

## Minutes

### ACES Governing Board April 8, 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, Sheryl Feducia, Regional District #16; Janet Finneran, Bethany; Judith Hotz, Branford; John Lineen, Jr., Meriden; Mary Kelly, Wolcott; Nancy Lappie, North Branford; Thomas McKirryher, Naugatuck; Stephen Mrowka, Cheshire; Kristen Powell, Orange

ACES: Craig W. Edmondson, Ann Dombroski, Gary J. Shettle, Robert Parker, Elaine Sein, Alice Torres

Regrets: Hamden, Oxford, Wallingford, Waterbury

Guests: Representative Sharkey, Marina Winkler

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#### 1. Call to Order

William Currin called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:28 PM after it was determined a quorum was present. Mr. Currin thanked Ms. Boske for chairing the last meeting in his absence.

#### 2. Public Participation/Communications

- a) Mr. Currin announced that the evaluation forms for the Executive Director would be mailed to the board prior to the next meeting.
- b) Mr. Currin commented that the ACES Education Foundation Gala was a great event and encouraged the board to attend in the future. Mr. Currin mentioned that after a board member from Regional District #13 accompanied him to a previous ACES Foundation gala she encouraged her board to establish an education foundation of their own.
- c) Ms. Clapp commended ACES staff for their support at North Haven High School after the death of an Open Choice student.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

Thomas McKirryher moved to accept the ACES Governing Board minutes of March 11, 2010 with the correction that Bruce Baker sent his regrets for the March meeting.  
Sally Boske seconded.

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

Abstention: Orange

Opposed: None

VOTED

### 4. Representative Sharkey

Dr. Edmondson introduced Representative Sharkey and acknowledged his support of TEMS and WIMS. Representative Sharkey briefly introduced himself and indicated that he serves on the following three committees: Planning and Development; Finance, Review, and General Bonding; and Program Review and Investigations. Representative Sharkey focused his discussion on the Commission on Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies (MORE). Representative Sharkey indicated that the current sources of revenue for the state will not be available for FY 2012 and that government needs to act swiftly to bring relief to tax payers and municipalities and indicated that the MORE commission has identified opportunities for regional collaborations in order to create efficiencies and save money for tax payers and municipalities. Since January, the commission started Phase I, a study of ways to restructure government at all levels across the state, how to create operating efficiencies, and saving money opportunities. The opportunities include: multi-town collaboratives, board of education functions, regionally based organizations (RESCs), collective bargaining, healthcare, and state grants. The commission will investigate costs, benefits, resources, legal obstacles, and savings. Phase II reviews the duplication of services and directly shows how RESCs can potentially provide relief through regionalized services. Board discussion followed.

Dr. Edmondson thanked Representative Sharkey for his willingness to attend the meeting.

### 5. Executive Director's Report

- a) Dr. Edmondson greeted the ACES Governing Board.
- b) Dr. Edmondson indicated that the ACES Education Foundation Gala on March 25<sup>th</sup> raised approximately \$17,000 to support ACES programs and that since the creation of the foundation has raised over \$250,000. The event recognized parents as partners and legislatures who have supported ACES magnets over the last year. Dr. Edmondson acknowledged Mr. Currin, Ms. Clapp, and Ms. Cohen for attending.
- c) Dr. Edmondson updated the ACES Governing Board on the Race to the Top indicating that Tennessee and Delaware were the only two states awarded funding. Dr. Edmondson indicated that Connecticut is very involved on re-crafting a second submission and has created focus

groups to assist in the process and generate statewide support. Dr. Edmondson indicated that the two states awarded funding had the support of their entire states and most likely a determining factor in the approval process. He added that the State Department of Education is reviewing the grant formula to determine how to assist smaller districts with funding. The second submission is due June 1<sup>st</sup>.

- d) Dr. Edmondson announced that the agenda for the next meeting will include a Strategic Plan progress report and a presentation on Social Networking.

## 6. Fiscal Services

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

Gary Shettle reviewed the fiscal report indicating that as reported previously, ACES is still trying to increase revenue by attracting new students, primarily in the special education programs and has seen an increase during the past month. He indicated that he expects the special education programs to end the year with a positive balance. However, magnet schools will end in significant deficit as reported previously. Mr. Shettle added that returns remain low given the economic times so revenue projections for investments compared to prior years are substantially less. However, he was encouraged because ACES Professional Development and School Improvement and Early Childhood have brought in additional revenues through service contracts. ACES will offset some of the administrative costs for Early Childhood with the revenue from the federal early head start grant. The fund balance continues to be in deficit but the deficit has been reduced substantially during the past month. It is hopeful that the deficit will continue to decrease between now and the end of the year. Alicia Clapp moved to accept the fiscal report as presented (subject to audit).  
John Lineen, Jr. seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Meriden, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District #16, Seymour, Wolcott

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

## 7. Human Resources Report

Dr. Edmondson reviewed the Human Resources Report indicating that as a result of the CAMS closing the report consisted of a layoff and reduction in force. Dr. Edmondson indicated that the staff involved have met with HR staff in efforts to assist them in looking for other positions. The remainder of the report was routine. Judith Hotz moved to authorize the hirings, accept the resignations, confirm the termination, layoff and reduction in force, and grant the leaves as detailed on the Human Resources Report.

Alicia Clapp seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Meriden, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District #16, Seymour, Wolcott

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

#### 8. Approval of Budgets

Gary Shettle, accompanied by Jo-Anne Cegan, were available to answer questions. Mr. Shettle had available documented back up information.

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.

#### ***Magnet Schools:***

Thomas McKirryher moved to approve the **Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School** program budget for 2010-2011 as presented.

John Lineen, Jr. seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Meriden, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District #16, Seymour, Wolcott

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

Dr. Edmondson indicated that the WIMS Steering Committee approved the budget and shared that Meriden will add seats for next year allowing Hamden to go below 55% and increase state subsidy.

#### ***Professional Development School Improvement***

Thomas McKirryher moved to approve the **Professional Development School Improvement (PDSI)** program budget for 2010-2011 as presented.

John Lineen, Jr. seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Meriden, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District #16, Seymour, Wolcott

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

***Early Childhood Services***

Bruce Baker moved to approve the **Early Childhood Services** program budget for 2010-2011 as presented.

Judith Hotz seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Meriden, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District #16, Seymour, Wolcott

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

***Central Office – Human Resources***

Bruce Baker moved to approve the **Human Resources** program budget for 2010-2011 as presented.

Nancy Lappie seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Meriden, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District #16, Seymour, Wolcott

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

***Operations:***

***For informational purposes only - No action required:***

Operations-Wintergreen

9. Approval of Calendar

The Executive Director requested the approval of the 2010-2011 Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School calendar. Nancy Lappie moved to approve the 2010-2011 Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School calendar.

Judith Hotz seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Meriden, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District #16, Seymour, Wolcott

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

10. Old Business

- Facilities Update – Mr. Shettle indicated that contractor has been selected and expects renovations to begin next week.
- Policy Update – No report.
- Curriculum & Instruction – Dr. Dombroski reported on the school based professional development activities held on March 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Early Head Start Grant Update – Alice Torres, Director of ACES Early Childhood Services was joined by Marina Winkler, Head Start Program Specialist to provide an update on the federal early head start grant. Ms. Winkler indicated that ARRA federal monies will be monitored closely and encouraged ACES administration and board members to actively be aware how/where monies are spent. Ms. Winkler also congratulated ACES on receiving the grant, in particular because ACES has not had an early head start program. Ms. Winkler indicated as required by the federal government Alicia Clapp will provide an update to the board each month. Dr. Torres provided a distribution of the program which included staff, location, and sites. Dr. Torres explained that the implementation process is underway.

11. New Business

- Next Meeting: May 13, 2010.

10. Adjournment

Thomas McKirryher moved to adjourn the ACES Governing Board meeting at 1:50 PM.  
Mary Kelly seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Meriden, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven,  
Orange, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District #16, Seymour,  
Wolcott

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

Submitted by,

Elaine Sein  
Secretary to the ACES Governing Board