

Minutes

ACES Governing Board September 11, 2008

205 Skiff Street
Hamden, CT 06517

Present: Bruce Baker, Seymour; Lynn Campo, Hamden; Alicia Clapp, North Haven; Sue Cohen, Regional District #5; William Currlin, Regional District #13; Sheryl Feducia, Regional District #16; John Finkle, East Haven; Thomas Hennessey, Wallingford; Mary Kelly, Wolcott; Thomas McKirryher, Naugatuck; Stephen Mrowka, Cheshire; Lucy Painter, Bethany; Debby Pines, Woodbridge; Jim SantaBarbara, Milford

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

Regrets: Meriden, North Branford, Oxford

Guests: Maureen Bransfield, Greg Dandio, Sharyn Esdaile, Karen Habegger, Carolyn McNally; ACES Staff

Prior to the business meeting William Currlin welcomed ACES Teacher of the Year and the recipients of the Executive Director's Recognition Award. Dr. Ann P. Dombroski introduced ACES Teacher of the Year, Marie Satagaj. Ms. Claudette J. Beamon introduced Sandra Drozd, Adam Ganzle, Robyn Handy, Katherine King, Deborah Sears, and Kathleen Hassen Stack, the recipients of the Executive Director's Recognition Award. Many were joined by their administrators. Dr. Edmondson added that the above staff represents all that is good and outstanding within the ACES community and he added that all recipients were honored in the spring at ceremony in which staff, family, and friends attended. In addition Ms. Satagaj will represent ACES in the statewide teacher of the year program held by the State Department of Education.

1. Call to Order/Calling of the Roll

William Currlin called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:30 PM after it was determined that a quorum was present.

2. Public Participation/Communications

William Currilin thanked the Governing Board for re-electing him as board chair. Mr. Currilin indicated his excitement to be back. Mr. Currilin asked the Governing Board to speak with Dr. Edmondson regarding any guest speakers that they may want to invite to a meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes

Alicia Clapp moved to accept the ACES Governing Board minutes of June 12, 2008.
Lynn Campo seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Cheshire, Hamden, Milford, Naugatuck, North Haven, Regional District #5,
Regional District #13, Regional District #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Wolcott,
Woodbridge

Abstention: East Haven

Opposed: None

VOTED

At this time Mr. Currilin welcomed and introduced John Finkle, new board member representing East Haven.

4. Executive Director's Report

- a. Dr. Edmondson greeted the board.
- b. Dr. Edmondson asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of September 11th. A moment of silence was observed.
- c. Dr. Edmondson thanked Human Resources, Administration, and the Maintenance Department for all their efforts securing enough staff and ensuring a smooth summer school program.
- d. Dr. Edmondson welcomed Elaine Sein back after the birth of her son.
- e. Dr. Edmondson shared that the CT State Board of Education authorized the approval of ACES for five years through June 30, 2013. Dr. Edmondson indicated that he was one of two executive directors who made a presentation before the board in July.
- f. Dr. Edmondson informed the Governing Board that the transition back to Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield has been seamless.
- g. Dr. Edmondson informed the Governing Board that ACES has enjoyed a good start to the new school year; welcoming over 2400 students. Dr. Edmondson indicated that we have received many special education referrals and are almost at full capacity.
- h. Dr. Edmondson asked Mr. Shettle to introduce Joann Cegan. CASBO reviewed the position of Director of Fiscal Services held by Kathryn Smith and made recommendations on restructuring the position. Mr. Shettle will assume some of the former responsibilities. Mr. Shettle then

introduced Ms. Cegan as Manager of Fiscal Services indicating she comes to ACES from Norwalk Public Schools. Ms. Cegan was welcomed by the board.

- i. Dr. Edmondson announced that a settlement has been reached through mediation for the ECA Associates. Dr. Edmondson reminded the board that because of the new certification requirements imposed by the state that the associates need to be certified or eligible for certification and thus are now included in the teachers' union.
- j. Dr. Edmondson announced that the CSEA negotiations are continuing; the contract expired on June 30, 2008. Dr. Edmondson indicated that he has upcoming sessions with the union and is hopeful a settlement will be reached before the next meeting. Dr. Edmondson indicated that the CSEA union covers teacher assistant/drivers and job coaches. The existing contract is still in place.
- k. Dr. Edmondson was pleased to announce that Mill Road School was awarded a \$70,000 by the State Department of Education for an Early Reading Success program. The grant will help teachers use assessment and instructional strategies to improve student reading in grades K-3. Dr. Edmondson thanked Carolyn McNally and Ann Dombroski for their efforts.
- l. Dr. Edmondson informed the Governing Board that ACES would once again support United Way Days of Caring by holding a diaper drive.
- m. Dr. Edmondson shared that he met with the participating superintendents and/or representatives of WIMS and that a review committee has been formed. The committee will review funding and strategize for next year.
- n. Dr. Edmondson and Mr. Currlin announced that Dr. Donn Sottolano, Director of Behavioral Services will be the guest speaker in October to discuss the topic of students on the autism spectrum. Mr. Currlin welcomed the board to bring a colleague interested in the topic to attend the meeting.

5. Filing of Fiscal Report (subject for audit)

Summary/Detail by Category

Gary Shettle reviewed the fiscal report indicating that ACES is basically in the same position at it is at the start of the school year and that the budgets will continue to be refined as grants come in. Mr. Shettle was also pleased to report that ACES ended the school year in the black. Sheryl Feducia moved to accept the fiscal report as presented (subject to audit).

Alicia Clapp seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Cheshire, East Haven, Hamden, Milford, Naugatuck, North Haven, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Wolcott, Woodbridge

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

6. Human Resources Report

Claudette Beamon reviewed the Human Resources Report highlighting that ACES hired over 100 employees during the summer. Ms. Beamon also indicated that because of early recruiting efforts some special education teachers were hired as early as May. She indicated that some individual aides were hired as teacher assistants. Ms. Beamon shared that there were three Behavior Analyst resignations and all were replaced. Ms. Beamon mentioned that there continues to be shortages in the position of occupational therapists. There was a retirement of a long time secretary. The remainder of the report was routine. Sue Cohen moved to authorize the hirings, accept the resignations and retirement, and grant the leaves as detailed on the Human Resources Report.

Lynn Campo seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Cheshire, East Haven, Hamden, Milford, Naugatuck, North Haven, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Wolcott, Woodbridge

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTED

7. CMT/CAPT Overview

Dr. Ann P. Dombroski and Principals, Sharyn Esdaile, WIMS; Karen Habegger, TEMS; and Maureen Bransfield, CAMS provided a CMT and CAPT overview. Dr. Dombroski introduced each principal who spoke about their data respectively. As a district ACES improved in math. WIMS' and TEMS' subgroups did not make AYP. Since TEMS did not make AYP in certain subgroups the school is now identified as in Need of Improvement Year II. CAMS did not make AYP and is now in Need of Improvement Year III. Ms. Bransfield also reviewed CAPT data for CAMS. Each school had developed an improvement plan as detailed in the handout. There are supplemental Title I monies available for CAMS and TEMS to improve student achievement.

8. Strategic Planning Progress Report

Dr. Edmondson reported on the progress of the strategic planning for year one. Dr. Edmondson asked Mr. Shettle, Dr. McNally, Dr. Dombroski, Mr. Dandio, and Mr. Parker to speak on the first five strategies. Mr. Shettle indicated that Fiscal Services is reviewing the cost analysis of certain programs to determine the viability of each program and the benefits of each program. Dr. McNally spoke about entrepreneurial opportunities through foundation grants, enterprise initiatives and grants from the state of education. One of the new initiatives is the opening of Sleeping Giant Book and Store Co. The bookstore's goal is to generate revenue support ACES programming. The store has high quality books and toys. The ACCESS program has contracted with the bookstore for the clients to provide light cleaning services. Mr. Dandio and Mr. Parker spoke about external and internal communications via the internet; the external internet address is now www.aces.org and the former intranet now referred to as *interfaces*. Dr. Dombroski shared ACES is working to establish Professional Learning Communities (PLC) for all ACES schools and that all curriculum revision/development includes appropriate assessment instruments. The board will be given a full report in May detailing all of the

accomplishments and the plan will be re-assed.

9. Old Business

- Facilities Update – Mr. Shettle indicated that the 60 United Drive project is moving along and should be completed by the end of October or November. The Little Theatre project was approved by legislature.
- Policy Update – Mr. Shettle indicated that the 2000 policies have been completed and were distributed to the board for a first reading. Dr. Edmondson will ask for approval at the next meeting. Mr. Shettle indicated that the Policy Committee will reconvene next month. Mr. Currlin thanked the committee for their efforts.

10. New Business

- Next Meeting: October 16, 2008.
- The 2007-2008 Annual Report were distributed as mandated under Section 10-66, C.G.S.

12. Adjournment

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

In favor: Bethany, Cheshire, East Haven, Hamden, Milford, Naugatuck, North Haven, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Regional District #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Wolcott, Woodbridge

Abstention: None
Opposed: None

VOTED

Submitted by,

Elaine Sein
Secretary to the ACES Governing Board