

Minutes

ACES Governing Board November 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; Janet Finneran, Bethany; Thomas Hennessey, Wallingford; Howard Horvath, West Haven; Judith Hotz, Branford; Mary Kelly, Wolcott; Nancy Lappie, North Branford; Thomas McKirryher, Naugatuck; Stephen Mrowka, Cheshire; Barbara Sokol, Meriden; John Theriault, Waterbury

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

Regrets: N/A

Guests: Robert Boudreau, Buckley, Frame & Boudreau, LLC; Chris Smith, Rome Smith & Lutz

Prior to the business meeting William Currin thanked and presented Lynn Campo and Barbara Sokol each with a token of appreciation for their contributions to the ACES Governing Board. Ms. Campo and Ms. Sokol will no longer serve on the ACES Governing Board. John Finkle was not in attendance but was also acknowledged for his contributions.

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

Mr. Currin shared a thank you card from Jim SantaBarbara. Mr. SantaBarbara expressed his gratitude for gift presented to him at the last meeting and commented on his time on the ACES Governing Board.

3. Approval of Minutes

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

In favor: Cheshire, Hamden, Meriden; Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury, Wolcott

Abstention: Bethany, Branford, West Haven

Opposed: None

VOTED

4. Legislative Update

Chris Smith, Rome, Smith & Lutz provided a legislative update. Mr. Smith discussed the 2010 legislative session, current budget and provided tips on how to communicate with legislator and for testifying at a public hearing.

5. Executive Director's Report

- a) Dr. Edmondson greeted the ACES Governing Board.
- b) Dr. Edmondson indicated that he has met with both the WIMS and TEMS Steering Committees and that five year draft articulation agreements were shared and sub-committees formed by each committee for further review. The agreements are both for five years and set out the conditions, identify the numbers of seats, and define the roles of ACES and the partner districts. Dr. Edmondson indicated that once all changes and edits are complete the drafts will be shared with their respective boards for approval. Once approved by each board they will be brought forward to the ACES Governing Board for final approval. Dr. Edmondson expects that the final versions will be ready in the spring.
- c) Dr. Edmondson indicated that the November 3rd convocation held at TEMS was a success and was enjoyed by over 800 staff. Dr. Edmondson indicated that Dr. Dombroski would summarize the day in her curriculum report. Mr. Currin commented on the success of the day.
- d) Dr. Edmondson reported that ACES is monitoring for H1N1 and reviews district wide attendance rates daily. The nursing coordinator has seen a few spikes in daily attendance but none related to H1N1. Dr. Edmondson indicated that ACES has procedures are in place in the event there is an outbreak at ACES. Dr. Edmondson indicated that ACES does not have vaccinations available but has directed families to seek the support of community service agencies and provided a listing of local agencies.
- e) Dr. Edmondson expressed his appreciation to Lynn Campo, John Finkle, Jim SantaBarbara, and Barbara Sokol for their commitment and support.

6. Fiscal Services

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

Gary Shettle reviewed the fiscal report indicating that the numbers remain similar to last month, reiterating that tuition is slightly down in the special education schools and the magnet schools compared to previous years. Mr. Shettle added that he expects that at least two of the special education schools will continue to enroll students throughout the year. Otherwise he indicated that figures are typical for this time of year. Alicia Clapp moved to accept the fiscal report as presented (subject to audit).

Thomas McKirryher seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Hamden, Meriden; Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury, West Haven, Wolcott

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

b. Action to Transfer Certain Funds Received in FY 08-09 to FY 09-10**

The Executive Director requested that the Governing Board approve the transfer of Escrow amounts from FY 08-09 to FY 09-10 as detailed on the enclosure provided and subject to adjustment by the Auditors. The enclosure was distributed and reviewed in October and distributed in November. Mr. Shettle highlighted that the monies escrowed for magnet schools will cover deficits in the event of reduced funding from the State Department of Education. Sue Cohen moved to approve the transfer of Escrow amounts from FY 08-09 to FY 09-10 as detailed on the enclosure and subject to adjustment by the Auditors.

Alicia Clapp seconded.

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

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

c. Audit

Mr. Boudreau reviewed the draft audit for fiscal year 2008-2009 and indicated that there were no changes from last month and that ACES is in compliance with state and federal guidelines. The Executive Director recommended that the Governing Board accept the 2008-2009 audit as presented and detailed in the financial statements. Thomas McKirryher moved to accept the 2008-2009 audit as presented and detailed in the financial statements.

Sue Cohen seconded.

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

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

Mr. Currin thanked Mr. Boudreau for his work and understanding the complexity of the organization.

d. Audit – Management Letter

Robert Boudreau of Buckley, Frame, Boudreau and Co., P.C. reviewed the audit “Management Letter”. Mr. Boudreau identified two areas in which ACES can strengthen internal controls and operating efficiency in the letter. Mr. Boudreau recommended that ACES ensure that all agreements are supported by written documentation and that ACES obtain periodic collateralization reports from its financial institution.

7. Human Resources Report

Claudette Beamon reviewed the Human Resources Report indicating once again that the new hires were to cover existing vacancies, medical leaves or late resignations. She commented that individual aides are hired for new students and that once teacher assistants obtain their public service license their moved into teacher assistant/driver positions. The remainder of the report was routine. Alicia Clapp moved to authorize the hirings, accept the resignations, and grant the leaves as detailed on the Human Resources Report.

Mary Kelly seconded.

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

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

8. CSEA Contract

Dr. Edmondson informed the ACES Governing Board that after two years of operating without a contract the CSEA union has ratified the contract. A distribution of changes was shared with the board. Dr. Edmondson indicated that monies were set aside for the retroactive pay increases for 08-09 and 09-10.

Mr. Currin thanked Ms. Clapp for representing the Governing Board during negotiations.

The Executive Director recommended that the Governing Board approve the CSEA contract for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2010. Alicia Clapp moved to approve the CSEA contract for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2010.

Thomas McKirryher seconded.

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

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

9. Old Business

- Facilities Update - Mr. Shettle reported that a final meeting is scheduled with the State Department of Education to review the minor items of concern he mentioned previously. Mr. Shettle is hopeful that the project will go out to bid in a couple of weeks and that construction can begin by February. Mr. Shettle indicated that the project has been complicated by divided property lines.
- Policy Update – The first reading of the Series 0000 was tabled until the next meeting giving the Governing Board ample opportunity to review.
- Curriculum & Instruction – Dr. Dombroski indicated that the Strategic School Profiles for 08-09 were included in the mailing and was available for questions. Dr. Dombroski indicated that the ACES annual convocation on November 3rd was attended by over 800 staff. The morning consisted of recognizing staff with 25, 30, and 35 years of service. Peter Young, former Executive Director provided a history of ACES and LouAnne Johnson, author of *Dangerous Minds* was the keynote speaker. The wellness fair consisted of over 20 vendors. The day ended with afternoon break-out sessions. Dr. Edmondson thanked Dr. Dombroski for chairing the day. Mr. Currin praised the day and encouraged the board to attend next year if possible.

10. New Business

- Ms. Lappie mentioned that there were media reports of a teacher selling grades in the south.
- Mr. Currin acknowledged Veteran's Day.
- Mr. Currin reminded the Governing Board that the student designers will attend the December 10th meeting and encouraged the board to make themselves available for the meeting.

11. Adjournment

Lynn Campo moved to adjourn the ACES Governing Board meeting at 1:40 PM.

Alicia Clapp seconded.

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

Abstention: None
Opposed: None

VOTED

Submitted by,

Elaine Sein
Secretary to the ACES Governing Board