

**MINUTES – C.E.S. REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
October 5, 2017**

PRESENT:

- Sauda Baraka - BRIDGEPORT
- Debbie Appelbaum - GREENWICH (arrived 3:08pm)
- Chris Hocker - EASTON/REDDING/REG. 9 (arrived 3:08pm)
- Carlos Reinoso, Jr. - MONROE (arrived 3:40pm)
- Maria Naughton - NEW CANAAN
- Tom Minotti - SHELTON
- Andy George - STAMFORD
- Terri Sheehy - STRATFORD (**President**)
- Mike Ward - TRUMBULL (**Secretary**)
- Elise Major - WESTON
- Karen Kleine - WESTPORT (arrived 3:06pm)

ABSENT:

- Christa McNamara - DARIEN
- Jeff Parker - EASTON/REDDING/REG. 9 (Alt.)
- Philip Dwyer - FAIRFIELD
- John Llewellyn - FAIRFIELD
- Mike Barbis - NORWALK
- Tracey O’Connor - RIDGEFIELD
- Christine Finkelstein- WILTON

C.E.S.:

Present: Evan Pitkoff, Chris La Belle, Esther Bobowick, Mark Ribbens, Mike Regan, Anna Nelmes-Stoughton, Peggy Sullivan, Stephanie Wanzer, Meghan Weller.

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM – President Terri Sheehy called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm. Quorum was confirmed.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Sauda Baraka, the minutes of September 7, 2017 were unanimously approved with the following corrections: Page 1, line 25: delete Jim Carroll’s name; page 1, line 39: Correct name to read “Tom Minotti”; page 2, line 20: insert the word “be” after “calendars will”.
- III. CONSENT AGENDA - On a motion by Sauda Baraka and seconded by Mike Ward, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved as presented.
- IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT – C.E.S.E.A. president Stephanie Wanzer advised the Board that once again the Special Education Division will be heading up their “Pluck-A-Feather” campaign in which they collect food items for C.E.S. families in need for the Thanksgiving holiday. Cash donations are welcomed as well. Barb will send out a reminder in the November board packet. Food items and/or donations will be accepted at the November 2nd meeting.

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2 V. NEW BUSINESS:

3 1. On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Tom Minotti, revisions to Policy
4 No. 4.008 Tuition Reimbursement Non-Certified Personnel and Policy No. 6.013
5 Employment Behavior Management Strategies and Seclusion and Restraint were
6 unanimously approved.
7

8 2. On a motion by Sauda Baraka and seconded by Maria Naughton, the 2018-
9 19 calendars were unanimously approved as presented.

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11 VI. REPORTS
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13 1. **Representative Council President** – Terri Sheehy reminded Board members
14 who are interested in any of the elected offices for 2018 to please complete the
15 survey which was emailed to everyone earlier this week. Surveys can be sent
16 back via return email to either Terri or Barb.
17

18 2. **Executive Director** – Evan announced that Patrice McCarthy from CABE will be
19 at our January 11, 2018 meeting. Evan reported that our program leaders
20 participated in the first RESC Alliance Convocation designed to ensure that the
21 RESCs work together to assist districts during these trying economic times.
22 Regarding our superintendent search work, Evan mentioned that Dr. Michael
23 Conner – former Chief Academic Officer in Norwalk has been selected as the new
24 superintendent of schools in Middletown. Through the RFP process, C.E.S. has
25 been selected to develop, coordinate and score the Civil Service oral exam for the
26 position of supervising vice principal for the Waterbury Public Schools. We have
27 also been told that Waterbury’s current superintendent will be retiring mid-October
28 and we will be preparing a response to that search RFP as well. Lastly, Evan
29 mentioned that one of our staff members lost her house to a fire recently.
30 Fortunately there were no injuries. The agency is coordinating an effort to provide
31 support for her and her family.
32

33 3. **Associate Executive Director**– Chris La Belle reported that we have been
34 notified by the Connecticut State Police that further changes are required in
35 fingerprinting services. Since January 2017, the requirements have dramatically
36 changed. We have now learned that we cannot fingerprint students from any
37 university or college unless the student has documentation from a Board of
38 Education that they will be student teaching, interning or volunteering in that
39 district. Many Connecticut universities and colleges have fingerprinting as a
40 requirement for admissions which needs to change immediately according to the
41 State Police. Chris has contacted all universities and colleges. C.E.S. has also
42 revised our guidelines to reflect the most recent changes.
43

44 Chris also mentioned that the Connecticut State Department of Education has
45 launched its new eGrants system. C.E.S. staff were trained on the new system in
46 September. All Title I, II and III grants are required to be completed in the new
47 system and are due in October. C.E.S. is in the process of finalizing our grant

1 applications. Lastly, Chris reported that last month Shipman & Goodwin held an
2 Education Legislation update. Alternative Education for expelled students was a
3 topic of interest. The requirements for school districts, under PA 17-220, have
4 increased the requirements on school districts to offer expelled students between
5 the ages of 16-18 an alternate education program that is comparable to what a
6 student would experience in a regular school setting. The belief is that
7 homebound tutoring will no longer be enough. This is another unfunded mandate.
8

9 **4. Director of Professional Development Services** – Esther Bobowick reported
10 that most of the professional development funding has been eliminated now so she
11 and her staff are working with districts on a one on one basis to assess services
12 needed and how we can best assist them. Esther mentioned that we will need to
13 charge fees for some services that in the past were offered at no cost to districts.
14 Currently our math specialist is working in Norwalk to assist teachers in that field.
15 Lastly, Esther reported that the New Administrator Induction breakfast meeting
16 was held in September with seven superintendents in attendance along with many
17 of their new administrators.
18

19 **5. Director, Regional Center for the Arts** – Mark Ribbens reported that RCA’s first
20 two productions of the new school year are in rehearsals: “She Loves Me” and
21 “Tartuffe” will be presented this fall. On September 28th, in conjunction with the
22 Quick Center at Fairfield University, RCA hosted a workshop for our Theatre
23 students. The presenters were Iain “Ewok” Robinson, a spoken word, rapper,
24 graffiti artist and activist from South Africa and Aaron Jafferis, a hip-hop poet and
25 playwright from New Haven. Mark also included this year’s performance schedule
26 in the Board packet.
27

28 **6. Director, Special Education** – Mike Regan reported that the C.E.S. Special
29 Education Department hosted the first FAPPA (Directors of Pupil Personnel &
30 Special Education) meeting of the year. Bryan Klimkiewicz, SDE Bureau Chief,
31 attend the session. Bryan heard individual issues affecting lower Fairfield County
32 school districts and now has a better understanding of what special education
33 directors are facing around litigation and due process hearings. Mike indicated that
34 during the RESC special education directors meeting which was held earlier today,
35 the group followed up with Bryan regarding the review of a survey regarding
36 special education statewide (M.O.R.E. Commission initiative.) Bryan will review the
37 survey results and ask the State Board of Education to review it as well. (Esther
38 mentioned that she will send Barb the link to the report from the RESC Alliance’s
39 meeting in September. Barb will send the link out to the Board.) Mike also
40 reported that once again Special Education received a donation of \$20,000 from
41 the Leir Charitable Foundation which will be used to study virtual reality in the
42 special needs classroom – especially in the Transitional Learning Center (TLC)
43 program where staff will use it to simulate community settings for students without
44 them having to leave the building. Staff member Laura Giovanetti will be going to
45 a conference later this month to meet with researchers on this topic. Lastly, Mike
46 reported that on November 9th, Dr. Pamela Rollins will address special education
47 directors at the Leir Foundation. Dr. Rollins was a student of Dr. Barry Prizant who

1 developed the SCERTS model which is what we follow at C.E.S. Dr. Rollins will
2 be speaking the topic of Facilitating Social Community in Children with ASD.

3
4 **7. Director, Six to Six Magnet School** – Anna Nelmes-Stoughton introduced
5 Meghan Weller, a teacher from Six to Six, who is shadowing Anna as part of her
6 doctoral program at Southern Connecticut State University. Anna also reported
7 that all initial baseline assessments have been completed in both mathematics and
8 literacy (K-8). The data will be used to further plan instruction, revise pacing
9 guides as needed and analyze core curriculum effectiveness well as being used to
10 coordinate intervention and/or enrichment. All staff members are engaged in
11 writing their professional goals aligned with Six to Six’s School Goals and Teacher
12 Evaluation Plans. Back to School Night was held on September 28th. Details about
13 the upcoming Nature’s Classroom and Washington DC trips for grades six and
14 eight were discussed.

15
16 **8. Director of Finance & Operations** – Peggy Sullivan distributed the budget
17 summary for the period July 1-September 22, 2017. Peggy reported that the field
18 work for the annual audit has been completed and a draft audit report is expected
19 to be received shortly. Auditors will be at the November Board meeting to review
20 their findings for the Board. Peggy mentioned that Trumbull and Bridgeport Fire
21 Marshals have completed the annual inspection of all our buildings. Peggy also
22 mentioned that a School Security grant application has been filed. Peggy will keep
23 the Board notified as to the status of the grant. Lastly, Peggy mentioned that she
24 will be hosting the FASBO (Fairfield Association of School Business Officers)
25 meeting on October 20th. Discussion will focus on transportation issues and how
26 the school districts can come together and save money on the cost of transporting
27 our students.

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29 **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

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31 On a motion by Sauda Baraka and seconded by Karen Kleine, the meeting was
32 unanimously adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

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34
35 Respectfully submitted,
36 *Barbara Pace*
37 Barbara Pace
38 Recording Secretary