

## Minutes

### ACES Governing Board March 12, 2009

205 Skiff Street  
Hamden, CT 06517

Present: Lynn Campo, Hamden; Alicia Clapp, North Haven; Sue Cohen, Regional District #5; William Currlin, 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; Kristen Powell, Orange; Jim SantaBarbara, Milford; Barbara Sokol, Meriden

ACES: Craig W. Edmondson, Gary J. Shettle, Ann P. Dombroski, Claudette Beamon, Elaine Sein

Regrets: Ansonia, Seymour, Waterbury, West Haven, Wolcott

Guest: Carolyn McNally, ACES

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#### 1. Call to Order

William Currlin called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:20 PM after it was determined that a quorum was present. Mr. Currlin thanked the board for making every effort to attend the meeting and commented that this has been the best year for quorums.

#### 2. Public Participation/Communications

No public participation/communications.

#### 3. Approval of Minutes

Alicia Clapp moved to accept the ACES Governing Board minutes of February 12, 2009.  
Lynn Campo seconded.

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

Abstention: Orange  
Opposed: None

VOTED

#### 4. Executive Director's Report

- a) Dr. Edmondson greeted the ACES Governing Board.
- b) Dr. Edmondson introduced Carolyn McNally, ACES, Director of Program Development. Dr. McNally invited the ACES Governing Board to attend the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual ACES Education Foundation Gala on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at ECA. She commented that the fundraising event will celebrate ACES 40<sup>th</sup> year of service and recognize our founders and founding school districts. The event typically raises about \$20,000 and is used to enrich educational experiences for ACES students. Mr. Currlin and Ms. Clapp encourage the rest of the ACES Governing Board to attend the gala.
- c) Dr. Edmondson discussed the continued efforts made by ACES to bring to the attention of legislature the impact that the current and proposed ECS and magnet school and CHOICE funding will have on the state.
  - February 20, 2009 – Dr. Edmondson met with Representatives Sharkey and Lewis to discuss magnet school and CHOICE funding.
  - March 5, 2009 – Dr. Edmondson along with the ECA parent group hosted a forum and met with Senator Looney and Representatives Davis, Roy, Lambert, Staples, and Walker to discuss the elimination of the parent pay option, magnet school funding, and certification for the part-time adjunct instructors. Dr. Edmondson was please to report that the legislative members above now have a greater understanding of how RESCs operate and part-time magnet schools and will be instrumental in advocating for ACES and the ACES region. Dr. Edmondson indicated that Representative Staples will advocate for an amendment requiring part-time magnet instructors to become certified by 2014 and that Representative Davis will recommend the delay of the elimination for parent pay. There are currently about 75 families at ECA that participate in the parent pay option. The delay for the elimination of the parent pay option will be in concert with approval for full funding for magnet schools.
  - March 9, 2009 – Dr. Edmondson testified before the Education Committee on magnet school funding which included the 55% rule, equity between all RESCs that operate magnet schools, elimination of the parent pay for part-time magnets and OPEN CHOICE. Mr. Currlin also submitted written testimony with the same concerns. Dr. Edmondson met afterwards with Representative Liddy to enlist his support for equitable funding throughout the region.
  - March 16, 2009 – Dr. Edmondson, ECA staff, parents, and students will provide testimony before the Education Committee specific to ECA support.
- e) Dr. Edmondson indicated that the WIMS Steering Committee approved a budget for 2009-2010 (which is included in the agenda for Board approval). Hamden Public Schools are in discussions regarding reducing the number of kindergarten seats which will bring them below 55% making them eligible for state reimbursement. Dr. Edmondson updated the ACES Governing Board on the continued recruitment efforts for WIMS. ACES is required by law

advertise open seats; first to non-member districts if the seats remain open then member districts can apply. Dr. Edmondson has had discussions with Meriden and has officially invited them to become a partner district. Since the last board meeting the following meetings have taken or will take place with Meriden:

- February 26, 2009 - The Meriden superintendent and members of her central administration visited and received a tour of WIMS.
- March 17, 2009 – The Meriden superintendent along with board of education members will visit.
- March 19, 2009 – Dr. Edmondson will make a presentation to the Meriden Curriculum Committee.

Dr. Edmondson also indicated that there will be a one week print ad campaign in the New Haven Register and Meriden Record-Journal promoting full-time magnets and the magnet school parent choice option. In addition to the print ad there will be a 30 second television advertisement that will run 40 times during March 16 through April 10. (the television advertisement was shown to the ACES Governing Board at the end of the Executive Director's report) Dr. Edmondson indicated that ACES will fund the print and commercial advertisements.

- f) Dr. Edmondson reported that he along with Mr. Shettle will be attending a briefing on March 17<sup>th</sup> on the stimulus funds. The briefing is open to all superintendents and business managers.
- g) Dr. Dombroski indicated that the CMT/CAPT testing was almost complete and that ACES will be working on make-up tests.

Dr. Dombroski reported that ACES had a successful professional development day on March 11. Certified teachers worked with Dr. Kay Burke on Repacking the Standards which focuses on helping educators implement standards-based learning and performance assessments linked to standards. Dr. Burke has written 15 books on standards-based learning, performance assessment, and classroom managements. There were also other PD activities in various ACES locations.

- h) Dr. Edmondson announced that the South Central Area Superintendents' Association (SCASA) will be hosting their annual student recognition luncheon on March 20. He indicated that nearly 100 students will be recognized for their outstanding achievements. Administrators and parents will also be in attendance supporting the students. ACES is organizing this event of over 300 guests.

After the Executive Director's report Mr. Currilin asked for volunteers to participate in an expulsion hearing on March 19, 2009. Lynn Campo, Alicia Clapp, Barbara Sokol volunteered with Sue Cohen as a back-up if needed.

5. Fiscal Services

Filing of Fiscal Report (Subject for Audit)

Summary/Detail by Category

Gary Shettle reviewed the fiscal report indicating a favorable report and that ACES is in good standing. Thomas McKirryher moved to accept the fiscal report as presented (subject to audit). Judith Hotz seconded.

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

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

6. Human Resources Report

Claudette Beamon reviewed the Human Resources Report indicating the hiring of several individual aides was due to requests through IEPs and a few staff members moved into full-time positions. Ms. Beamon indicated that no new positions have been created and that ACES is looking at a position matrix before back-filling any vacancies. Ms. Beamon reported that a few teachers and one administrator are pursuing other opportunities and that there is still a high demand for occupational therapists making recruitment difficult. There was one retirement of a long term staff member and three terminations. Debby Pines moved to authorize the hirings, accept the resignations and retirement, confirm the terminations, 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, Orange, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District #16, Wallingford, Woodbridge

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

Sheryl Feducia joined the meeting and was able to vote on the Human Resources report.

7. Approval of Budgets

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.

***Magnet Schools:***

Lynn Campo moved to approve the **Collaborative Alternative Magnet School for Leadership**

program budget for 2009-2010.  
Sheryl Feducia seconded.

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

Abstention: None  
Opposed: None

VOTED

Dr. Edmondson reported that the CAMS for Leadership program is a very expensive program to operate because of the small staff to student ratio. The program has not been self sufficient and in keeping with the ACES Strategic Plan to have all programs be self sufficient by 2012 there was a necessity to bring forward a budget with a 4.52% increase. The goal is for CAMS to become self sufficient within the next three years. Mr. Shettle added that it would cost a district approximately \$80,000 to replicate one CAMS classroom.

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

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

Abstention: None  
Opposed: None

VOTED

Dr. Edmondson reported that ACES is working on ECA being a self sufficient program and has estimated to increase enrollment to 300 students.

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Lynn Campo moved to approve the **Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School** program budget for 2009-2010. *(budget was approved by the WIMS Steering Committee on 2/25/09)*  
Debby Pines seconded.

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

Abstention: None  
Opposed: None

VOTED

Dr. Edmondson indicated that ACES was able to reduce tuition by adding additional seats and savings through a new technology lease.

Lynn Campo moved to approve the **Thomas Edison Middle School** program budget for 2009-2010.

Nancy Lappie seconded. *(budget was approved by the TEMS Steering Committee on 3/4/09)*

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

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

Dr. Edmondson indicated that the budget was based on the last three years student enrollment. He also indicated that some costs were lowered because a reduction in contractual obligations and Wallingford is sending an additional seven students based on an agreement three years ago.

#### 8. Approval of Calendar

The Executive Director recommended that the ACES Governing Board approve the Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School calendar for 2009-2010. *(approved by the WIMS Steering Committee on 2/25/09)*

Lynn Campo moved to approve the Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School calendar for 2009-2010.  
Kristen Powell seconded.

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

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

#### 9. 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 vehicle maintenance garage is ready for use and DMV inspectors will begin inspect the vehicles starting next week. There is a pending workshop on how to use the gas pump.
  - Little Theatre – Interviews were held for construction manager with a proposed finalist. After the finalist is confirmed the next phase will begin.
- Policy Update – The Executive Director recommended that the Series 1000 policies “Community Relations” be approved as a first reading. Debby Pines moved to approve the Series 1000 policies “Community Relations”.  
Sue Cohen seconded.

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

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

Mr. Currilin thanked the policy committee for their time and effort.

10. New Business

- Next Meeting: April 9, 2009.
- Dr. Edmondson informed the ACES Governing Board that he will bring a progress report on the Strategic Plan in May and will be requesting approval in June.
- Mr. Currilin encouraged the ACES Governing Board to attend the Education Foundation Gala on April 2, 2009.
- Mr. Currilin mentioned that the remaining budgets will be brought forward in April.

11. Adjournment

John Finkle moved to adjourn the ACES Governing Board meeting at 1:50 PM.

Alicia Clapp seconded.

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

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

Submitted by,

Elaine Sein  
Secretary to the ACES Governing Board