

## Minutes

### ACES Governing Board February 11, 2010

205 Skiff Street  
Hamden, CT 06517

Present: Bruce Baker, Seymour; Alicia Clapp, North Haven; William Currlin, Regional District #13; Michael Dolan, Hamden; Sheryl Feducia, Regional District #16; Janet Finneran, Bethany; Thomas Hennessey, Wallingford; Nancy Lappie, North Branford; John Lineen, Jr., Meriden; Thomas McKirryher, Naugatuck; Stephen Mrowka, Cheshire; John Theriault, Waterbury

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

Regrets: Branford, Milford, Orange, Oxford, Regional District #5, Wolcott

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Prior to the meeting the Governing Board saw a performance by the CT Tigers. The CT Tigers are a winter guard for special needs students which are paired with current and former students from Cheshire and Lyman Hall High School (buddies). Mr. Currlin and Dr. Edmondson acknowledged the students and their buddies with a certificate of recognition.

Mr. Currlin welcomed new board member Michael Dolan representing Hamden.

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#### 1. Call to Order

William Currlin called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:44 PM after it was determined that a quorum was present.

#### 2. Public Participation/Communications

Ms. Clapp commended the efforts of the CT Tigers buddies and recommended that letters of support be awarded to such volunteers. Dr. Edmondson indicated he would be happy to write a letter of appreciation to volunteers upon request.

#### 3. Approval of Minutes

Thomas McKirryher moved to accept the ACES Governing Board minutes of January 14, 2010. Bruce Baker seconded.

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

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

##### 5. Executive Director's Report

- a) Dr. Edmondson welcomed the ACES Governing Board.
- b) Dr. Edmondson provided an update on Collaborative Alternative Magnet School for Leadership (CAMS) indicating that since the last meeting the following has occurred:
  - letters have been sent to parents informing them of the closing;
  - HR has met with staff regarding positions for next school years;
  - discussions with sending districts have been on-going and transition plans are being developed; and
  - students and staff had visited alternate programs for students.
- c) Dr. Edmondson informed the ACES Governing Board that the exploratory committee recommended the creation of the Center for Autism Spectrum and Developmental Disorders to be housed at CAMS after the closing of the program. The new program will be designed for 11 to 21 years old who are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum or related Development Disorders. Dr. Edmondson indicated that a program budget is being developed and ACES is currently working with districts to identify students.

Dr. Edmondson also informed the ACES Governing Board that students aging out of Village School but not prepared for one of the ACES high schools will also transition into the CAMS facility.

Dr. Edmondson shared that Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) has been awarded grant monies from the state for their Center for Autism and to take a lead role in developing recommendations for a comprehensive statewide plan. Dr. Edmondson indicated that ACES has a meeting pending with SCSU to explore options to collaborate and share expertise.

- d) Dr. Edmondson informed the ACES Governing Board that he was part of a panel discussion led by Representative Sharkey to discuss how RESCs can help municipalities join together to save economies in areas such as transportation, special education services, and technology services. Dr. Edmondson indicated that the sub-committee will make recommendations to the full legislative body by March 1<sup>st</sup>. (Dr. Edmondson distributed a handout which included estimated cost savings in several service areas discussed)

Dr. Edmondson also shared a resolution that will require action at the next meeting authorizing ACES to enter into regional initiatives. Dr. Edmondson indicated that with the end of ARRA monies approaching regionalization of services can produce cost savings to districts.

- e) Dr. Edmondson indicated that he and other ACES representatives will once again testify before the Appropriations Committee on February 16<sup>th</sup> in support of retaining the allocated funds awarded to TEMS and WIMS last year that the governor is seeking to eliminate.
- f) Dr. Edmondson welcomed the ACES Governing Board to attend the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual ACES Education Foundation Gala on March 25<sup>th</sup> at ECA.
- g) Dr. Edmondson referenced a letter from United Way included in the board packet expressing their appreciation for ACES participation in the United Way Days of Caring 2009. Dr. Edmondson acknowledged Bob Parker and Elaine Sein for their contributions to the project.
- h) Dr. Edmondson announced that Sharyn Esdaile is retiring at the end of the school year. Dr. Edmondson praised her outstanding leadership at WIMS and wished her well. Dr. Edmondson indicated that ACES will move forward with advertising to find a successor.
- i) Dr. Edmondson shared the sad news that a Village School student from New Haven passed away.
- j) Dr. Edmondson announced that ACES has two commercials advertising open seats at TEMS and WIMS targeting parents through the Parent Choice Magnet School option. The commercials were presented to the board.

## 5. Fiscal Services

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

Gary Shettle reviewed the fiscal report indicating that ACES is still trying to increase revenue by attracting new students in both the special education and magnet schools. Mr. Shettle indicated that he expects that the special education schools as a total will most likely show a positive balance at the end of the school year but indicated that the magnet schools will show a significant deficit because of no supplemental funding from the state. Mr. Shettle also added that investments are very low due to the economic times indicating that revenue projections for investments as compared to prior years are substantially less. He also indicated that ACES has experienced a very low investment return. Mr. Shettle added that ACES Professional Development and School Improvement and Early Childhood have been impacted by the loss of state grants and have been implementing plans to reduce the impact on their budgets accordingly. Mr. Shettle indicated that ACES will continue to increase revenues but will still not be enough to balance the budget. John Theriault moved to accept the fiscal report as presented (subject to audit).

Thomas McKirryher seconded.

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

Abstention: None  
Opposed: None

VOTED

#### 6. Human Resources Report

Claudette Beamon reviewed the Human Resources Report indicating that there were few staff changes. Ms. Beamon indicated that the new hires were replacement positions, two behavior technicians were temporarily transferred to CAMS to assist with behavior plans, four resignations, and two retirements. The remainder of the report was routine. Thomas McKirryher moved to authorize the hirings, accept the resignations and retirements, and grant the leaves as detailed on the Human Resources Report. Alicia Clapp seconded.

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

Abstention: None  
Opposed: None

VOTED

#### 7. Approval of Budgets

Gary Shettle, accompanied by Jo-Anne Cegan, reviewed the budget process and indicated that ACES has all of the documented back up information and can be made available to the board upon request. Mr. Shettle indicated that he met with principals and administrators to review their budget recommendations. Mr. Shettle indicated that enrollment trends were analyzed and that budget increases are mainly due to salary and benefits. He also indicated that in order to meet the educational needs of students that there is a greater staff to student ratio. Mr. Shettle added that ACES has analyzed competitor costs in the area and even with the increases ACES continues to offer high quality programs at lower costs than private providers.

The budgets were presented by category giving the ACES Governing Board the opportunity to ask specific questions. Each budget included a narrative of the program.

The Executive Director recommended that the ACES Governing Board approve the following program budgets for the 2010-2011 school year.

#### *Special Education:*

Alicia Clapp moved to approve the **special education** (below) program budgets for 2010-2011.

Whitney High School East/West  
Whitney High School North  
Mill Road School  
Village School  
Village School EIBI

John Theriault seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Cheshire, Hamden, Meriden, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven,  
Regional District #13, Regional District #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury  
Abstention: None  
Opposed: None

VOTED

At the end of the special education budgets Mr. Shettle read an anonymous letter sent to Principal Erika Forte regarding a positive encounter at Mill Road School between a staff member and distraught student.

***Transportation***

Alicia Clapp moved to approve the **Transportation** program budget for 2010-2011.  
John Theriault seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Cheshire, Hamden, Meriden, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven,  
Regional District #13, Regional District #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury  
Abstention: None  
Opposed: None

VOTED

***Magnet Schools:***

Thomas McKirryher moved to approve the **magnet school** (below) program budgets for 2010-2011.

Educational Center for the Arts  
Thomas Edison Middle School *(previously approved by the TEMS Steering Committee)*

Alicia Clapp seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Cheshire, Hamden, Meriden, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven,  
Regional District #13, Regional District #16, Seymour, Waterbury  
Abstention: None  
Opposed: Wallingford

VOTED

***Related Services:***

Bruce Baker moved to approve the **related services** (below) program budgets for 2010-2011.

Pupil Services  
Extension Therapy Services  
Behavior Services

Alicia Clapp seconded.

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

Abstention: None  
Opposed: None

VOTED

At the end of each category of budgets there was board discussion, questions and concerns were raised.

Mr. Currilin encouraged the ACES Governing Board to feel free to contact Dr. Edmondson with questions related to the budget and added that the budget process will continue at the next meeting.

8. Old Business

- Facilities Update – Mr. Shettle indicated that as protocol he will be meeting with the two lowest bidders ask questions and make a determination. He indicated that both were within budget.
- Policy Update – As mentioned in the Executive Director’s report Dr. Edmondson indicated that next month he will bring forward a resolution for approval allowing ACES to enter into service agreements in areas extended beyond the ACES region.
- Curriculum & Instruction – No report.

9. New Business

- Next Meeting: March 11, 2010.
- Dr. Edmondson indicated ECA students who have been honored statewide will be recognized at the next meeting.

10. Adjournment

Sheryl Feducia moved to adjourn the ACES Governing Board meeting at 1:50 PM.  
Alicia Clapp seconded.

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

Abstention: None  
Opposed: None

VOTED

Submitted by,

Elaine Sein  
Secretary to the ACES Governing Board