



DRAFT
ACES GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, December 14, 2023
SDA Building, 205 Skiff Street, Hamden, CT

Governing Board: Susan Bradford, Bethany; Anne Marie Cullinan, Cheshire; Laura Harris, Derby; 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; Roberta Leonard, Wolcott

ACES: Olga Simoes, Andy Skarzynski, Timothy Howes, Thomas Danehy, William Rice, Emily Freel, Rebecca Cuevas, Dee Colson

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

Guests: Tim Gunn, Consultant, David Stein & Amanda Cleveland, Silver and Petrucelli, Norman Hicks, & Fran DiGiorgi

1. Welcome/Call to Order

Ms. Susan Riccio called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:05 pm after determining a quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance Lead by: Ms. Susan Riccio

3. Public Participation/Communications

N/A

4. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Regular Board Meeting held on November 9, 2023.

Mr. Ray Ross motioned to accept the minutes held on November 9, 2023.

Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: Mike Smith

VOTE

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5. Executive Director’s Report - Dr. Thomas M. Danehy

1. ACES Student Holiday Presentation Awards.
2. Presentation by Silver Petrucelli 88 Bassett Road concerning furniture, fixtures and equipment for the project at 88 Bassett Road, North Haven
3. ACES Happening Updates – Some administrative changes are in the process of taking place with the provision of new services and retirement vacancy fillings. We have vacancies for two principals at SAILS and Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School. SAILS will be filled by Jenn Santarcangelo who will be serving as Interim Principal starting January 16, 2024. The Wintergreen Principal search is underway with interviews being scheduled for the beginning of January.
5. Bid approval letter for 88 Bassett, North Haven, Phase 1 of 2, Abatement, Site and Building Construction, and Playground Relocation is included in the Board packet as an informational item. We are happy to receive approval to go out to bid on the project.
6. FY2023 Annual Financial Report is completed. Board members received the report in an earlier communique and the Finance Committee reviewed the audit in its meeting earlier today.

6. Filing of the Fiscal Report (subject to audit) - Ms. Olga Simoes/Mr. Thomas Van Stone

The December report presents an updated overview of our agency's financial standing, encompassing year-to-date expenditures and encumbrances. Current projections point towards a positive year-end financial position. This report includes room for potential budget fluctuations, with the final figures hinge on variables such as actual student enrollment and unforeseen circumstances. The fiscal team is diligently working on completing December billing, which will provide us with vital financial data for future cash flow projections. The proactive monitoring of our cash flow remains imperative to meet ongoing financial obligations. Preliminary assessments indicate a surplus, affirming our commitment to fiscal responsibility. Recognizing the dynamic nature of our operations within the education sector, we remain vigilant and adaptable to changing circumstances. This involves a continuous assessment of staffing needs, thorough processing of encumbrances, and a close watch on cash flow dynamics. Through these efforts, we are steadfast in our commitment to ensuring the sustained success and stability of ACES. The positive year-end projections reflect our dedication to prudent financial management and position us well for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Mr. Thomas Van Stone motioned to accept the filing of the fiscal report.
Ms. Lindsay Dahlheimer seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously
Opposed: None
Abstention: None

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

Ms. Rebecca Cuevas presented the HR report and reported 31 new hires in various positions, eight transfers/position changes, 14 resignations, six leaves, one retirement, and 0 terminations.

Ms. Roberta Leonard motioned to approve the Human Capital Report.
Ms. Lindsay Dahlheimer seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously
Opposed: None
Abstention: None

VOTE

8. Schools Report - Mr. Andrew Skarzynski

Mr. Andrew Skarzynski reported on the upcoming Magnet, Specialized Schools and Programs.

9. Operations and Early Head Start Report - Mr. William Rice

Mr. William Rice provided updates on the progress of the construction projects at 88 Bassett, WIMS, and CHASE. He also presented the Capital Improvement Annual Report for ACES properties and discussed an HVAC grant application for 670 Wintergreen and Resolutions. Additionally, Mr. Rice shared information on the EHS Policy Council By-Laws and sought a volunteer to serve as a non-voting member on the ACES Governing Board. Lindsay Dahlheimer stepped forward and volunteered for this role. Mr. William Rice requested the approval of the Early Head Start monthly reports and contract summaries.

Ms. Laura Harris Motioned to accept the filing of the Early Head Start and Operations contract summaries.
Mr. Ray Ross seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously
Opposed: None
Abstention: None

VOTE

10. Core Knowledge - Ms. Emily Freel

Ms. Emily Freel reported on Data analysis, ELA pilot in classrooms, Professional Development, Education Technology, Talent Development, Diversity, Equity, and inclusion.

11. Old Business

Possible Action to Approve Early Head Start Policy Council By-Laws.

Ms. Roberta Leonard motioned to approve the Early Head Start Policy Council By-Laws.
Ms. Lindsay Dahlheimer seconded.

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All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously
Opposed: None
Abstention: None

VOTE

12. New Business

A. Possible Action to Approve FF&E for 88 Bassett Road

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to approve the FF&E for 88 Bassett Road.
Mr. Ray Ross seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously
Opposed: None
Abstention: None

VOTE

B. Possible Action to Approve Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet Schools HVAC IAQ Grant Resolutions

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to approve Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet Schools HVAC IAQ Grant Resolutions.
Ms. Lindsay Dahlheimer seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously
Opposed: None
Abstention: None

VOTE

C. Possible Action to Approve ACES School and Agency-Wide Calendars

Mr. Ray Ross motioned to approve the school- and agency-wide calendars.
Ms. Lindsay Dahlheimer seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously
Opposed: None
Abstention: None

VOTE

13. Other

- a. Finance Committee Meeting, January 11, 2024
- b. Regular Board Meeting, January 11, 2024

14. Adjournment

Susan Riccio motioned to adjourn at 12:54 pm.

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