

**MINUTES – C.E.S. REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 2, 2017**

**PRESENT:**

Chris Hocker - EASTON/REG. 9  
 Debbie Appelbaum - GREENWICH  
 Carlos Reinoso, Jr. - MONROE  
 Tracey O’Connor - RIDGEFIELD  
 Tom Minotti - SHELTON  
 Andy George - STAMFORD  
 Terri Sheehy - STRATFORD (**President**)  
 Mike Ward - TRUMBULL (**Secretary**)  
 Elise Major - WESTON (arrived at 3:09 pm)  
 Karen Kleine - WESTPORT

**ABSENT:**

Sauda Baraka - BRIDGEPORT  
 Christa McNamara - DARIEN  
 Jeff Parker - EASTON/Reg. 9 (Alt.)  
 Philip Dwyer - FAIRFIELD  
 John Llewellyn - FAIRFIELD  
 Maria Naughton - NEW CANAAN  
 Mike Barbis - NORWALK  
 Chris Finkelstein - WILTON

**C.E.S.:**

**PRESENT:** Evan Pitkoff, Chris La Belle, Esther Bobowick, Anna Nelmes-Stoughton, Mike Regan, Mark Ribbens, Peggy Sullivan, Meghan Weller **GUEST:** Bill Heaney, Venman & Co.

**REGULAR MEETING**

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM – President Terri Sheehy called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. Quorum was confirmed.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Tom Minotti, the minutes of the October 5, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved.
- III. CONSENT AGENDA – On a motion by Debbie Appelbaum and seconded by Karen Kleine, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved by the Council.
- IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT –  
 Evan Pitkoff introduced Bill Heaney of Venman & Co., who reviewed the Auditor’s Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. Bill advised that there were no difficulties during the audit. Bill also mentioned that the agency is in a strong financial condition and has a very healthy reserve. Bill thanked Evan and Peggy Sullivan and the C.E.S. accounting staff for their assistance during the

1 audit. Evan in turn thanked Bill and his team for their hard work and  
2 cooperation with our staff.

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4 V. NEW BUSINESS:

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6 1. Audit Report: On a motion by Carlos Reinoso and seconded by Andy  
7 George, the Council unanimously voted to accept the Audit Report for the  
8 fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 as presented.

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10 2. Nominating Committee: On a motion by Elise Major and seconded by Tom  
11 Minotti, the Council unanimously approved the President's recommendation  
12 of Terri Sheehy and Debbie Appelbaum to the Nominating Committee. The  
13 slate, as it stands now, will be presented at the January 11, 2018 Annual  
14 Meeting of the Representative Council, is as follows: Chris Hocker,  
15 President, Karen Kleine, Vice President and Mike Ward, Secretary. If  
16 anyone else is interested in any of the officer positions, please either  
17 contact Terri, Debbie or Evan. Evan thanked Terri and Debbie for serving  
18 on the committee.

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20 VI. REPORTS:

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22 1. **Representative Council President** – Terri Sheehy thanked the Board for their  
23 support over the last two months and wishes C.E.S. all the best. Terri also  
24 wished all Board members running for re-election the best of luck.

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26 2. **Executive Director** – Evan reported that we had a wonderful turnout for the  
27 10<sup>th</sup> Annual C.E.S. 5K Race on October 14<sup>th</sup>. We had 92 runners and 31  
28 walkers and raised approximately \$6900 for our school programs. Also  
29 included in the runners were 25 Six to Six students from the Running Club. The  
30 students' entry fees were paid for by a grant from the C.E.S. Foundation.  
31 Regarding the auditor's report, Evan mentioned that there were no internal  
32 control issues noted and that C.E.S. was "in the black" for the year, increasing  
33 the agency's reserve by 5.46%.

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35 Evan reported that area superintendents have been meeting to brainstorm  
36 ways in which to bring even greater financial efficiencies to the districts.  
37 C.E.S. hosted this month's RESC Directors' meeting. Evan mentioned that  
38 once again C.E.S. will be coordinating and hosting the Southern Fairfield  
39 County Superintendents' Association's Legislative Breakfast for  
40 superintendents, Boards of Education chairs and elected State Representatives  
41 and Senators on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Regarding our search services, C.E.S.  
42 was selected to conduct the New Fairfield superintendent search. C.A.B.E.  
43 notified us that C.E.S. won their Communications Award for best district-wide  
44 school calendar and an honorable mention for our 2015-16 annual report.  
45 Lastly, Evan thanked all of the Rep Council members who will be leaving the  
46 Council after the elections of next week.

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3. **Associate Executive Director** –Chris La Belle reported that the C.E.S. Fingerprint Services was audited by the Connecticut State Police on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. After a five hour plus meeting, the results from the audit reflect our successful transition to all the new requirements initiated by the State Police and the FBI. Chris advised that the CSDE just released their writing standards for K-2 grades. Barb will email the document to the Board.
4. **Director, Professional Development Services** –Esther Bobowick advised that The RESC Alliance directors for professional development successfully hosted a statewide conference on personalized learning. Participants reported that it was an excellent conference and they left with many different thoughts to consider as they reimagine their own schools and how we teach all students. The event was held at Southern Connecticut State University with over 200 in attendance. For those interested, the conference materials are available at <https://tinyurl.com/RESCshared2017>. Esther also mentioned that she and consultant Lyn Nevins conducted the Academy for Teaching and Learning initial session with staff from the Greenwich Public Schools. Esther referred the Board to her written report for further updates.
5. **Principal, Regional Center for the Arts** – Mark Ribbens reported that RCA has begun the recruitment process for the 2018-19 school year. Staff members have begun by making presentations at area middle and high schools. The musical “She Loves Me” – the first production of the school year – opens this weekend. Mark mentioned that in October a dancer from the troupe Compagnie Herve Koubi presented a masterclass to the dance students and teachers courtesy of The Quick Center for the Arts in conjunction with their Arts Incubator project. Lastly, Mark announced that RCA will be offering a Stand-Up Comedy class for the first time this year. Students are learning to write and perform their own material. They will participate in a showcase night on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is interested in tickets for any events, please contact Karen Barnes at RCA at [barnesk@ces.k12.ct.us](mailto:barnesk@ces.k12.ct.us).
6. **Director, Special Education** – Mike Regan reported that at the suggestion of Dr. Barry Prizant, C.E.S. hosted Mr. Yuki Fakazawa, a special education teacher from Japan, who along with his interpreter, who visited the Preschool-Primary Learning Center. The reason for his visit was to observe how the SCERTS (Social Communication Emotional Regulation and Transaction Supports) Model is used in the classroom. He also attended the training session that Dr. Prizant provided to the staff the following day. Mr. Fakazawa mentioned that his visit was invaluable and will aid him in implementing the SCERTS Model in his classroom back in Japan. Mike also mentioned that C.E.S. is the only RESC who uses the SCERTS Model and we are the only school district in Connecticut using it. If any Board members are interested in more information on the SCERTS Model for their district, please contact Mike directly. Mike referred the Board to his written report for other updates.

1       7. **Principal, Six to Six** – Anna Nelmes-Stoughton reported that the Six to Six  
2       PTSA held its Annual Trick or Trunk event on October 27<sup>th</sup> with over 100  
3       families participating. Six to Six staff will participate in professional  
4       development in DCF mandated reporting, the new social studies standards and  
5       inquiry, and collaborative work with our science partners, the Maritime  
6       Aquarium and the Eli Whitney Museum. Anna congratulated all of the students  
7       who participated in the 5K race in October. Some graduates also returned to  
8       join their friends in the race. Lastly, Anna announced that parent/teacher  
9       conferences will be held on November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

10      8. **Director of Finance & Operations** – Peggy Sullivan reported that the budget  
11      summary for the period of July 1, 2017 through October 18, 2017 is in the  
12      board packet. Peggy hosted the FASBO transportation meeting on October  
13      20<sup>th</sup> with many districts attending which included transportation and finance  
14      directors, two district superintendents and one of our board members. Peggy  
15      indicated that it was a very productive meeting with the primary topic being how  
16      to save money by combining transportation services. Peggy and the members  
17      are also considering issuing an RFP to transportation companies as a group to  
18      receive better rates. Peggy posted a survey via Google Docs to our districts in  
19      an effort to see if the districts can work together by utilizing smaller vehicles to  
20      pool resources in transporting students where some cars may have only one or  
21      two students riding.

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23      Lastly, Evan thanked outgoing Board members and wished them all the best.  
24      Evan also took the opportunity to thank the Board for their support over the last  
25      11 years and announced that he will be retiring effective June 30, 2018. Evan  
26      also thanked the Leadership team for their support and hard work to make  
27      C.E.S. what it is today. Evan stated that his years at C.E.S. have been the  
28      pinnacle of his career. Evan will contact our search consultants, Jim Ritchie  
29      and Tom Jokubaitis in regard to conducting a search for the next executive  
30      director. Both Jim and Tom have conducted similar searches at C.E.S. in the  
31      past. Since the Board doesn't have a regular meeting scheduled in December,  
32      Evan will look into the possibility of having the consultants come to C.E.S. on  
33      December 7<sup>th</sup> to conduct a search information session.

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35      VII. ADJOURNMENT

36      On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Tracey O'Connor, the Board  
37      unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

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39      Respectfully submitted,  
40      *Barbara Pace*  
41      Barbara Pace  
42      Recording Secretary