

Minutes

ACES Governing Board February 12, 2009

205 Skiff Street
Hamden, CT 06517

Present: Bruce Baker, Seymour; Lynn Campo, Hamden; Alicia Clapp, North Haven; Sue Cohen, Regional District #5; William Currin, Regional District #13; Sheryl Feducia, Regional District #16; John Finkle, East Haven; Thomas Hennessey, Wallingford; Judith Hotz, Branford; Nancy Lappie, North Branford; Thomas McKirryher, Naugatuck; Stephen Mrowka, Cheshire; Lucy Painter, Bethany; Debby Pines, Woodbridge; Jim SantaBarbara, Milford; Barbara Sokol; John Theriault, Waterbury

ACES: Craig W. Edmondson, Gary J. Shettle, Ann P. Dombroski, Robert Parker, Claudette Beamon, Elaine Sein, Jo-Anne Cegan

Regrets: Ansonia, Orange, Wolcott

Prior to the ACES Governing Board meeting the board chair observed a moment of silence for Bernice "Bunny" Yesner. Mrs. Yesner was a former Woodbridge Board Member and served on the ACES Governing Board for many years. The board chair also indicated that information regarding her memorial service would be sent to the board.

1. Call to Order

William Currin called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:20 PM after it was determined that a quorum was present.

2. Public Participation/Communications

No public participation/communications.

3. Approval of Minutes

Bruce Baker moved to accept the ACES Governing Board minutes of January 8, 2009. Thomas Hennessey seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Hamden, Milford, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury, Woodbridge

Abstention: Meriden, Regional District #16

Opposed: None

VOTED

4. Executive Director's Report

- a) Dr. Edmondson greeted the ACES Governing Board.
- b) Dr. Edmondson updated the ACES Governing Board on the bankruptcy of MPC. MPC provides ACES with computer and technology services which include warranties for three year leasing and repairs. Dr. Edmondson indicated that ACES may need to invest monies for future technology expenses. He added that ACES Technology Services has a small stock pile of equipment and repair parts on site in order to handle in-house repairs. Technology Services will continue to monitor the situation and Dr. Edmondson indicated he will keep the board apprised of any further developments.
- c) Dr. Edmondson discussed the continued efforts made by ACES and the RESC Alliance to bring to the attention of legislature the impact that the current and proposed ECS and magnet school funding will have on the entire state. Dr. Edmondson indicated that the governor's budget reflects no increase to ECS funding and a flat funding level for education, with no additional funding. Dr. Edmondson also discussed that he along with the two other RESC Executive Directors who manage Open Choice will meet with the commissioner to discuss the costs associated with management and transportation. As an agent the RESCs are not able to subsidize a state program. The RESCs previously received supplemental funding for excess costs but with flat funding would no longer be eligible for such monies. Dr. Edmondson indicated that there has been a conjoined effort by many magnet school operators and superintendents to deliver testimony to legislature on the disparity of funding to districts outside the Sheff vs. O'Neill suit.

Dr. Edmondson also discussed specific efforts made by ACES to keep Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School as a viable option for school districts, parents, and students. Dr. Edmondson had several conversations with the Meriden superintendent about participation to WIMS and has officially extended an invitation to become a partner district. Dr. Edmondson will keep the board apprised of the outcome. Dr. Edmondson has spoken with Dr. Mayo and he expressed New Haven's commitment to WIMS. Dr. Edmondson was also involved in the meetings below to discuss implications to WIMS, TEMS and magnet schools in general.

- January 8, 2009 – WIMS made a presentation to Senator Looney highlighting the school and requesting financial support.
- January 9, 2009 – Dr. Edmondson along with the superintendents from Hamden and Meriden met with the commissioner to express concerns on the magnet funding in particular the 55% rule.

- January 16, 2009 – Dr. Edmondson met and began discussions with Meriden officials regarding participation to WIMS. Dr. Edmondson also extended a general invitation to superintendents at their monthly meeting on open seats to all ACES magnet schools.
- January 23, 2009 – WIMS PTO held a legislative breakfast to discuss the current financial challenges facing WIMS. Senator Harp, Representatives Esty, Sharkey, and Walker were in attendance.
- January 27, 2009 – Dr. Edmondson met with Senator Gaffey, Representative Abercrombie, Representative Altobello and the Meriden BOE Finance Committee to discuss the ramifications of magnet funding.
- January 29, 2009 - Dr. Edmondson met with Senator Caligiuri from the Appropriations Committee to discuss magnet school funding.
- February 3, 2009 – Dr. Edmondson met with Representative Fleishman to discuss magnet school funding.
- February 10, 2009 – ECA parents/PTO formed an advocacy group and will join the WIMS PTO to testify before legislature concerning the great opportunity students have with the magnet school option and bring awareness to inadequate level of funding.
- February 11, 2009 – WIMS parents, principal and RESC Alliance presented testimony to legislature to fully support all magnet schools.
- February 20, 2009 – Dr. Edmondson has a meeting scheduled with Representative Sharkey to discuss regional economies and magnet funding.

Mr. Currilin reminded the ACES Governing Board of their recommendation for Dr. Edmondson to have a greater presence with the State Department of Education. Mr. Currilin commended Dr. Edmondson for advocating on behalf ACES, partner districts and students.

5. Fiscal Services

Filing of Fiscal Report (Subject for Audit)

Summary/Detail by Category

Gary Shettle reviewed the fiscal report indicating the numbers are on the plus side and that overall ACES is in good standing. Sheryl Feducia moved to accept the fiscal report as presented (subject to audit).

Bruce Baker seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Hamden, Meriden, Milford, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District, #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury, Woodbridge

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

6. Human Resources Report

Claudette Beamon reviewed the Human Resources Report indicating that a few teacher assistant/drivers moved into 40 hour positions after obtaining their public service driver's license. The remainder of the report was routine. Sheryl Feducia moved to authorize the hirings, accept the resignations, and grant the leaves as detailed on the Human Resources Report.

Alicia Clapp seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Hamden, Meriden, Milford, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District, #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury, Woodbridge

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

7. Approval of Budgets

Gary Shettle, accompanied by Jo-Anne Cegan, reviewed the budget process. Mr. Shettle provided the ACES Governing Board with a copy of the budget manual provided to all administrators in preparation of the budget process. Mr. Shettle indicated that the budget process begins in October with notification to administrators and continues through February with reviews and evaluations of current and proposed budgets, salaries, leases and fees. Administrators then submit a draft budget to Mr. Shettle and budget meetings are held. Starting in February the budgets are presented to the ACES Governing Board for approval. Mr. Currin added that he and Dr. Edmondson communicated prior to the process in an effort to keep the budgets conservative. All administrators were directed to keep their budgets as low as possible.

The Executive Director recommended that the ACES Governing Board approve the following program budgets for the 2009-2010 school year. Each budget was presented separately giving the ACES Governing Board the opportunity to ask specific questions.

Special Education:

Lynn Campo moved to approve the **Whitney High School East/West** program budget for 2009-2010. Sheryl Feducia seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Hamden, Meriden, Milford, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District, #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury, Woodbridge

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

Lynn Campo moved to approve the **Whitney High School North** program budget for 2009-2010. Sheryl Feducia seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Hamden, Meriden, Milford, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District, #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury, Woodbridge

Abstention: None
Opposed: None

Lynn Campo moved to approve the **Mill Road School** program budget for 2009-2010.
Sheryl Feducia seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Hamden, Meriden, Milford, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District, #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury, Woodbridge

Abstention: None
Opposed: None

Lynn Campo moved to approve the **Village School** program budget for 2009-2010.
Sheryl Feducia seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Hamden, Meriden, Milford, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District, #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury, Woodbridge

Abstention: None
Opposed: None

Lynn Campo moved to approve the **Village School EIBI** program budget for 2009-2010.
Sheryl Feducia seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Hamden, Meriden, Milford, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District, #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury, Woodbridge

Abstention: None
Opposed: None

Transportation

Lynn Campo moved to approve the **Transportation** program budget for 2009-2010.
Sheryl Feducia seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Hamden, Meriden, Milford, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District, #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury, Woodbridge

Abstention: None
Opposed: None

Related Services:

Lynn Campo moved to approve the **Pupil Services** program budget for 2009-2010.
Sheryl Feducia seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Hamden, Meriden, Milford, Naugatuck,
North Branford, North Haven, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional
District, #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury, Woodbridge

Abstention: None
Opposed: None

Lynn Campo moved to approve the **Extension Therapy Services** program budget for 2009-2010.
Sheryl Feducia seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Hamden, Meriden, Milford, Naugatuck,
North Branford, North Haven, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional
District, #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury, Woodbridge

Abstention: None
Opposed: None

Lynn Campo moved to approve the **Behavioral Services** program budget for 2009-2010.
Sheryl Feducia seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Hamden, Meriden, Milford, Naugatuck,
North Branford, North Haven, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional
District, #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury, Woodbridge

Abstention: None
Opposed: None

8. Old Business

- Facilities Update - Mr. Shettle provided an update on the constructions projects for 60 United Drive and the Little Theatre.
 - 60 United Drive – The project is near completion. There is a pending workshop on how to use the gas pump and the parking lot will be striped when the weather allows.
 - Little Theatre – Interviews are pending for construction manager. The project is moving forward as discussed.
- Policy Update – The policy sub-committee continues to meet prior to the board meetings. The 1000 series will be brought forward for a first reading in March.

9. New Business

- Next Meeting: March 12, 2009.
- Dr. Edmondson informed the ACES Governing Board that he will be meeting with the commissioner of education to discuss his recommendation to eliminate the parent pay option for part-time magnet schools. The elimination could have serious implications for ECA as 25% of the tuition is based on the parent pay option. There is a coalition (in support of Sheff vs. O'Neill) in the Hartford area who had requested that the part-time magnet schools be fully funded. The commissioner was unaware of the partnership among RESCs, school districts, and parents who support this option.
- Mr. Currilin announced that the ACES Education Foundation Gala will be held on April 2, 2009.
- Mr. Currilin mentioned Dr. Edmondson's willingness to visit local school districts to review programs and services.

10. Adjournment

Sheryl Feducia moved to adjourn the ACES Governing Board meeting at 1:45 PM.
Alicia Clapp seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Hamden, Meriden, Milford, Naugatuck,
North Branford, North Haven, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional
District, #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury, Woodbridge

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

Submitted by,

Elaine Sein
Secretary to the ACES Governing Board