



ACES GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, January 8, 2026
SDA Building, 205 Skiff Street, Hamden, CT

Governing Board: Ann Marie Cullen, Cheshire; Nickimmy Hayes, Meriden; Nicole Wilhelm, Milford; 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, Middletown, Naugatuck, New Haven, North Branford, Oxford, RSD#5, RSD #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury, West Haven, Wolcott, Woodbridge

Guests: Patrice McCarthy, CABE, Todd Solli, ACES, Mario Nozzolini, F&F.

I. Welcome/Call to Order:

Ms. Susan Riccio called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:03 pm after determining a quorum was present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

Ms. Susan Riccio led the pledge.

Ms. Susan Riccio asked for a moment of silence for Mr. Raymond Ross, an ACES Governing Board member from Wallingford, who passed.

III. Public Participation

N/A

IV. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Approval of minutes of the regular board meeting held on December 11, 2025.

Mr. Robert Moore motioned to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes held on December 11, 2025.

Ms. Nickimmy Hayes seconded.

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All in favor: Motion passed unanimously.
Opposed: None
Abstention: Mr. Martin Rudnick

- V. **Executive Director's Report** - Dr. Thomas M. Danehy
- a. Legislative Update - Patrice McCarthy, Executive Director, CABE
 - b. HVAC IAQ Close-Out Presentation: F&F Mechanical
 - c. FY 2025 Audit- Mr. Timothy Howes
 - d. ACES 2026-2027 Calendars

- VI. **Filing of the Fiscal Report (subject to audit)** – Ms. Susan Riccio
- Ms. Susan Riccio moved that the ACES Board of Directors accept the January financial report as presented, subject to audit. Reflecting an overall surplus of \$8.6 million. While magnet schools are currently operating at a deficit and have not received additional state funding information, the agency will continue active student recruitment efforts. Strong special education enrollments and continued growth in service contracts, combined with careful expense management, support maintaining a positive surplus position.
- Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded.

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

- VII. **Approval of Human Capital Development Report** – Ms. Rebecca Cuevas
- Ms. Cuevas presented the HR report, which showed 21 new hires across various positions, 11 resignations, 2 terminations, 10 transfers/position changes, 21 leaves, and 0 retirements. She also shared that Human Capital Development recognized 18 employees across ACES for the Shining Star Recognition Coin.

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

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

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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 the Early Head Start Program.

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

Mr. Martin Rudnick motioned to accept the Early Head Start Monthly Report.
Mr. Robert Moore seconded.

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

IX. Schools and Programs Report – Ms. Michelle Coogan

Ms. Michelle Coogan highlighted Leadership Engagement and Collaboration, Curriculum and Assessment, Professional Learning Opportunities, and Community and Schools Connections.

X. New Business

a. Possible action to approve 2026-2027 ACES Calendars

Ms. Nickimmy Hayes motioned to approve ACES 2026-2027 Calendars.
Mr. Robert Moore seconded,

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

b. Possible action to approve HVAC IAQ Grant

Mr. Martin Rudnick motioned to approve the HVAC IAQ Grant.
Mr. Robert Moore seconded.

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

c. Possible action to approve the FY2025 Audit

Mr. Martin Rudnick motioned to approve the Draft FY2025 Audit.
Mr. Robert Moored seconded.

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

XI. Possible Executive Session for the purpose of Hiring Executive Director

Ms. Susan Riccio moved to enter Executive Session with the Governing Board and Dr. Thomas Danehy at 12:25 pm.

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

The Board reconvened in Regular Session at 12:52.

XII. Other

- a. Finance Committee Meeting, February 12, 2026
- b. Regular Board Meeting, February 12, 2026

XIII. Adjournment:

Ms. Susan Riccio moved to adjourn at 12:57 pm

XIV. Attachments

- a. Final Audit of Leeder Hill Construction Project.
- b. FY Draft Audit

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