



Area Cooperative Educational Services

**ACES GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES**  
**THURSDAY, January 11, 2024**  
**SDA Building, 205 Skiff Street, Hamden, CT**

**Governing Board:** Ellen Michaels, Branford; Ethel Grant, Naugatuck; Martin Rudnick, North Haven; Susan Riccio, Orange; Lindsay Dahlheimer, RSD #13; Ray Ross, Wallingford; Thomas Van Stone, Waterbury

**ACES:** Olga Simoes, Andy Skarzynski, Timothy Howes, Thomas Danehy, William Rice, Emily Freel, Rebecca Cuevas, Dee Colson

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

**Guests:** Bill Jacobs, AEA; Cynthia Hudson, AESA Executive in Residence from Cincinnati, Ohio; Sara Armstrong, ECA Parent

**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 Lead by: Ms. Susan Riccio**

**3. Possible Action to amend agenda for Executive Session for Personnel Matters related to illness**

Mr. Ray Ross motioned to amend the agenda for the Executive Session for Personnel Matters related to illness.

Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

---

[www.aces.org](http://www.aces.org)

370 James Street, Suite 303 • New Haven, CT 06513 • [Phone \(203\) 498-6800](tel:2034986800) • [Fax \(203\) 498-6890](tel:2034986890)

---

The Regional Educational Service Center Serving South Central Connecticut.

ACES does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability or sexual orientation.



## Area Cooperative Educational Services

### **4. Public Participation/Communications**

Ms. Susan Riccio requested that the Board donate to create an auction item for the ACES Foundation's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala on March 21, 2024. The ACES Foundation has provided over \$1M in grants over the past 20 years to ACES employees and students to embellish and enrich the opportunities our students and clients have from their enrollment or connection to ACES.

Dr. Danehy invited the Board to attend the ACES Business Advisory Council, BAC, 21st Annual Employer Recognition Dinner on May 8, 2024, at Anthony's Oceanview, New Haven, CT, or advertise its support for our clients in the ACCESS through the evening's BAC Program Book. The Business Advisory Council sponsors a dinner each year wherein local businesses support the clients at ACCESS and Whitney High School North who work in their various business locations on a regular basis so that, through their employment, special needs community members support our local businesses. The businesses report that they look forward to the presence and work of our special needs clients and students as it makes their day more interesting, gives them a different perspective on life's challenges, and makes them feel more enriched.

### **5. Approval of Minutes**

#### **Approval of the Regular Board meeting minutes held on December 14, 2023**

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to accept the minutes held on December 14, 2023.

Ms. Lindsey Dahlheimer seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: Ellen Michaels

VOTE

#### **Approval of Executive Committee meeting minutes was held on December 22, 2023.**

Ms. Lindsey Dahlheimer motioned to accept the minutes held on December 22, 2023.

Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: Ethel Grant and Martin Rudnick

VOTE

### **6. Executive Director's Report**

a. Dr. Danehy introduced our special guest, Cynthia Hudson, Executive in Residence, from the Hamilton County Ohio Service Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. Dr. Hudson will be working side by side with Dr. Danehy and members of the ELC this week as part of the Executive in Residence experiential program wherein candidates for executive directorships throughout the country learn the experiences ED's face throughout the country. Though our states vary in their configuration of educational service centers,

---

[www.aces.org](http://www.aces.org)

370 James Street, Suite 303 • New Haven, CT 06513 • Phone (203) 498-6800 • Fax (203) 498-6890

---

The Regional Educational Service Center Serving South Central Connecticut.

ACES does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability or sexual orientation.



## Area Cooperative Educational Services

AESA provides an opportunity for practitioners to learn from one another about how their state's practices may compare and contrast to their own state.

b. ACES Services Updates – Timothy Howes provided an overview of the scope of services that ACES provides to our school districts and others around the state. See the attached PowerPoint to recognize the details associated with that service work.

c. Security Update – Dr. Danehy provided details of the most recent security issues related to a recent fiscal scam it faced.

d. Budget Proposals for 2024-2025 – Olga Simoes provided the details associated with the budget requests for the following departments:

1. Pupil Services
2. Clinical Services
3. Network Services
4. Educational Technology

**7. Filing of the Fiscal Report (subject to audit)** - Ms. Olga Simoes/Mr. Thomas Van Stone Projections for January 2024 indicate a favorable year-end financial position. The increased revenue for Special Education Schools and Services is noteworthy, contributing to the overall positive outlook. This report includes potential budget fluctuations, with final figures contingent on variables like actual student enrollment at our Special Education Schools and unforeseen circumstances. Our fiscal team is actively finalizing January billing, a crucial step toward obtaining essential financial data for future cash flow projections. Proactive monitoring of cash flow remains paramount to fulfilling ongoing financial obligations. Preliminary assessments reveal a slight surplus, reinforcing our dedication to fiscal responsibility. Acknowledging the dynamic nature of our operations in the education sector, we maintain vigilant and adaptable to changing circumstances. This prognosis involves continuous assessment of staffing needs, thorough processing of encumbrances, and vigilant monitoring of cash flow dynamics. Through these efforts, we remain resolute in our commitment to ensuring ACES's sustained success and stability. The positive year-end projections underscore our dedication to prudent financial management, positioning us well for the challenges and opportunities ahead. While celebrating successes, we acknowledge the deficit challenge within magnet schools, prompting a strategic focus on addressing and mitigating this concern in the coming fiscal year so that we may mitigate fiscal losses while supporting the mission-related work that ACES elects to further.

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

Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded.



## Area Cooperative Educational Services

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

### **8. Approval of Human Capital Development Report** – Ms. Rebecca Cuevas

Ms. Cuevas presented the HR report and reported 12 new hires in various positions, fifteen transfers/positions, seven resignations, eight leaves, one termination, and one retirement.

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to approve the Human Capital Development Report.

Mr. Ray Ross Seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

### **9. Schools Report** - Mr. Andrew Skarzynski

Mr. Andrew Skarzynski reported on the upcoming magnet and specialized schools and programs.

### **10. Operations and Early Head Start Report** - Mr. William Rice

Mr. William Rice provided updates on ACES Construction projects at 88 Bassett, WIMS, and CHASE. He also provided updates on Capital Improvement Projects, Facilities and Maintenance, Security, Data Privacy, ACES Magnet School Lottery, and Open Choice. Mr. William Rice requested the approval of the Early Head Start monthly reports and contract summaries.

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to accept the filing of the Early Head Start and Operations contract summaries.

Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

### **11. Core Knowledge Report**

Ms. Emily Freel reported on the success of the School Administrators' Data Review with ACES Educators and the report on PDSI, Ed Technology, Talent Development, and Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion.



## Area Cooperative Educational Services

### **12. New Business**

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

- a. Pupil Services
- b. Clinical Service
- c. Network Services
- d. Education Technology

Ms. Susan Riccio moved to approve the FY 2024-2025 budgets for Pupil Services, Clinical Services, Network Services, and Education Technology.

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to approve the FY 2024-2025 budgets for Pupil Services, Clinical Services, Network Services, and Education Technology.

Mr. Ray Ross Seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

### **13. Possible Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel Matters related to illness**

Ms. Susan Riccio moved into an Executive Session at 1:30 p.m. with the Governing Board, Rebecca Cuevas, the Human Capital Development Director, and Dr. Thomas Danehy to discuss illness-related Personnel Matters.

Mr. Ray Ross motioned to enter into an Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel Matters related to illness.

Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded.

Mr. Martin Rudnick motioned to work with the Union to reevaluate and allow sick time donation at the April 4, 2024, Governing Board Meeting.

Mr. Ray Ross seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

The Governing Board Reconvened for regular session at 1:36 pm.

Ethel Grant motioned to accept the Executive Director's recommendation to support members of CSEIU to donate sick time hours to three members in need of sick time due to life-threatening illnesses. The motion was seconded by Martin Rudnick. The motion passed unanimously.



## Area Cooperative Educational Services

### **14. Other**

- a. Finance Committee Meeting, February 8, 2024
- b. Regular Board Meeting, February 8, 2024

### **15. Adjournment**

Mr. Martin Rudnick motioned to adjourn at 1:38 pm

Mr. Ray Ross Seconded

Motion passes unanimously.

### **16. Attachment**

ACES Service PowerPoint]