



ACES GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, February 8, 2024
SDA Building, 205 Skiff Street, Hamden, CT

Governing Board: Richard Bshara, Ansonia; Ellen Michaels, Branford; Ann Marie, Cheshire; Laura Harris, Derby; Mike Smith, Milford; Ethel Grant, Naugatuck; Martin Rudnick, North Haven; Susan Riccio, Orange; Lindsay Dahlheimer, RSD #13; Thomas Van Stone, Waterbury

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

Not Present: Bethany, East Haven, Hamden Meriden, Middletown, New Haven, North Branford, Oxford, RSD #5 Amity, RSD #16, Seymour, Wallingford, West Haven, Wolcott, Woodbridge

Guest: William Jacobs, AEA, Patrice McCarthy, Executive Director of CABE

1. Welcome/Call to Order

Ms. Susan Riccio called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:08 pm after determining a quorum was present.

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

3. Public Participation/Communications

Ms. Ethel Grant commented on the quality of ACES commercials highlighting our schools and programs. Ms. Susan Riccio shared that Amity will perform the play Mean Girls.

4. Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes held on January 11, 2024

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting held on January 11, 2024. Mr. Mike Smith seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: Laura Harris, Derby

VOTE

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

1. Special Recognition - Magnet School of America Presents Awards of Excellence for ACES at Chase and Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School.
2. Special Guest Patrice McCarthy, Executive Director of CAGE, will discuss legislative agenda issues for the new legislative session.
3. Budget Proposals for FY 2024-2025
 - a. Mill Road School
 - b. Whitney North High School
 - c. Transportation
 - d. Security
4. Status Update on Construction Projects.
5. Clean Air Classrooms – ACES UP Lunch and Learn.

6. Filing of the Fiscal Report (subject to audit) - Ms. Susan Riccio

In the February 2024 Board Statement, we're pleased to report a favorable year-end financial position, with increased revenue from Special Education Schools and Services. While accommodating potential budget fluctuations, our proactive cash flow monitoring ensures ongoing financial obligations are met. Preliminary assessments reveal a surplus, reflecting our commitment to fiscal responsibility while keeping our focus on addressing the deficit challenge within Magnet Schools for the current fiscal year.

Ms. Susan Riccio motioned to accept the filing of the fiscal report.

Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

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

Ms. Cuevas presented the HR report and reported 28 new hires in various positions, 32 transfers/positions, 11 resignations, 15 leaves, one termination, and no retirements. She also noted that in the first half of 2023, Everside Health saved \$317k of claims. In the second exhibit reviewed (baseline period is moved forward six months), Everside Health saved \$1.7m of claims in the entire year period of July 2022-June 2023. Throughout 2023, each ACES employee who visited Everside Health saved about \$500 out-of-pocket: they averaged three visits and saved the average \$140 cost per visit, as well as an additional \$80 in labs, medications, and immunizations.

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Mr. Mike Smith motioned to approve the Human Capital Report.
Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

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

VOTE

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

Mr. William Rice provided updates on ACES Construction projects (88 Bassett, WIMS, and CHASE). ACES Capital Improvement Projects, we are in the process of applying for a Security Grant for multiple sites and applying for an Interdistrict Magnet School Capital Improvement Grant-RESC. Mr. Rice requested the approval of the Early Head Start monthly reports and contract summaries.

Ms. Ellen Michaels motioned to accept the Operations and Early Head Start monthly reports and contract summaries.

Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

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

VOTE

9. Schools Report and Core Knowledge Report – Dr. Thomas Danehy

- a. Andrew Skarzynski will be the interim part-time superintendent in Hampton, and the Magnet Schools will be reassigned to Dr. Thomas M. Danehy.
- b. Piloting the reading program is ongoing, with positive feedback for HMH
- c. The Diversity Staff Plan is being designed and vetted
- d. The evaluation instrument will be presented to the Board once it is finalized.
- e. Fearless Organization will be an administrator book club read this spring.

10. New Business

1. Possible Action to Approve Proposed Budgets for FY 2024-2025.

- a. Mill Road School
- b. Whitney North High School
- c. Transportation
- d. Security

Ms. Susan Riccio moved to approve the FY 2024-2025 Budgets for Mill Road School, Whitney North High School, Transportation, and Security.

Mr. Mike Smith motioned to accept the FY 2024-2025 Budgets for Mill Road School, Whitney North High School, Transportation and Security.

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Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

11. Other

- a. Finance Committee Meeting, March 14, 2024
- b. Regular Board Meeting, March 14, 2024

12. Adjournment

Mr. Mike Smith motioned to adjourn at 1:03.

Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

The motion passes unanimously.

13. Attachments

- a. January 11, 2024, ACES Services PowerPoint: Tim Howes
- b. ACESUP Clean Air Classes and Lunch and Learn

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