



ACES GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, April 10, 2025
SDA Building, 205 Skiff Street, Hamden, CT

Governing Board: Ellen Michaels, Branford, Ann Marie Cullinan, Cheshire, Laura Harris, Derby, Nickimmy Hayes, Hamden, Mike Smith, Milford, Ethel Grant, Naugatuck, Martin Rudnick, North Haven, Susan Riccio, Orange, Carol Oladele, RSD #5 Amity, Lindsay Dahlheimer, RSD #13, Ray Ross, Wallingford, Thomas Van Stone, Waterbury

ACES: Thomas Danehy, Timothy Howes, William Rice, Rebecca Cuevas, Dee Colson

Not Present: Ansonia, Bethany, East Haven, Meriden, Middletown, New Haven, North Branford, Oxford, RSD #16, Seymour, West Haven, Wolcott, Woodbridge

Guests: Scott Sadinsky, ACES, Tim Gunn, Bear Notch, David Stein, Silver Petrucelli, Bill Jacobs, AEA

I. Welcome/Call to Order

Ms. Susan Riccio called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. after determining that a quorum was present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Susan Riccio

III. Public Participation/Communications

Laura Harris will be moving to Southbury. Ms. Susan Riccio announced her engagement.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Laura Harris motioned to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes held on April 10, 2025.

Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded the motion.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: Ellen Michaels

VOTE

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V. Executive Director's Report - Dr. Thomas M. Danehy

- a. ECA Construction Application Feasibility Study -David Stein, Silver Petrucelli
- b. Update Design Plan Bold Steps
- c. Executive Director Annual Evaluation
- d. ACES Foundation Gala Update
- e. ASPIRE Contract with New Haven
- f. Vacant Positions
- g. 2025-2026 Budget Approvals
- h. Budget Proposals:
 1. Whitney Academy
 2. RISE
 3. Mill Road School
 4. Village School
 5. EIBI
 6. SAILS
 7. Whitney High School North
 8. ASCEND
 9. Ansonia (Mead-Ansonia Middle School)
 10. The Bridge
 11. Regions - Hamden
 12. Regions - Hartford
 13. Regions - Plainville

VI. Filing of the Fiscal Report (subject to audit) - Mr. Thomas Van Stone

The Governing Board acknowledges receipt and review of the April 2025 Fiscal Report, noting that ACES remains in a positive financial position. The agency continues to maintain strong contracts, provide valuable services to our districts, and benefit from favorable enrollment trends. We are actively monitoring expenses and making adjustments as necessary to ensure continued financial stability. Motion to approve the Financial Report subject to audit.

Mr. Thomas Van Stone motioned to accept the filing of the fiscal report.

Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded the motion.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

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VII. Approval of Human Capital Development Report – Ms. Rebecca Cuevas

Ms. Cuevas presented the HR report and reported 35 new hires in various positions, four transfer/position changes, 17 resignations, 14 leaves, and five terminations.

Mr. Martin Rudnick moved to accept the Human Capital Development Report.

Mr. Ray Ross seconded the motion.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

VIII. Operations and Early Head Start Report - Dr. William Rice

Dr. William Rice presented updates on ACES construction projects at CHASE, 670 Wintergreen Avenue, and 88 Bassett Road. He also provided comprehensive updates on Capital Improvement Projects, Operations, Facilities, Maintenance, Internal Transportation, Security, Data Privacy, ACCESS, Magnet School Lottery, Open Choice Program, Community Engagement initiatives, Nutrition Services, Network Services, and the Early Head Start Program.

Dr. William Rice requests approval for the Early Head Start monthly reports and contract summaries.

Ms. Laura Harris motioned to accept the Early Head Start monthly reports and summaries.

Ms. Ethel Grant seconded the motion.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

IX. New Business

a. Possible action to approve budgets for: FY 2025-2026

1. Whitney Academy
2. RISE
3. Mill Road School
4. Village School
5. EIBI
6. SAILS
7. Whitney High School North

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8. ASCEND
9. Ansonia (Mead-Ansonia Middle School)
10. The Bridge
11. Regions- Hamden
12. Regions – Hartford
13. Regions – Plainville

Ms. Susan Riccio has moved to approve the above budgets collectively.

Mr. Ray Ross motioned to approve the above budgets.

Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded the motion.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

b. Possible action to reduce positions as recommended.

Mr. Ray Martin motioned to approve the reduction in positions as recommended.

Ms. Laura Harris seconded the motion.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

X. Other

- a. Finance Committee Meeting, May 8, 2025
- b. Regular Board Meeting, May 8, 2025

XI. Adjournment

Ms. Susan Riccio motioned to adjourn at 1:19 p.m.

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