

**MINUTES – C.E.S. REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 5, 2020**

**PRESENT:**

Trisha Pytko	- FAIRFIELD
Diana Carpio	- NORWALK (arrived @ 3:19 pm)
Chris Hocker	- EASTON/REDDING/REG. 9
Margaret Stamatis	- RIDGEFIELD
Kathy Yolish	- SHELTON
Vinny Faggella	- STRATFORD
Mike Ward	- TRUMBULL ( <b>Secretary</b> )
Debbie Low	- WILTON

**ABSENT:**

VACANT	- BRIDGEPORT
VACANT	- DARIEN
VACANT	- MONROE
VACANT	- NEW CANAAN
Andy George	- STAMFORD ( <b>Vice President</b> )
Melissa Walker	- WESTON
Karen Kleine	- WESTPORT ( <b>President</b> )

**C.E.S.:** Charles Dumais, Chris LaBelle, Esther Bobowick, Mike McGrath, Mark Ribbens, Peggy Sullivan, Anna Nelmes-Stoughton, Stephanie Wanzer

I. CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

Chris Hocker, filling in for president Karen Kleine, called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. Quorum was confirmed. Chip welcomed new member, Trisha Pytko, from Fairfield.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Vinny Faggella, the minutes of the January 9, 2020 meeting were approved with one abstention (C. Hocker).

III. CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Debbie Low and seconded by Kathy Yolish, the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

40 IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

- 41 • Stephanie Wanzer, president of the CESEA, welcomed new members.  
42 Stephanie also thanked everyone on behalf of the members of the  
43 CESEA for their dedication to C.E.S., as well as to their own boards.  
44 • Board Member Appreciation – March is designated as “Board Member  
45 Appreciation Month.” Chip thanked the Board for their dedication to the  
46 C.E.S. Representative Council and distributed a few small gifts and a  
47 new C.E.S. lapel pin to everyone.  
48

49 V. NEW BUSINESS

50 On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Vinny Faggella, the 2020-21  
51 salaries as recommended by the Finance Committee, were unanimously  
52 approved as presented.  
53

- 54 1. **Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Special**  
55 **Education acknowledgement letter:** Chip explained that the letter from  
56 Bryan Klimkiewicz, Division Director, Bureau of Special Education for the  
57 Connecticut State Department of Education acknowledged C.E.S.’  
58 contribution towards the development of the BSE’s Model Special  
59 Education Procedures and Practices Manual. Bryan also stated that  
60 “C.E.S.’ support of this project, both in personnel and finances, is a fine  
61 example of the agency’s strong commitment to improving outcomes for  
62 Connecticut’s students with disabilities on an ongoing basis.”  
63  
64 2. **Approval of Venman & Co., as Auditors:** On a motion by Vinny  
65 Faggella and seconded by Kathy Yolish, the Board unanimously  
66 approved Venman & Co., as auditors for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
67 2020.  
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69 VI. REPORTS

- 70 1. **Representative Council President** – No report.  
71  
72  
73 2. **Executive Director** – Chip reported that he has attended meetings with the  
74 other RESC directors, Chris Soto (CSDE Director of Innovation and  
75 Partnerships), Mohit Agrawal (CT Deputy Policy Director), Rep. McCarty and  
76 Commissioner Cardona. Primary focus of the meetings has been on regional  
77 efficiencies, collaboration efforts and special education funding. Chip continues  
78 to work actively with the Norwalk superintendent to valuate, evaluate and  
79 consider viability of Briggs School as a satellite C.E.S. facility. Likely offerings  
80 would be Therapeutic Day Program, Early Diagnostic Center, Reading/Dyslexia  
81 Support and/or Alternative Education. Regarding community development,

82 C.E.S. is supporting Maker Faire where we will be sponsoring and participating  
83 in this year's event to promote C.E.S. and innovative student/teacher practices.  
84 Chip is developing a member event for educators on teaching strategies that is  
85 designed as an interactive family activity at the zoo. Chip reported that a  
86 guideline for alternative learning opportunities (pandemic situation, extended  
87 weather-related closure situation, etc.) was shared with all CT superintendents.  
88 This plan was developed by the CAPSS Technology Committee with  
89 assistance from EdAdvance. For additional updates, please see Chip's written  
90 report.

91  
92 3. **Associate Executive Director** – Chris LaBelle reported that the ELL online  
93 assessment for our ELL students at both Six to Six and Special Education has  
94 been completed. SATs will be held on March 25<sup>th</sup> with students beginning to  
95 take the NGSS Assessment the first week of March. All SBAC testing is  
96 scheduled for the weeks following April break. C.E.S. verified that we have  
97 twelve beginning teachers in the State's educator data system (EDS). We  
98 expect to receive approximately \$480 per beginning teacher or a total allocation  
99 of about \$5,800. These funds will be used to offset support teacher stipends  
100 for mentoring. Additional highlights can be found in Chris' written report.

101  
102 4. **Director, Professional Development Services** – Esther Bobowick reported  
103 that ten district teams are attending three regional planning sessions where  
104 they will be working together to develop individual district plans that include  
105 long and short term goals for increasing the number of teachers of color that  
106 are hired, increased applications for jobs and plans for growing their own  
107 teachers from high school students who want to pursue teaching. Event will be  
108 held on April 30<sup>th</sup> at Testo's Restaurant in Bridgeport from 4-7 p.m. Esther also  
109 mentioned that the Praxis II Technology Education Test Prep is being offered  
110 for district educators who would like to take the Praxis II test and acquire the  
111 cross endorsement in this shortage area. Other test prep programs for other  
112 shortage areas will be offered this coming summer. Esther reported that C.E.S.,  
113 as a part of a team from Sacred Heart University, was awarded a grant to the  
114 US Department of Education for a five-year grant focused on training teachers  
115 and students to learn coding. C.E.S. will solicit applications from elementary  
116 schools in our region who want to participate. Only six applications will be  
117 accepted. For additional highlights please see Esther's written report.

118  
119 5. **Principal, Regional Center for the Arts** – Mark Ribbens referred the Board to  
120 his written report and highlighted a few items. RCA Dance and Music students  
121 performed in the City of Bridgeport's opening celebration of Black History  
122 Month. Mark also informed the Board that RCA Musical Theater instructor,  
123 Anne Maguire, was chosen as one of the five winners of the George London

124 Opera Competition. *The New York Times* noted: “this prestigious  
125 competition...can rightfully claim to act as a springboard for major careers in  
126 opera.” Congratulations Anne!

127

128 6. **Principal, Six to Six** – Anna Nelmes-Stoughton reported that the lottery  
129 application window for the 2020-21 school year is open until March 6, 2020. To  
130 date, over 1000 applications from 20 different towns have been received. The  
131 Six to Six Student Council hosted a school dance in February and raised \$500  
132 for Habitat for Humanity. Seventh grader Nataly Aguilar was one of the winners  
133 in Fairfield University’s Poetry for Peace contest. Her poem, ***The***  
134 ***Earth Wants Peace Too***, was the only entry submitted in both English and  
135 Spanish. Congratulations Nataly!

136

137 7. **Director of Finance & Operations** – Peggy Sullivan distributed the year-to-  
138 date budget summary document. Revenue and expenditures are tracking on  
139 schedule. Peggy reported that representatives from People’s United Bank  
140 conducted two financial education sessions for staff members, presenting the  
141 bank’s new online financial education website. Lastly, Peggy mentioned that  
142 C.E.S. received a preliminary significant health insurance renewal increase  
143 from Connecticut. The C.E.S. insurance consultant, USI, is in the process of  
144 receiving and analyzing quotes from other carriers and the State’s partnership  
145 plan.

146

147 8. **Director, Special Education** – Mike McGrath reported that the Directors of  
148 Special Education and Financial Directors met with Tom Boudreau from the  
149 State Department of Education to present on the IDEA Grant application  
150 procedures. C.E.S. Assistive Technology Coordinator, Laura Giovanetti,  
151 attended the ATIA Conference in late January. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Life Course Planning  
152 Tools seminar was held in February. Additional information is contained in  
153 Mike’s written report.

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156 VII. ADJOURNMENT

157 On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Trisha Pytko, the Board  
158 unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 4:26 p.m.

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160

161 Respectfully submitted,

162 *Barbara Pace*

163 Barbara Pace

164 Recording Secretary