



ACES GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, June 5, 2025
SDA Building, 205 Skiff Street, Hamden, CT

Governing Board: Ellen Michaels, Branford; Ann Marie Cullinan, Cheshire; Mckimmy Hayes, Hamden; Ethel Grant, Naugatuck; Martin Rudnick, North Haven; Susan Riccio, Orange; Lindsay Dahlheimer, RSD #13; Ray Ross, Wallingford.

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

Not Present: Ansonia, Amity RSD#5, Bethany, Derby, East Haven, Hamden, Meriden, Middletown, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, 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 12:00 pm after determining a quorum was present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Susan Riccio

III. Public Participation/Communications

Ray Ross of Wallingford announced the creation of the ***Ray Ross Award***, which recognizes National Honor Society students who demonstrate strong morals and character. Regional School District 13 will welcome a new Superintendent and a new Middle School Principal beginning July 1, 2025. Additionally, Ethel Grant shared that the Superintendent of Naugatuck will be stepping down from the position.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Ray Ross motioned to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes held on May 8, 2025. Ms. Ellen Michaels seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: Ray Ross

VOTE

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

a. Reimbursement Resolution 2025-Bonds – Tim Howes

b. 2025 – 2026 Budget Proposals- Tim Howes

1. Network Services
2. Governing Board
3. Executive Director
4. Fiscal Management
5. Human Capital Development
6. Marketing
7. Area Directors
8. Deputy Executive Director
9. Educational Technology
10. Community Engagement
11. Security
12. Educational Center for the Arts
13. Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School
14. ACES at CHASE

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

Ms. Susan Riccio motioned that the Governing Board accept the financial report as presented, indicating effective expense management, a solid revenue stream, and a healthy surplus position. Approval of this report is contingent upon completion and verification by our auditors. Mr. Ray Ross seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Ms. Cuevas presented the HR report, which reported seven new hires in various positions, four transfers and promotions, six resignations, one termination, and 11 leaves. Human Capital Development participated in two activities this month to raise money and promote autism awareness in the community. The first was the Music Festival at Leeder Hill, and the second was the ASRC Walk for Autism. In partnership, Albertus Magnus College and ACES are offering employees a 15% tuition discount and a waived application fee. This collaboration aims to empower employees with the opportunity to enhance their careers through higher education while maintaining a healthy work-life balance.

Mr. Ray Ross motioned to accept the Human Capital Development Report.
Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded.

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All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously
Opposed: None
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.

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

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to accept the Early Head Start Report.

Ms. Ellen Michaels seconded.

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

IX. Old business

a. Possible action to appoint Board Officers from the Nominating Committee.

Mr. Ray Ross motioned to accept the appointment of the Board Officers.

Chair, Ms. Susan Riccio, Vice Chair, Ethel Grant, Fiscal Officer, Thomas Van Stone, Executive Committee Members, Lindsay Dahlheimer, Mike Smith, Anne Marie Cullinan.

Ms. Ellen Michaels seconded.

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

VOTE

b. Possible action to accept the 2025-2026 ACES Governing Board Regular Board Meeting Dates.

Mr. Martin Rudnick motioned to accept the 2025-2026 ACES Governing Board Regular Board Meeting Dates.

September 11, 2025, October 9, 2025, November 13, 2025, December 11, 2025, January 8, 2026, February 12, 2026, March 12, 2026, April 9, 2026, May 14, 2026, June 4, 2026.

Ms. Ethel Grant Seconded.

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

X. New Business

a. Possible action to approve the Reimbursement Resolution 2025 Bonds.

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to accept the Reimbursement Resolution 2025 Bonds.
Ms. Ellen Michaels seconded.

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

VOTE

b. Possible action to approve the Granting of Signing Authority.

That Dr. Thomas M. Danehy, Executive Director, and in his absence or incapacity, Timothy Howes, Deputy Executive Director, is authorized to make, sign, and execute, and approve on behalf of the ACES Governing Board all grants/contracts with the State of Connecticut and its Agencies, School Districts, and Municipalities. This authorization shall remain in force until rescinded by the action of the ACES Governing Board.

Ms. Ellen Michaels motioned to approve the Signing Authority for Dr. Thomas M. Danehy, Executive Director. In his absence or incapacity, Timothy Howes, Deputy Executive Director, is authorized to make, sign, execute, and approve on behalf of the ACES Governing Board all grants/contracts with the State of Connecticut and its Agencies, school Districts, and Municipalities. This authorization shall remain in force until rescinded by the action of the ACES Governing Board.
Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

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

c. Possible action to approve 2025-2026 ACES Calendars.

Mr. Martin Rudnick motioned to approve the 2025-2026 ACES Calendars.
Mr. Ray Ross seconded.

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

VOTE

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d. Possible action to approve FY 2025-2026 budgets.

1. Network Services
2. Governing Board
3. Executive Director
4. Fiscal Management
5. Human Capital Development
6. Marketing
7. Area Directors
8. Deputy Executive Director
9. Educational Technology
10. Community Engagement
11. Security
12. Educational Center for the Arts
13. Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School
14. ACES at CHASE

Ms. Susan Riccio has moved to approve the above budgets collectively.

Mr. Ray Ross motioned to approve the above budgets.

Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

e. Possible action that is effective July 1, 2025, for non-bargaining employees' health insurance high-deductible plan shall have a deductible of \$2,250/\$4,500, and prior authorization requirement shall apply with grandfathering of existing prescriptions. Premium co-share shall be 19.5%. VOTE

Mr. Ray Ross motioned that, effective July 1, 2025, non-bargaining employees' health insurance. A high-deductible plan shall have a deductible of \$2,250/\$4,500, and a prior authorization requirement shall apply, with grandfathering of existing prescriptions.

Premium co-share shall be 19.5%.

Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded.

VOTE

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

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XI. Other

- a. Finance Committee Meeting, September 11, 2025
- b. Regular Board Meeting, September 11, 2025

XII. Adjournment

Ms. Susan Riccio moved to adjourn at 1:05 pm.

Ms. Ellen motioned to adjourn.

Ms. Ann Marie Cullinan seconded.

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