



ACES GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, June 4, 2026
ACES 88 Bassett Road, North Haven, CT

Governing Board: Ann Marie Cullinan, Cheshire; Nicole Wilhelm, Milford; James Scully, Naugatuck; Martin Rudnick, North Haven; Susan Riccio, Orange; Robert Moore, RSD #13

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

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

Guests: William Grimm, ACES; Norman Hicks

I. Welcome/Call to Order – Ms. Susan Riccio
Ms. Susan Riccio called the ACES Governing Board Meeting to order at 12:10 pm

II. Pledge of Allegiance – Ms. Susan Riccio

III. Public Participation
N/A

IV. Approval of Minutes
 a. Approval of minutes of the regular Board Meeting held on May 14, 2026
 Mr. Martin Rudnick motioned to approve the regular Board Meeting minutes held on May 14, 2026.
 Mr. Robert Moore seconded the motion.

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

V. Executive Director's Report - Dr. Thomas M. Danehy
The following administrators recognized employees for their years of dedicated service upon their retirement: **Kerri Gilmore**, Mill Road School; **Zakiyyah Baker**, Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School; **Enid DeJesus**, ACCESS; and **Virginia Tagliatela**, Village School.

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- a. Retiree Recognition:
 - 1. Barbara Hedberg
 - 2. Mary Beth Petr
 - 3. Mark Fortuna
 - 4. Jennifer Place
 - 5. Pamela Johnson
 - 6. Priscilla Remington

- b. FY 2026-2027 Budget Proposals – Tim Howes
 - 1. ACES Educational Center for the Arts (ECA)
 - 2. Wintergreen Magnet School
 - 3. ACES at CHASE
 - 4. Deputy Executive Director
 - 5. Community Engagement
 - 6. Assistant Superintendent
 - 7. Security

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

The June Fiscal Report reflects ACES continued strong financial performance, with the organization maintaining a positive surplus position through effective management of revenues and expenditures. As the fiscal year draws to a close, management anticipates that ACES will remain in a strong surplus position at year-end. Ms. Susan Riccio motioned to approve the June fiscal report presented to the governing board, subject to the annual audit.

Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded the motion.

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

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

Ms. Rebecca Cuevas presented the HCD report, which showed 13 new hires across various positions, 10 resignations, 3 terminations, 3 transfers/position changes, and 21 leaves.

Mr. Robert Moore motioned to approve the Human Capital Development Report.
Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded the motion.

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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, and Internal Transportation, Security, Data Privacy, ACCESS, Magnet School Lottery, Open Choice Program, Community Engagement initiatives, Nutrition Services, Network Services, and the Early Head Start.

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

Mr. Martin Rudnick motioned to approve the Early Head Start monthly reports, contracts, and summaries.

Mr. Robert Moore seconded the motion.

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

VIII. Schools and Programs Report – Ms. Michelle Coogan

Ms. Michelle Coogan reported on upcoming graduations and promotion ceremonies across ACES schools. She also provided updates on student performances, community engagement initiatives, the staff evaluation process, and plans for the upcoming administrative retreat.

X. Old business

- a. Possible action to elect Chair for 2026-2027
- b. Possible action to elect Vice Chair for 2026-2027
- c. Possible action to elect Fiscal Agent
- d. Possible action to elect the Executive Committee members

The Board discussed the election of officers and appointments for the upcoming term. Following the discussion, the Board agreed to retain the current Vice Chairperson, Fiscal Agent, and Executive Committee members in their existing roles pending further review and consideration. The Board will revisit these appointments at its September meeting.

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Mr. Martin Rudnick moved to retain the current Vice Chairperson, Fiscal Agent, and Executive Committee members in their respective positions at the September 2026 Governing Board meeting.

Mr. Robert Moore seconded the motion.
The board then proceeded with the election of the Chairperson.

Mr. Martin Rudnick motioned to elect Ms. Susan Riccio as Chair for the ACES Governing Board for 2026-2027.

Mr. Robert Moore seconded the motion.

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

XI. New Business

a. Possible action to accept the FY 2026-2027 Budgets. For the following cost centers:

1. ACES Educational Center for the Arts (ECA)
2. Wintergreen Magnet School
3. ACES at CHASE
4. Deputy Executive Director
5. Community Engagement
6. Assistant Superintendent
7. Security

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

Mr. Robert Moore motioned to approve the FY 2026-2027 Budgets.

Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded the motion.

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

b. Possible action to approve the substitute rates effective July 1, 2026.

Mr. James Scully motioned to approve the substitute rates effective July 1, 2026.

Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded the motion.

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All in favor: Motion passed unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

XII Adjournment

Mr. Martin Rudnck motioned to adjourn at 12:57 pm

Mr. James Scully seconded the motion.

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