchell, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved by the Council.
3

4 V. REPORTS
5

6 1. **Representative Council President** – Chris Hocker welcomed everyone back to
7 for the new school year. Chris asked Barb Pace to forward an email which Karen
8 Kleine received from long time Rep Council President, Arlene Liscinsky, to
9 everyone on the Board. Arlene and her family are participating again in a walk in
10 the Boston area to support Alzheimer’s research which Arlene’s husband, Joe, is
11 battling. Chris also thanked Karen Kleine for standing in for him at the Welcome
12 Back Convocation in August. Karen mentioned that Chip did an outstanding job
13 that morning in keeping the staff engaged and his presentation was well received
14 by all.
15

16 2. **Executive Director** – Chip reported that he has held meetings with the
17 Leadership Team and key staff members at C.E.S. Chip was invited to attend
18 the RESC Alliance Annual retreat in June which resulted in good conversations
19 and ideas as to how the RESCs can work together highlighting collaboration and
20 cooperation. The RESC Alliance will identify key topics of expertise at each
21 RESC. Chip mentioned that the legislative agenda doesn’t always match what
22 the RESC Alliance members feel is most important. The Alliance will be
23 presenting their own agenda with magnet school funding being the main focus. If
24 any Board member would like to have a certain topic discussed, please email
25 Chip directly at dumaisc@ces.k12.ct.us with your suggestions.
26

27 Chip also thanked Karen Kleine for speaking at this year’s Convocation. Chip’s
28 message to the staff was that he would like to see C.E.S. be one step ahead with
29 creative and innovative ideas and programs for our districts which will have the
30 impact, agility and relevance that member districts are seeking. Chip also
31 mentioned that he has been involved in the search process which includes
32 Region 15, Milford (post-selection), Windsor Locks and Ridgefield. Chip is
33 working with our consultants and also in the process of recruiting other retired
34 superintendents to bring on board for the search services.
35

36 Chip reported that in addition to joining the Trumbull Chamber of Commerce, he
37 was also asked to join the Beardsley Zoo Board of Directors and hopes to use
38 that connection to involve staff and students from Six to Six. Chip has met with
39 several superintendents already, with a several more meetings still to come, to
40 discuss their district’s need and how C.E.S. can be of service to them. In addition
41 to teaching at Central Connecticut State University, Chip reported that he has
42 reached out to colleagues at Sacred Heart, Fairfield University and Southern
43 Connecticut. Chip will meet with the Administrator Aspirants later this month
44 here at C.E.S. and will also be attending a seminar with Doug Eadie for the
45 Southern Fairfield County Superintendents Association on the topic of board-

1 superintendent relationships. Lastly, Chip mentioned that he will be attending the
2 AESA conference in Colorado at the end of November.

- 3
4 **3. Associate Executive Director**– Chris La Belle welcomed everyone back from
5 the summer break. Chris referred the Board to his written report and highlighted
6 a few items: 17 new certified or licensed staff members have been brought on
7 this year including seven who are first year teachers will be participating in the
8 TEAM program; four are experienced teachers, six social workers and related
9 services staff who will be joined by ten, Year 2 beginning teachers. Additionally,
10 Chris reported that C.E.S. has hired 36 non-certified staff (paraprofessionals,
11 drivers, etc.) Chris mentioned that we will now have 17 beginning teachers
12 participating in the TEAM program. An orientation session will be held on
13 September 27th. The legislature has restored some funding to the TEAM
14 program for 2018-19. Districts should learn funding levels sometime near
15 January 2019.

16
17 Chris also reported that C.E.S. is in the final stages of implementing Frontline
18 Central which is an electronic personnel and onboarding system. This system
19 allows for all internal forms to be handled electronically, reducing paper
20 requirements. It also has the ability to monitor mandated trainings for staff.
21 Expected launch date is mid-September. We are also in the beginning stages of
22 implementing the Colonial Selerix system. This is an electronic system that
23 allows new and current employees to complete all insurance forms electronically
24 which are then directly fed to our insurance companies. The system is offered at
25 no cost to C.E.S. and should make insurance enrollment a seamless process. It
26 is expected to go live in January 2019. Lastly, Chris reported that all student
27 based programs opened successfully. Teachers also participated in a variety of
28 professional growth opportunities in August.

- 29
30 **4. Director of Professional Development Services** – Esther Bobowick welcomed
31 everyone back for the new school year. Esther reported that her staff has been
32 busy rescheduling and modifying programs due to the half-day sessions in
33 various school districts due to the extreme heat conditions. Esther also
34 mentioned the funding that will be restored to the districts hopefully by January in
35 regard to TEAM. Esther advised that unlike in the past where C.E.S. received
36 the funds for training, the money will be sent directly to the districts and the
37 district facilitators would decide how to spend it. Funding won't benefit C.E.S.
38 unless a district chooses to bring us in to facilitate mentor or support training.

39
40 Esther highlighted two items from her written report: In August, through a grant
41 from the C.E.S. Foundation, PDS ran a workshop for over 50 teachers:
42 Mindfulness and Teacher Stress: "How Do I Unwind in order to Gear Up." The
43 full day seminar offered teachers from our region to learn how to focus on self-
44 care, stress management, nutrition and foods that can calm you on your
45 commute as well as during the day. Each participant received a copy of the book
46 "Exhausted, Why Teachers Are So Tired and What They Can Do About It."

1 Lastly, Esther mentioned that on October 24th, the RESC Alliance will be
2 presenting the 2nd annual ThinkShop with a focus on assessment and grading.
3 (See written report for further details on this event.)
4

5 **5. Director, Regional Center for the Arts** – Mark Ribbens reported that due to the
6 half-day schedules for so many districts, RCA has not yet had a “full house” with
7 all students present. RCA welcomed several new staff members including music
8 instructors, musical theater instructor and a new administrative secretary.
9 Michael Koskoff, screenwriter for the movie “Marshall” will meet with and take
10 questions from the acting students later this month. Mr. Koskoff was due to meet
11 with the students next week but that has been pushed out to later this month or in
12 October due to the half-day attendance issues. Mark and staff will be hosting a
13 Back to School night this evening for parents. Mark wished everyone a good
14 school year.
15

16 **6. Special Education** – Mike Regan reported that all special education programs
17 are off to a great start after a very successful five week summer program for our
18 students. Mike mentioned that we have added an additional classroom to our
19 Transitional Learning Center (TLC) component. The student population in
20 special education varies month by month and can jump easily from 150 to 180
21 students in our Therapeutic Day Program. The goal in special education is to
22 return students to their home districts which will also create a fluctuation in
23 numbers. Mike advised the Board that the RESC Alliance has created free on
24 line training session for the trauma informed classroom: an on-line set of
25 modules to train staff to deal with students who themselves have experienced
26 trauma. Modules run about 2.5 hours.

27 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8nf2ZruHVs&feature=youtu.be>
28

29 Mike also mentioned that staff in our Assistive Technology component continue
30 to work with robotic technology, including “Milo” – an interactive robot that works
31 with the students. A few years ago, “Milo” was brought over for a demonstration
32 for the Board and Mike will look into having the demo presented again. A second
33 piece to this technology is a new virtual reality teaching tool wherein students
34 wear virtual reality goggles to experience a work environment including food
35 prep, greeting customers, cashier skills, etc. The company Mike and staff are
36 working with has changed their business plan several times so at this point he is
37 not sure when we will have this new technology in place. Mike also confirmed
38 that “Milo” can be borrowed by our districts to see the technology live before
39 committing to purchasing the technology.
40

41 **7. Director, Six to Six Magnet School** – Anna Nelmes-Stoughton welcomed
42 everyone back to the new school year. Anna advised that Six to Six had a
43 wonderful school opening with approximately 460 students currently enrolled
44 from 18 different towns. Six to Six also welcomed two new teachers, an
45 educational instructor and an instructional aid to the staff.
46

1 8. **Director of Finance & Operations** – Chip advised that Peggy Sullivan was
2 unable to attend today’s meeting but reviewed Peggy’s written report with the
3 Board. Highlights include: the unaudited budget for the fiscal year ending June
4 30, 2018 shows a surplus of \$1,264,902. This surplus is added to the fund
5 balance. Chip was asked if this surplus was in line with surpluses in the past; he
6 will check with Peggy upon her return and advise the Board. Capital projects
7 updates: Two bathroom renovations completed at 25 Oakview Drive; HVAC
8 system is currently being updated at 40 Lindeman Drive; at TMMS/Six to Six, the
9 lower level hallway carpeting replacement has been completed. Air handler unit
10 replacement work will begin in the fall. Chip reported that since C.E.S. doesn’t
11 own the building that houses Six to Six and TMMS, we have contracted to have
12 new air compressors installed since the current system is failing and the cost
13 would be much higher if we waited for the City of Bridgeport to complete this
14 work.

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16 Chip reported that C.E.S. will continue transportation service for Stratford
17 students to Six to Six and to RCA. Stratford rep Vin Faggella asked Chip for
18 some clarification on this item. Chip advised that Stratford is not transporting
19 students at this time so C.E.S. has contracted with a local bus company to
20 transport the students and C.E.S. will then apply for the reimbursement money
21 through the State which more than covers our costs. Shelton is transporting
22 students to both programs but are billing parents for the cost. Lastly, Peggy has
23 filed for reimbursement for security enhancements that were completed over the
24 past several years. The remaining improvements are being completed now.

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27 VI. ADJOURNMENT

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29 On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Sybil Allen, the meeting was
30 adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

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32
33 Respectfully submitted,
34 *Barbara Pace*
35 Barbara Pace
36 Recording Secretary