

DRAFT

**MINUTES – C.E.S. REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2020**

PRESENT: Diana Carpio - NORWALK (arrived at 3:39 p.m.)
 Kathy Yolish - SHELTON (Alt.)
 Andy George - STAMFORD (Vice President)
 Vinny Faggella - STRATFORD
 Mike Ward - TRUMBULL (Secretary)
 Melissa Walker - WESTON
 Karen Kleine - WESTPORT (President)

ABSENT: Sybil Allen - BRIDGEPORT
 Jeff Parker - EASTON/REDDING/REG. 9
 Karen Hirsh - GREENWICH
 Margaret Stamatis - RIDGEFIELD
 Kate Kutash - SHELTON
 Debbie Low - WILTON

VACANCIES: Darien, Fairfield, Easton/Redding/Reg. 9, Monroe, New Canaan

C.E.S.: **PRESENT:** Charles Dumais, Chris LaBelle, Esther Bobowick, Anna Nelmes-Stoughton, Mike McGrath, Mark Ribbens, Peggy Sullivan, Cynthia Gallo (CESEA). **GUESTS:** Dr. Nancy Cetorelli, C.E.S. Foundation.

ANNUAL MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM – Executive Director Dr. Charles Dumais called the Annual Meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Quorum was confirmed. Chip welcomed new Board members Kathy Yolish (Shelton) and Diana Carpio (Norwalk).

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2020
 Based on the recommendation of the Nominating Committee (Andy George and Debbie Low), the following Slate of Officers for 2020 was presented: Karen Kleine (President); Andy George (Vice President) and Mike Ward (Secretary). There were no nominations from the floor. On a motion by Vinny Faggella and seconded by Mike Ward, the Council unanimously approved the slate of officers for 2020 as presented. Chip offered his congratulations and thanks to Karen, Andy and Mike and to Debbie and Andy for coordinating the nomination process.

III. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
 Chip advised that there are two standing committees: Finance and Building. Finance Committee member Andy George will serve again. Building

1 Committee chair Mike Ward will also serve as member and chair. If anyone is
2 interested in joining these committees, please contact Barb Pace.

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4 **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

5 On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Andy George, the Board
6 unanimously moved to adjourn the 2020 Annual Meeting at 3:06 p.m.

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8 **REGULAR MEETING**

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10 **I. CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM**

11 President Karen Kleine called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. Quorum was
12 confirmed.

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14 **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

15 On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Andy George the minutes of the
16 November 7, 2019 were unanimously approved.

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18 **III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

- 19 • Chip Dumais introduced Dr. Nancy Cetorelli, former executive director at
20 C.E.S. and currently the president of the C.E.S. Foundation who spoke
21 about the mission of the Foundation and the upcoming 2020 Signature
22 Event on March 28th which will be held at Mill River Country Club in
23 Stratford. Nancy distributed an information sheet which explained in
24 detail the history of the Foundation along with the C.E.S. Foundation
25 brochure. Nancy asked members to share these items with their home
26 boards. Nancy thanked the Board for their support of the Foundation. If
27 anyone would like to purchase tickets, donate raffle or silent auction
28 prizes or make a monetary contribution, please contact Barb.

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30 **IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

31 On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Vinny Faggella the consent
32 agenda was unanimously approved.

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34 **V. REPORTS**

- 35 1. **Representative Council President** – Karen Kleine mentioned that the C.A.B.E
36 Legislative Breakfast will be held at Staples HS on Wednesday, January 15th at
37 7:45.
38
39 2. **Executive Director** – Chip referred the Board to his written report highlighting
40 a few items: Chip has arranged for Jeff Wihbey, superintendent of the CT
41 Technical School System to join the superintendents to discuss part-time
42 vocational opportunities for Fairfield County students. C.E.S. has hired Jackie
43 Whiting as an Innovation and Technology Specialist. Jackie is a certified
44 Google Innovator and Digital Literacy author. Chip mentioned that he has
45 looked at a location in Norwalk to house a C.E.S. lower Fairfield County facility.
46 We are currently waiting to hear from the Norwalk Building Committee to

1 consider this venture. Chip advised that the RESC directors are meeting with
2 the education chairs in Hartford on Monday.
3

- 4 **3. Associate Executive Director** – Chris La Belle reported that C.E.S. has
5 partnered with TEACH Connecticut through the State Department of Education.
6 This initiative is designed to help districts recruit and retain high-quality
7 teachers. Chris reported that C.E.S. will participate in a regional consortium to
8 develop a minority teacher recruitment district plan. The focus will be on the
9 large number of minority employees who might not have considered teaching
10 as a profession. See written report for additional information.
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- 12 **4. Director, Professional Development Services** - Esther Bobowick reported
13 that Professional Development Services (PDS) has contracted with TED in
14 order to bring Masterclass to educators in our region in the spring, summer and
15 fall. Masterclass is a course created by TED and designed to help educators
16 identify, hone and share their best ideas. Esther also reported that the RESC
17 Alliance was awarded \$2,750,000 by the CT Office of Early Childhood. Five of
18 the six projects that the RESC Alliance applied for were selected. C.E.S. PDS
19 will partner with Sacred Heart University which was awarded a five year, \$2.1
20 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to provide computer
21 science professional development for more than 500 elementary school
22 teachers. Eighteen schools from Bridgeport and 18 schools from other towns
23 in the C.E.S. region will be invited to participate. PDS will offer a PRAXIS II
24 prep class in February for anyone who would like to participate.
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- 26 **5. Principal, Regional Center for the Arts** – Mark Ribbens reported that RCA
27 has recently added an early decision audition process for those students who
28 wish to apply to RCA earlier than the traditional audition period. Forty students
29 are expected to audition this weekend for the upcoming 2020-21 school year.
30 Next open house at RCA is February 6th. For other info, please see Mark’s
31 written report. Updated Performance Schedule was included in Board packets
32 this month. All Board members are welcome to attend any of the upcoming
33 performances. Please call Janet at (203) 365-8857 for ticket information.
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- 35 **6. Principal, Six to Six** – Anna Nelmes-Stoughton informed the Board that to
36 date, Six to Six has received 10 mini-grants from the C.E.S. Foundation. The
37 funds will be used by teachers for a variety of unique opportunities for Six to Six
38 students. Anna expressed her thanks to the Foundation for their continued
39 support of their teachers’ creative ideas. Enrollment applications for the 2020-
40 21 school year are available now through March 6th. Applications can be found
41 on line in both English and Spanish.
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- 43 **7. Director of Finance & Operations** – Peggy Sullivan referred the Board to her
44 written financial reports. C.E.S. has responded to an RFP for Newtown bus
45 runs which if awarded, would bring in an additional \$400,000 in revenue. All
46 other budget items are tracking as anticipated.

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8. **Director, Special Education** – Mike McGrath referred the Board to his report which spans November and December activity in the Special Education Division. Some of the professional development topics offered to staff on November 5th included Sexual Harassment Prevention Training, Board Maker Online Training, Cognitive Processes and Classroom Practices, Google Classroom for Report Cards, Positive Behavior Supports and Trauma & Nurturing Social-Emotional Competence in Today’s Children. A PMT refresher class was held in November with 42 district participants in attendance.

VI. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Kathy Yolish, the Council unanimously voted to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the performance of the Executive Director and invited Dr. Dumais to remain for the discussion. The time was 4:10 p.m.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Kathy Yolish the Council unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 p.m. .

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Pace
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Recording Secretary