

Minutes

ACES Governing Board January 14, 2010

205 Skiff Street
Hamden, CT 06517

Present: Bruce Baker, Seymour; Sally Boske, Middletown; Alicia Clapp, North Haven; Sue Cohen, Regional District #5; William Currin, Regional District #13; Lisa DeGoes, Regional District #16; Janet Finneran, Bethany; Lisa Hellauer, Oxford; Thomas Hennessey, Wallingford; Judith Hotz, Branford; Mary Kelly, Wolcott; Nancy Lappie, North Branford; John Lineen, Jr., Meriden; Thomas McKirryher, Naugatuck; Stephen Mrowka, Cheshire; Jack O'Connell, Milford; John Theriault, Waterbury

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

Regrets: Regional District #16, West Haven

Guests: Svigals & Partners

Prior to the meeting the board chair welcomed new board members Lisa Hellauer, Oxford; John Lineen, Jr., Meriden; Jack O'Connell, Milford; and board alternate Lisa DeGoes, Regional District #16. The ACES board and staff introduced themselves.

1. Call to Order

William Currin called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:25 PM after it was determined that a quorum was present.

2. Public Participation/Communications

No public participation/communications.

3. Approval of Minutes

Thomas McKirryher moved to accept the ACES Governing Board minutes of December 10, 2009. Sally Boske seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Middletown, Naugatuck, North Haven, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury,

Abstention: Meriden, Milford, North Branford, Oxford, Wolcott

Opposed: None

VOTED

4. Svigals & Partners, LLP

Representatives from Svigals & Partners, LLP were on hand and provided an update on the Little Theatre renovation project. The Little Theatre provides instructional space for ECA and is also available to the community for rental. The theatre was renovated over 20 years ago and needs significant improvements to the HVAC system, stage area, lighting & sound, and refurbishment to seating to continue an effective operation. The renovation project will make better use of instructional space, includes retractable seats, state-of-the-art lighting & sound, more restrooms, and former addition will be replaced and will include another entrance and performance space. There was a visual presentation detailing the renovations. There was board discussing and questions.

The project is 95% reimbursable from the state. The project went out for bid with a deadline of January 26th. The pre-bid mandatory meeting had a good turn-out. The project is expected to be completed by March 1st 2011.

Mr. Currin thanked Svigals & Partners for their presentation.

5. Executive Director's Report

- a) Dr. Edmondson greeted and wished the ACES Governing Board a Happy New Year.
- b) Dr. Edmondson reminded the ACES Governing Board that the monthly meeting agendas include a facilities update and that the board will continue to be informed of the Little Theatre's progress. Ms. Clapp added that the ACES Education Foundation has formed a subcommittee to raise funds specifically for the unreimbursed costs of the Little Theatre project. Ms. Clapp serves on the subcommittee.
- c) Dr. Edmondson reminded the ACES Governing Board that the staff and students in the Culinary Arts Vocational Program at Whitney High School North cater the monthly meetings and provides a great opportunity for them. Ms. Boske inquired if the program offers outside catering. Dr. Edmondson indicated that the program does not.
- d) Dr. Edmondson informed the ACES Governing Board that the commissioner of education held a Race to the Top informational meeting at ACES on January 5th. Dr. Edmondson indicated that the meeting was open to superintendents, board chairs, and union presidents. Dr. Edmondson provided a Memo of Understanding to the board which was previously distributed from the State Department of Education. He added that ACES has signed the memo and has sent a letter of support on behalf the RESC Alliance. The RESC Alliance's role will be to provide professional development in support of the grant.

- e) Dr. Edmondson indicated that an initial budget presentation was made to the TEMS Steering Committee on January 6th which included a couple of proposals. Dr. Edmondson indicated that a presentation will be made to the WIMS Steering Committee on January 27th. Dr. Edmondson hoping to bring the budgets forward for final board approval at the next meeting. Dr. Edmondson reminded the board that the Steering Committees have first approval.
- f) Dr. Edmondson referenced the distribution, included in the board packet, on the Early Head Start grant awarded to ACES. ACES will collaborate with several agencies to provide a high quality early head start program in Middlesex County. Mr. Shettle added that Middletown Public Schools will allow for the use space in one of their facilities.
- g) Dr. Edmondson announced that WIMS had an early closing on January 11th due to no heat and that since the issue with the boiler has been corrected. Dr. Edmondson added that WIMS participating superintendents and board members were contacted.
- h) Dr. Edmondson offered the ACES Governing Board an opportunity at the next meeting to see a performance by the CT Tigers. The CT Tigers are a winter guard for special needs students which are mentored by Cheshire High School students. The board welcomed the performance. Dr. Edmondson indicated that prior to the next meeting the board will walk to the gymnasium at Whitney High School West for the 10 minute performance.

After the Executive Director's report Mr. Currin expressed that he is proud of work done by the ACES leadership team.

6. Fiscal Services

Filing of Fiscal Report (Subject for Audit) Summary/Detail by Category

Sally Boske reviewed the fiscal report indicating that ACES is still in deficit but is making progress reducing it through continued student referrals. Mr. Shettle added that ACES is being cautious with projections for next school year. Sally Boske moved to accept the fiscal report as presented (subject to audit).

Alicia Clapp seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Meriden, Middletown, Milford, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Oxford, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury, Wolcott

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

7. Human Resources Report

Claudette Beamon reviewed the Human Resources Report indicating that there were few staff changes. Ms. Beamon highlighted the transfer of an education specialist transferred into an open special

education position, the hire of a behavior analyst at the request of a district, and three teacher resignations. The remainder of the report was routine. Judith Hotz moved to authorize the hirings, accept the resignations, and grant the leaves as detailed on the Human Resources Report. Thomas McKirryher seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Meriden, Middletown, Milford, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Oxford, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury, Wolcott
Abstention: None
Opposed: None

VOTED

8. Discussion of CAMS

In keeping with the Strategic Plan of each program becoming self-sufficient Dr. Edmondson, Dr. Dombroski, and Mr. Shettle presented a cost analysis of continuing the operations of the Collaborative Alternative Magnet School for Leadership and presented options for consideration.

Dr. Dombroski began with the history of CAMS. Mr. Shettle reviewed previous, existing, and projected deficits. Dr. Edmondson reminded the ACES Governing Board that the middle school program is scheduled to close at the conclusion of the academic year and even with restructure of the high school program ACES would face a deficit of \$700,000 each year or \$3,000,000 for a three year phase-out option. Dr. Edmondson has confirmed with the State Department of Education that unlike in previous years they will no longer supply supplemental funding to assist with deficits. ACES would need to increase tuition to well over \$20,000 per student to make the school self-sufficient but cannot (and would not want to) because the law does not allow the tuition to exceed \$15,724. Dr. Edmondson also reported that New Haven's federal grant which assisted them with their tuition will end at of the academic school year.

Dr. Edmondson presented three options for consideration:

1. High School Continuation (current population) at a cost of \$700,00 each year
2. Three year phase-out \$3,000,000
3. Close of Program

Dr. Edmondson reported that he has notified the participating districts of the options proposed and they have begun to explore options for transitioning their students back. Hamden may expand their existing "Steps and Reach" program, North Branford and North Haven have discussed collaborating, and although the middle school program was already scheduled to close ACES Mill Road may be able to accommodate the middle school students.

Dr. Edmondson reported that a study committee has been formed to explore programming options for the use of the facility. Options currently being explored are the expansion of the Autism program at the request of many districts, a pre-vocational transitional program for students at Village entering one of the Whitney High Schools, the relocation of Whitney High School West allowing for the expansion of Whitney High School North.

At the end of the presentation there was board discussion.

Sally Boske moved to close Collaborative Alternative Magnet School for Leadership at the end of the academic school year and use the facility for alternate programming to be recommended by the Executive Director.

Alicia Clapp seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Meriden, Middletown, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Oxford, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury, Wolcott

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

9. Approval of Calendar

The Executive Director recommended that the ACES Governing Board approve the ACES 2010-2011 calendar. Sally Boske moved to approve the ACES 2010-2011 calendar.

Alicia Clapp seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Meriden, Middletown, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Oxford, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury, Wolcott

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

Please note that due to two holidays the board meeting schedule will be altered.

10. Old Business

- Facilities Update – The facilities update was discussed during agenda item #4.
- Policy Update – The Executive Director recommended that the Governing Board approve Series 0000 (Mission-Goals-Objectives) for a second reading with the correction to 0200 ACES Objectives as discussed. Thomas McKirryher moved to approve Series 0000 (Mission-Goals-Objectives) for a second reading.
Thomas Hennessey seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Meriden, Middletown, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Oxford, Regional District #13, Regional District #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury, Wolcott

Abstention: None

Opposed: Regional District #5

VOTED

- Curriculum & Instruction – Dr. Dombroski provided a copy of the agenda for ACES Professional Development day on January 15th. Dr Dombroski announced that Dr. Victoria Bernhardt is the keynote speaker. Dr. Dombroski invited the board to attend the day at TEMS.

Ms. Cohen referenced the Central Curriculum Committee discussed at the previous meeting and indicated that through legal counsel the interpretation is that board has the option to have final approval on curriculum resources. Dr. Dombroski indicated that the board could have final approval or upon board approval a committee can be formed to make these decisions.

11. New Business

- Next Meeting: February 11, 2010.
- Mr. Currilin recommended that the board attend the ACES Education Foundation Gala on March 25th. Dr. Edmondson indicated that further details will be announced at the next meeting.

12. Adjournment

Sue Cohen moved to adjourn the ACES Governing Board meeting at 2:10 PM.
Mark Kelly seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Meriden, Middletown, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Oxford, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury, Wolcott

Abstention: None
Opposed: None

VOTED

Submitted by,

Elaine Sein
Secretary to the ACES Governing Board