



ACES GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, February 13, 2025
SDA Building, 205 Skiff Street, Hamden, CT

Governing Board: Ellen Michaels, Branford; Laura Harris, Derby; Nickimmy Hayes, Meriden; Mike Smith, Meriden; Ethel Grant, Naugatuck; Martin Rudnick, North Haven; Susan Riccio, Orange; Carol Oladele, RSD #5 Amity; Ray Ross, Wallingford; Thomas Van Stone, Waterbury

ACES: Dr. Thomas Danehy, Timothy Howes, Dr. William Rice, Emily Freel, Rebecca Cuevas, Dee Colson

Not Present: Ansonia, Bethany, Cheshire, East Haven, Hamden, Middletown, New Haven, North Branford, Oxford, RSD #13, Seymour, RSD #16, West Haven, Wolcott, Woodbridge

Guests: William Jacobs, AEA, Patrice McCarthy, CABA, Dave Stein, Silver/Petrucelli Architects, Tim Gunn, Bear Notch, Chip Natsis, Heather Granja, ACES Early Childhood, Erica Henly, ACES Mill Road School

I. Welcome/Call to Order

Ms. Susan Riccio called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:00 pm after determining a quorum was present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Susan Riccio

III. Public Participation/Communications

N/A

IV. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Ray Ross motioned to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes held on February 13, 2025.

Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

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

- a. Update on Legislative Matters - Patrice McCarthy, CABE. Ms McCarthy provided an update on legislative issues and ways to testify in support or opposition to bills.
- b. Guaranteed Maximum Pricing – Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School- Mr. David Stein of Silver/Petrucelli Architects provided details of the Wintergreen project and how the Maximum Guaranteed Price was devised.
- c. ED 049 Application for ACES at CHASE Project #244-0044 MAG.
 1. Original Grant Amount \$69,624,095
 2. New Grant Amount \$84,435,280
 3. ACES Share will increase by \$2,962,237

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

The Governing Board acknowledges and approves the January 2024-2025 financial report, which reflects a projected budget of \$166.4 million, with expenditures and revenues tracking closely and an overall surplus. As we experience strong enrollment and service contracts, we will monitor expenses carefully. I move that the Board accept the financial report as presented, subject to the auditors' review.

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

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

VOTE

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

Ms. Cuevas presented the HR report and reported 20 new hires in various positions, six transfers/positions, 13 resignations, one termination, nine leaves, and one retirement. HCD finalized the Title IX policy draft for the policy committee and participated in the Teacher Residency Program district meeting. HCD is actively promoting the annual ACES Career Fair to be held on March 15, 2025. HCD is actively collaborating with Core Knowledge on the succession planning process pilot.

Ms. Carol Oladele motioned to accept the Human Capital Report.
Ms. Laura Harris seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously
Opposed: None

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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. Heather Granja reviewed the Early Head Start Governance, Leadership and Oversight Screener, and Health and Safety Screener.

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

Ms. Ellen Michaels motioned to accept the Early Head Start monthly reports and summaries. Mr. Ray Ross seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

IX. Core Knowledge – Ms. Emily Freel

Ms. Emily Freel provided updated reports on Curriculum and Schools, Talent Development, Data Support, Educational Technology, and Professional Development Support.

X. Possible Executive Session

- a. For the purpose of executing a stipulated agreement.

Ms. Susan Ricco moved to enter into an Executive Session with Dr. Thomas Danehy, Dr. William Rice, and Timothy Howes. The regular board meeting resumed at 12:48 pm.

XI. New Business

- a. Approval of Guaranteed Maximum Price Amendment for Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School, Project # 244-0045MAG.

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price Amendment for Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School, Project # 244-0045MAG.

Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded

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

VOTE

- b. 4118.11 - (Employees) Policy regarding Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace.
- c. 5145.44 (Students) Policy regarding Title IX – Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment.
- d. 5131.911 - (Students) Policy regarding School Climate.

Ms. Susan Riccio gave the option to defer the approval of policies 4118.11, 5145.44, and 5131.911 until the March 14, 2025, Board meeting after a second read. The policies will appear on the March agenda for possible action.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

- e. Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant.

Mr. Ray Ross motioned to approve the Regional Incentive Program Grant.
Ms. Laura Seconded.

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

VOTE

- f. Proposal for the ACES Board to authorize the updated total project cost of \$84,435,280 identified in the ED049 application submitted to DAS on January 22, 2025.

Ms. Ellen Michaels motioned to approve the Proposal for the ACES Board to authorize the updated total project cost of \$84,435,280 identified in the ED049 application submitted to DAS on January 22, 2025.

Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

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

VOTE

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XII. Other

- a. Finance Committee Meeting, March 13, 2025
- b. Regular Board Meeting, March 13, 2025

XIII. Adjournment

Ms. Susan Riccio moved to adjourn at 12:52 pm.

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