

MINUTES – C.E.S. REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 3, 2022
VIA ZOOM & LIMITED IN PERSON

PRESENT:

- John Weldon - BRIDGEPORT (left at 3:30 pm)
- Nick Kapoor - MONROE
- Kate Kutash - SHELTON (Vice President)
- Andy George - STAMFORD (President)
- Becky Hamman - STAMFORD
- Andrea Corcoran - STRATFORD
- Julia McNamee - TRUMBULL (Alt.)
- Debbie Low - WILTON (Secretary) (left at 4 pm)

ABSENT:

- VACANT - DARIEN
- VACANT - EASTON/REDDING/REG. 9
- VACANT - FAIRFIELD
- Karen Hirsh - GREENWICH
- VACANT - NEW CANAAN
- Tina Malhotra - RIDGEFIELD
- Marie Petitti - TRUMBULL
- David Felton - WESTON
- Robert Harrington - WESTPORT

C.E.S.:

PRESENT: Charles Dumais, Chris LaBelle, Lori Elliott, Eric Nyquist, Anna Nelmes-Stoughton, Peggy Sullivan, Mike McGrath, Ivy Guzman, Suzanne Clement, Stephanie Wanzer

GUEST:

Chris Hocker, CES Foundation Board of Directors

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

President Andy George called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. Quorum was confirmed.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Andy George and seconded by Kate Kutash the minutes of the January 13, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

- Chris Hocker, former Rep Council president and currently CES Foundation Board of Directors member and in-coming President of the Foundation, spoke to the Council regarding their support of the Foundation with a donation (any amount welcomed) for the upcoming

C.E.S. REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES – MARCH 3, 2022

1 fundraiser (sold out!) on March 26th. The Foundation distributes mini-
2 grants as well as program grants to CES programs and is also working
3 now to enhance and support CES member districts' programs. If
4 anyone would like to donate, please send a check made payable to the
5 CES Foundation, c/o Barbara Pace, CES, 40 Lindeman Drive, Trumbull
6 CT 06611. Andy George also added that you can email Barb with a
7 pledge. All donations and/or pledges must be in by **March 18th**.
8 Executive Director Chip Dumais indicated if the Council pledges/donates
9 \$500.00 he will match the donation! Chris thanked Andy and Chip for
10 the opportunity to speak at today's meeting.

- 11 • Stephanie Wanzer, president of the CESEA, gave her thanks to Chris
12 LaBelle for his continued work resolving COVID concerns and thanked
13 Dr. Dumais and the CES administrators for their on-going support.
- 14 • One public comment was received regarding the mask mandate which
15 Dr. Dumais read for the record.

16
17 **IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

18 On a motion by Andy George and seconded by Kate Kutash, the Consent
19 Agenda was amended to add Jamie Toppin to the list of staff members
20 requesting a leave of absence for student teaching. The amendment to the
21 Consent Agenda was unanimously approved. On a motion by Andy George
22 and seconded by Kate Kutash, the Consent Agenda was unanimously
23 approved as amended.

24
25 **V. NEW BUSINESS**

- 26 1. On a motion by Andy George and seconded by Kate Kutash, the 2022-23
27 Non-Union salaries were unanimously approved as presented.
- 28
29 2. Building Committee Report – Chip indicated that the Building Committee
30 hasn't formally met yet regarding the purchase of 40 Oakview Drive as well
31 as other building issues currently being reviewed. Facilities manager Gino
32 Faiella has been visiting each building for a complete review of the
33 condition/needs at each site. Peggy will keep the Board posted on
34 developments as they occur. Andy announced that Rep Council members
35 Mary Ellen Flaherty-Ludwig (Norwalk) and Marie Petitti (Trumbull) agreed
36 to join himself, Chip and Peggy on the Building Committee. Andy also
37 reported that John Weldon (Bridgeport) and Andrea Corcoran (Stratford)
38 agreed to join himself, Chip and Peggy on the Finance Committee. Chip
39 thanked the board members for their willingness to serve on
40 subcommittees as well as representing their districts on the Council.
- 41
42 3. Policy No. 5.021 – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policy (**first read**):
43 Chip and Chris LaBelle clarified a few questions from Board members
44 regarding this new policy. The policy will be on the April agenda for final
45 approval.

C.E.S. REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES – MARCH 3, 2022

1 **VI. REPORTS – SEE MINUTE MARK 34:56 FOR THE START OF REPORTS &**
2 **DISTRICT CONCERNS IN LINK BELOW**

- 3
4 1. **Representative Council President** – Andy George
5 2. **Executive Director** – Chip Dumais
6 3. **Associate Executive Director** – Chris LaBelle
7 4. **Director, Professional Development Services** – Lori Elliott
8 5. **Principal, Regional Center for the Arts** – Eric Nyquist
9 6. **Principal, Six to Six** – Anna Nelmes-Stoughton
10 7. **Director of Finance & Operations** – Peggy Sullivan
11 8. **Director, Special Education** – Mike McGrath
12 9. **Director, School Readiness** – Ivy Guzman
13 10. **Early Childhood Coordinator** – Suzanne Clement

14
15 **Link:** <https://youtu.be/5x5jdIONhCc>
16
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18

19 **VII. DISTRICT CONCERNS** – No discussion.
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21 **VIII. ADJOURNMENT:** On a motion by Andy George and seconded by Kate
22 Kutash, the Council unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 4:32 p.m.
23
24

25 Respectfully submitted,

26 *Barbara Pace*

27 Barbara Pace

28 Recording Secretary