



**DRAFT**  
**ACES GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES**  
**THURSDAY, April 9, 2026**  
**ZOOM Meeting**

<https://aces-org.zoom.us/j/83367217358?pwd=DulK8SITPcNlkVbzsNIYWTDtCPqViv.1>

**Governing Board:** Shawn Tiernan, Branford; Nancy Hill, Hamden; Nickimmy Hayes, Meriden; Nicole Wilhelm, Milford; Susan Riccio, Orange; Carol Oladele, RSD #5 Amity; Robert Moore, RSD #13.

**ACES:** Thomas Danehy, Timothy Howes, William Rice, Dee Colson

**Not Present:** Ansonia, Bethany, Cheshire, Derby, East Haven, Middletown, Naugatuck, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Oxford, RSD #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury, West Haven, Wolcott, Woodbridge

**I. Welcome/Call to Order**

Ms. Susan Riccio called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:04 pm.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Susan Riccio led the Pledge of Allegiance

**III. Public Participation**

Nickimmy Hayes, Robert Moore, and Nicole Wilhelm reported that they are currently in the midst of their budget processes. Mr. Moore also shared that Regional School District#13 recently held a unified prom, for which Sally's Pizza donated 300 pizzas. Carol Oladele reported that, in response to a limited number of holidays, they are offering a student-coordinated event called Springfest and noted that students are very excited about the initiative.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

- a.** Approval of minutes of the regular board meeting held on March 12, 2026

Ms. Nancy Wilhelm motioned to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes held on March 12, 2026

Mr. Shawn Tiernan seconded the motion.

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All in favor: Motion passed unanimously  
Opposed: None  
Abstention: Carol Oladele

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

Dr. Danehy reported on an update to magnet school funding wherein the \$12M funding for RESC magnet schools that was omitted in the Governor's budget proposal was restored by the legislature. The RESC Alliance is still dealing with the issue of charges for 504 services for students. Additionally, the 88 Bassett Road project is moving along well, allowing for students to move in for summer school. Regarding other real estate matters, the Village School will be vacated, and so will our SAILS school building. We're entertaining offers on the building in Northford as well as Skiff Street properties. Dr. Danehy is attending the AESA Leadership Academy conference this week. He is also working with Dr. Rice on transition plans for July 1.

a. **FY 2026-2027 Budget Proposals:**

Mr. Timothy Howes reviewed FY 2026-2027 Budget Proposals for the following schools:

1. Whitney Academy
2. RISE
3. Mill Academy
4. Village School
5. EIBI
6. SAILS
7. Whitney High School North
8. ASCEND
9. Ansonia (Mead/AMS)

VI. **Filing of the Fiscal Report (subject to audit)** – Susan Riccio

Ms. Susan Riccio moved to approve the April 9, 2026, financial report as presented, subject to audit. The April 2026 Fiscal Report reflects that ACES remains in a surplus position while continuing to monitor expenses and support recruitment efforts for magnet and special education programs. The organization has also begun closing out the FY2026 budget year. I move that the Board of Directors accept the Fiscal Report as presented, subject to the annual audit.

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Mr. Robert Moore seconded the motion.

All in favor: Motion passed unanimously  
Opposed: None  
Abstention: None

**VII. Approval of Human Capital Development Report** – Dr. Thomas Danehy  
Dr. Thomas Danehy presented the Human Capital Development report, which showed sixteen new hires across various positions, seven resignations, three terminations, six transfers/position, and seventeen leaves.

Ms. Carol Oladele motioned to approve the Human Capital Development Report.  
Mr. Shawn Tiernan seconded the motion.

All in favor: Motion passed unanimously  
Opposed: None  
Abstention: None

**VIII. Operations and Early Head Start Report** - Mr. William Rice  
Dr. William Rice presented updates on ACES construction projects at CHASE Academy, 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 Early Head Start 2026-2027 Annual Recruitment Plan, Health Status Determination, and Home Visit Policy & Procedures.

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

Mr. Shawn Tiernan motioned to accept the Early Head Start Monthly Report.  
Ms. Nancy Hill seconded the motion.

All in favor: Motion passed unanimously  
Opposed: None  
Abstention: None

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**IX. Schools and Programs Report – Dr. Thomas Danehy**

Dr. Thomas Danehy reported on the Executive Summary and School updates.

**X. Possible Executive Session for the purpose of Real Estate**

Ms. Susan Riccio moved that the Governing Board enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate, to include the Governing Board members, Dr. Thomas Danehy, Dr. William Rice, Timothy Howes, and Dee Colson, at 12:36 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Executive Session concluded, and the ACES Regular Board Meeting reconvened at 12:50 p.m.

**XI. New Business**

**a. Possible Action to Approve the Resolution to purchase 370 James Street, and Lot 501 John Murphy Drive, New Haven, CT.**

Mr. Shawn Tiernan motioned to approve the Resolution to purchase 370 James Street, and Lot 501 John Murphy Drive, New Haven, CT, for \$14,600.00.

Ms. Carol Oladele seconded the motion.

All in favor: Motion passed unanimously  
Opposed: None  
Abstention: None

**b. Possible Action of Reduction of positions as recommended.**

Mr. Robert Moore motioned to approve the recommended reduction in positions in the Technology Department – Support Analyst and Cybersecurity Technician.  
Mr. Shawn Tiernan seconded the motion.

All in favor: Motion passed unanimously  
Opposed: None  
Abstention: None

**c. Possible Action of FY 2026-2027 Budget Proposals:**

1. Whitney Academy
2. RISE
3. Mill Academy
4. Village School

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5. EIBI
6. SAILS
7. Whitney High School North
8. ASCEND
9. Ansonia (Mead/AMS)

Ms. Susan Riccio moved to vote collectively on the FY 2026-2027 Budgets.

Ms. Susan Riccio motioned to approve the FY 2026-2027 Budgets.  
Mr. Robert Moore seconded the motion.

All in favor: Motion passed unanimously  
Opposed: None  
Abstention: None

**d. Possible Action to Approve the Early Head Start 2026-2027 Annual Recruitment Plan.**

Ms. Nancy Hill motioned to approve the Early Head Start 2026-2027 Annual Recruitment Plan.  
Mr. Robert Moore seconded the motion.

All in favor: Motion passed unanimously  
Opposed: None  
Abstention: None

**e. Possible Action to Approve the Early Head Start Health Status Determination.**

Mr. Shawn Tiernan motioned to approve the Early Head Start Health Status Determination.  
Mr. Robert Moore seconded the motion.

All in favor: Motion passed unanimously  
Opposed: None  
Abstention: None

**f. Possible Action to Approve the Early Head Start Home Visit Policy & Procedures.**

Mr. Robert Moore motioned to approve the Early Head Start Visit Policy & Procedures.  
Mr. Shawn Tiernan seconded the motion.

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All in favor: Motion passed unanimously  
Opposed: None  
Abstention: None

**g. Discussion and possible action concerning the Executive Director's recommendation for teacher non-renewal.**

Mr. Robert Moore motioned to approve the Executive Director's recommendation to non-renew the teacher.

Ms. Nancy Hill seconded the motion.

All in favor: Motion passed unanimously  
Opposed: None  
Abstention: None

**XII. Other**

- a. Finance Committee Meeting: May 14, 2026
- b. Regular Board Meeting: May 14, 2026

**XIII. Adjournment:**

Ms. Susan Riccio moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

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