



**ACES GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES**  
**THURSDAY, March 13, 2025**  
**SDA Building, 205 Skiff Street, Hamden, CT**

**Governing Board:** Laura Harris, Derby, Ethel Grant, Naugatuck, Susan Riccio, Orange, Lindsay Dahlheimer, RSD #13, Thomas Van Stone, Waterbury

**ACES:** Thomas Danehy, Timothy Howes, William Rice, Emily Freel, Dee Colson

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

**I. Welcome/Call to Order**

Ms. Susan Riccio called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:06 pm after determining a quorum was present.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Susan Riccio

**III. Public Participation/Communications**

Ms. Ethel Grant went to Capitol Hill with CABE. She also shared that Naugatuck is closing a school at the end of the school year. Thomas Van Stone shared that Waterbury is hosting a Robotics Competition.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes held on February 13, 2025.

Ms. Lindsey Dahlheimer seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

**VOTE**

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

1. Legislative Initiatives and Testimony.
  - a. RESC Alliance Overview and Education Committee.
  - b. Testimony before Education and Appropriations Committees to support:
    - i. Magnet School Funding.
    - ii. Teacher in Residence Program.
    - iii. Additional funding for ACES at Chase construction project.
    - iv. Teacher shortage solution in availability of retired teachers to teach post-retirement.
2. 2025-2026 ACES Budget Approval Process and Budget Summary.
3. Policies regarding School Climate and Title IX.
  - a. Policy # 4118.11 Title IX (Personnel)
  - b. Policy # 5145.44 Title IX (Students)
  - c. Policy # 5131.911 School Climate.
  - d. ACES Foundation Gala Auction item

**VI. Filing of the Fiscal Report (subject to audit) - Mr. Thomas Van Stone**

The Governing Board acknowledges the receipt and review of the February 2024-2025 fiscal report, which reflects sound financial management and continued alignment with ACES' strategic priorities. The report highlights the organization's ongoing commitment to fiscal responsibility, with balanced expenditures across key programs and a proactive approach to financial planning.

Mr. Thomas Van Stone motioned to accept the filing of the fiscal report.  
Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

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 21 new hires in various positions, eight resignations, three terminations, six transfers or position changes, and 14 leaves. Human Capital Development attended the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce Career Fair. These events provide job seekers with firsthand information about our schools, programs, and services, helping them explore their career paths, connect with potential employment, and gain valuable insights into what ACES offers. On February 24<sup>th</sup>, Human Capital Development facilitated a new employee orientation with 112 attendees. Human Capital Development, Executive Leadership,

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and the AEA union convened to plan for Chase's added high school grades in 2025-26. At this time, a collaborative agreement has been finalized.

Mr. Thomas Van Stone moved to accept the Human Capital report.

Ms. Lindsey Dahlheimer motioned to accept the Human Capital report.

Ms. Laura Harris seconded.

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. Rice presented the Governing Board with the Point of Service Procedures for Meal Counting and the Healthy Food Certificate certification. He also shared the Early Head Start Governing Board Report.

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

Ms. Ethel motioned to accept the Early Head Start monthly reports and summaries.

Ms. Lindsey Dahlheimer seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

**VOTE**

**IX. Core Knowledge Report – Ms. Emily Freel**

Ms. Emily Freel provided updated reports on Curriculum, Schools, Talent Development, Data Support, Educational Technology, and Professional Development Support.

**X. Old business**

**a. Possible action to approve Policy # 4118.11 Title IX (Personnel)**

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to approve Policy # 4118.11 Title IX Personnel.

Ms. Lindsey Dahlheimer seconded.

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

**VOTE**

**b. Possible action to approve Policy # 5145.44 Title IX ( Students)**

Ms. Lindsey Dahlheimer motioned to approve Policy # 5145.44 Title IX Students  
Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

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

**VOTE**

**c. Possible action to approve Policy # 5131.911 School Climate**

Ms. Laura Harris motioned to approve Policy # 5131.911, School Climate  
Ms. Ethel Grant seconded,

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

**VOTE**

**XI. Possible action to approve the Stipulated Agreement in lieu of expulsion.**

Ms. Susan Riccio moved to enter into an Executive Session at 1:05 p.m. to discuss a stipulated agreement in lieu of expulsion with the Board, Dr. Thomas Danehy, Timothy Howes, and Dr. William Rice.

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to enter into an Executive Session to discuss a stipulated agreement in lieu of expulsion.

Ms. Lindsey Dahlheimer seconded.

The regular Board Meeting resumed at 1:07 pm.

**XII. New Business**

**a. Possible action to approve ACES Meal Charging Policy.**

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to approve the ACES Meal Charging Policy.  
Ms. Laura Harris seconded.

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

**VOTE**

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**b. Possible action to approve Healthy Food Certificate.**

Ms. Lindsey Dahlheimer motioned to approve the Healthy Food Certificate.  
Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

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

**VOTE**

**c. Possible action to approve updated cost estimates for the Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment Package for ACES @ 88 Bassett Project # 244-043 SP.**

Ms. Lindsey Dahlheimer motioned to approve the updated cost estimates for the Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment Package for ACES @ 88 Bassett Project #244-043-SP.  
Ms. Laura Harris seconded.

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

**VOTE**

**d. Possible action to approve the Stipulated Agreement in lieu of expulsion.**

Ms. Lindsey Dahlheimer motioned to approve the Stipulated Agreement in lieu of expulsion.  
Ms. Laura Harris seconded.

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

**VOTE**

**e. Possible action to approve the donation of a statue to ACES Foundation for auction at the Gala at an opening bid of \$3,500, with all proceeds to go to ACES Foundation for student grants or scholarships.**

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to approve the donation of a statue to the ACES Foundation for auction at the Gala at an opening bid of \$3,500, with all proceeds to go to the ACES Foundation for student grants or scholarships.  
Ms. Lindsey Dahlheimer seconded.

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

**VOTE**

**XIII. Other**

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- a. Finance Committee Meeting, April 10, 2025
- b. Regular Board Meeting, April 10, 2025

**XIV. Adjournment**

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to adjourn at 1:15 pm

Ms. Lindsey Dahlheimer seconded.

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