

Minutes

ACES Governing Board October 16, 2008

205 Skiff Street
Hamden, CT 06517

Present: Bruce Baker, Seymour; Lynn Campo, Hamden; Alicia Clapp, North Haven; William Currin, Regional District #13; John Finkle, East Haven; Thomas Hennessey, Wallingford; Mary Kelly, Wolcott; Nancy Lappie, North Branford; Thomas McKirryher, Naugatuck; Stephen Mrowka, Cheshire; Debby Pines, Woodbridge; Jim SantaBarbara, Milford

ACES: Craig W. Edmondson, Gary J. Shettle, Elaine Sein

Regrets: Bethany, Branford, Regional District 5, Regional District 16

Guests: Robert Boudreau, Buckley, Frame & Boudreau & Co., P.C.; Donn Sottolano, ACES, Director of Behavioral Services Center

1. Call to Order/Calling of the Roll

William Currin called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:25 PM and announced that since there was not a quorum present the meeting was declared an "Executive Committee" meeting. Mr. Currin indicated that if a quorum was reached then the meeting would resume as a regular business meeting, however, a quorum was not reached.

2. Public Participation/Communications

No public communications.

3. Autism Spectrum Presentation

Dr. Edmondson introduced Dr. Donn Sottolano, Director of ACES Behavioral Services Center who made a presentation on the autism spectrum. Dr. Sottolano started with a biography of himself and described his staff. Dr. Sottolano focused his presentation on the ACES Early Intensive Behavior Intervention Program (EIBI) at Village School. He shared an article on the cost savings of early intensive behavioral intervention for young children. He also shared the services provided by the Behavioral Services Center includes early intensive behavior intervention for children on the autism spectrum, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) after school program, ABA home support services,

internal behavior support for ACES special education programs, and behavior consultation services for member districts. The mission of the EIBI program is to prepare every child for successful integration into their local school system, it provides intensive one-to-one instruction. The ages range from 3 to 12 years of age. The program utilizes teaching strategies based on the principals of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA); the program strives to help students develop necessary skills to be successful learners. The autism spectrum disorder is made up of five disorders: autism, PDD-NOS (Atypical Autism), Rhett's Disorder, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder, and Asperger's Syndrome. Dr. Sottolano provided some facts and history on autism. Board discussion followed. Dr. Edmondson and Mr. Currin thanked Dr. Sottolano for his presentation.

4. Approval of Minutes

Alicia Clapp moved to accept the ACES Governing Board minutes of September 11, 2008.
Thomas McKirryher seconded.

In favor: Cheshire, Hamden, Milford, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Regional District #13, Seymour, Wallingford, Wolcott, Woodbridge

Abstention: North Branford

Opposed: None

VOTED

5. Executive Director's Report

- a. Dr. Edmondson greeted the Governing Board.
- b. Dr. Edmondson informed the Governing Board that Sleeping Giant Book & Toy Co. had a successful grand opening. The mayor of Hamden; Lynn Campo, ACES Board Member; and Nancy Dudchik, Executive Director of the Hamden Chamber of Commerce were in attendance for the ribbon cutting.
- c. Dr. Edmondson informed the Governing Board that the staff and students of the SAGE program were displaced because of possible mold and sewage problems. The SAGE program houses pre adjudicated girls until the court system determines permanent placement. Mr. Shettle has been working with the detention staff and program operators to resolve the issue.
- d. Dr. Edmondson updated the board on the WIMS progress. Mr. Shettle has met with business officials from the participating districts and has presented financial costs of hosting the magnet school. Dr. Edmondson indicated he will be meeting with the superintendents to discuss to costs and convene a steering committee meeting.
- e. Dr. Edmondson informed the Governing Board that the negotiations with the CSEA union are at an impasse and that mediation is needed to resolve the issues around language.
- f. Dr. Edmondson invited the Governing Board to attend the ACES agency wide professional development day on November 4th. The guest speaker is Ruthann Lobo, the day will also focus on professional learning communities and there will be various breakout sessions in the

afternoon for non-certified staff. ACES long term staff with 25 & 30 years of service will be recognized. Mr. Currlin encouraged the board to attend. Thomas Edison Middle School will once again host the event.

- g. Dr. Edmondson shared with the Governing Board that the interviews for Director of PDSI are almost at the conclusion. There are two finalists that have moved forward and will be coming in for a second interview. Dr. Edmondson expressed that he looks forward to announcing the new director at the next meeting.
- h. Dr. Edmondson informed the Governing Board that he and Alice Schilling, Principal at ECA will be making a presentation on ECA at Regional District #16. The district is considering sending students to ECA for the first time.
- i. Dr. Edmondson announced that he and Mr. Shettle will be presenting an overview of ACES at Regional District #13 on October 22.
- j. Dr. Edmondson presented the Governing Board a draft copy of the ACES Administrator Evaluation Plan for a first reading. Dr. Dombroski will review the plan at the next meeting and answer any questions.
- k. Dr. Edmondson was pleased to announce that ACES staff and students contributed 8,175 diapers and \$656.00 to the New Haven Diaper Bank; which supported United Way Days of Caring.
- l. Dr. Edmondson updated the Governing Board of the passing of a Village School student. The student was medically fragile and was enrolled for just one day.
- m. Dr. Edmondson shared that he has spoken with a few board members regarding concerns over the Open Choice selection process. Dr. Edmondson indicated that he would address the issue with the superintendents and request a meeting with the State Department of Education.

6. Fiscal Services

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

Lynn Campo moved to accept the fiscal report as presented. (subject to audit).
Thomas McKirryher seconded.

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

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

b. Robert Boudreau of Buckley, Frame, Boudreau & Co., P.C.

Mr. Boudreau reviewed the draft audit for fiscal year 2007-2008 and indicated he would return in November to respond to any questions and encouraged the Governing Board call him if they had questions. Mr. Boudreau informed the Governing Board that ACES is in compliance with state and federal guidelines and the results were favorable. He will also submit and review the audit "Management Letter" at the next meeting. The Management Letter consists of recommendations to strengthen internal controls and operating efficiency. The audit will be brought forward for a vote at the next meeting as well.

c. Escrow

ITEM TABLED

Mr. Shettle reviewed the escrow amounts to be moved into the 2008-2009 budget. After board discussion it was requested that more information be provided on the 60 United Drive Construction Project and as this item had the bulk of the revenue.

Bruce Baker moved to table the item until the next meeting.
Thomas McKirryher seconded.

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

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

7. Human Resources Report

Craig Edmondson reviewed the Human Resources Report. Dr. Edmondson indicated the termination was during the probation period. The remainder of the report was routine. Lynn Campo moved to authorize the hirings, accept the resignations, confirm the termination, and grant the leaves as detailed on the Human Resources Report.

Debby Pines seconded.

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

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

8. Old Business

- Facilities Update – Mr. Shettle indicated that the 60 United Drive project is 80% complete in should be ready in four weeks. He indicated that the site will store all vehicles and vans and staff will now pick up and drop off the vehicles/vans at the site. The Little Theatre project was approved by legislature with 95% to be paid by the State Department of Education. Mr. Shettle

met with the architecture and the project should go out to bid in the spring with the start of construction in late summer.

- Policy Update – Dr. Edmondson asked for approval of the second reading for policies 2000 Administration. Debby Pines moved to approve the Series 2000 Administration policies as a second reading.
Thomas McKirryher seconded.

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

Abstention: None
Opposed: None

VOTED

Mr. Shettle presented policy 5131.2 Use of Physical/Mechanical Restraint and Seclusion. Dr. Edmondson requested a first reading approval for the policy.
Jim SantaBarbara moved to approve policy 5131.2 as a first reading.
Alicia Clapp seconded.

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

Abstention: None
Opposed: None

VOTED

9. New Business

- Next Meeting: November 13, 2008.

10. Adjournment

Debby Pines moved to adjourn the ACES Governing Board meeting at 2:05 PM.
Alicia Clapp seconded.

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

Abstention: None
Opposed: None

VOTED

Submitted by,

Elaine Sein
Secretary to the ACES Governing Board