

C.E.S. REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 5, 2020
MINUTES - **DRAFT**

<https://youtu.be/BnJ5PQOhGOE>

PRESENT:

Chris Hocker - EASTON/REG. 9
Andy George - STAMFORD (Vice President)
Kate Kutash - SHELTON
Vinnie Faggella - STRATFORD
Mike Ward - TRUMBULL (**Secretary**)
Melissa Walker - WESTON
Karen Kleine - WESTPORT (**President**)

ABSENT:

John Weldon - BRIDGEPORT
VACANT - **DARIEN**
Jeff Parker - EASTON/REDDING/REG. 9 (Alt.)
Trish Pytko - FAIRFIELD
Karen Hirsh - GREENWICH
VACANT - **MONROE**
VACANT - **NEW CANAAN**
Barbara Meyer-
Mitchell - NORWALK
Margaret Stamatis - RIDGEFIELD
Kathy Yolish - SHELTON (Alt.)
Debbie Low - WILTON

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

GUESTS: Bill Heaney, Bryan Pennington of Venman & Company

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM – President Karen Kleine called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Quorum was confirmed.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – On a motion by Karen Kleine and seconded by Mike Ward, the minutes of the October 1, 2020 meeting were approved with two abstentions: (Kutash, Faggella).
- III. CONSENT AGENDA: On a motion by Karen Kleine and seconded by Vinnie Faggella, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

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2 IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:
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4 1. Stephanie Wanzer, president of the CESEA, thanked the administrators and
5 the Council for their support during this difficult time of COVID. Stephanie
6 reported that this is the 20th anniversary for the Special Education Division’s
7 Thanksgiving “Pluck-a-Feather” to assist C.E.S. families in need for the
8 Thanksgiving holiday. This year to due COVID concerns and restrictions,
9 the staff will be collecting donations in the form of Stop & Shop or ShopRite
10 gift cards. You may also donate through Venmo (contact info on the flyer in
11 Board packets.) If you want to make a cash donation, please send to Barb
12 directly. Every donation helps. There are 37 C.E.S. families in need this
13 year. Stephanie thanked the Board for their ongoing support of this initiative
14 and wished everyone a safe, happy and healthy holiday season.
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16 2. Venman & Company: Chip Dumais introduced Bill Heaney and Bryan
17 Pennington of Venman & Co., who reviewed for the Council the draft of the
18 Auditor’s Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. Bill advised that there
19 were no difficulties during the audit. No management letter was issued. Bill
20 also mentioned that the agency is in strong financial condition and has a
21 very healthy reserve. Bill and Bryan thanked Chip and Peggy Sullivan and
22 the C.E.S. accounting staff for their assistance during the audit. Chip
23 thanked Bill and Bryan for attending and his team for their work and
24 cooperation with our staff. Chip also offered his thanks and appreciation to
25 Peggy and the entire Accounting staff for their work with the auditors during
26 this time.
27

28 It was noted that, following a discussion last year regarding the
29 consideration of a change in auditing firms, C.E.S. would maintain the
30 current auditing firm and request a change in principal to ensure that we
31 minimized any opportunity for complacency or myopia in the process.
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33 V. NEW BUSINESS:

34 1. **Audit Report:** On a motion by Mike Ward and seconded by Kate Kutash,
35 the Council unanimously accepted the Draft Audit Report for the fiscal year
36 ending June 30, 2020 as presented. Final audit report will be filed with the
37 State prior to 12/31/20 as required.
38

39 2. **Nominating Committee:** On a motion by Karen Kleine and seconded by
40 Kate Kutash, the Council approved the President’s recommendation of
41 Andy George and Debbie Low to the Nominating Committee to present a
42 slate of candidates for election at the January 14, 2021 Representative
43 Council meeting.
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VI. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Approval/adoption of Policy No. 5.019 – Face Coverings/Masks: On a motion by Vinnie Faggella and seconded by Kate Kutash, the adoption of Policy 5.019 was unanimously approved.
2. 2021-22 Calendars: On a motion by Karen Kleine and seconded by Melissa Walker, the C.E.S. 2021-22 calendars were unanimously approved.
3. 2019-20 C.E.S. Annual Report was distributed to all Representative Council members. Chip thanked Scott Griffin and Barb Pace for their work on this year's report.

VII. REPORTS: Please go to minute mark 36:35 to view/listen to reports. Link: <https://youtu.be/BnJ5PQOhGOE?t=2135>

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Karen Kleine and seconded by Kate Kutash, the meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Pace
Barbara Pace
Recording Secretary

MEETING REMINDER:
THERE IS NO DECEMBER MEETING.
NEXT MEETING IS JANUARY 14, 2021.
HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND STAY WELL!