



**ACES GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES**  
**THURSDAY, November 9, 2023**  
**SDA Building, 205 Skiff Street, Hamden, CT**

**Governing Board:** Susan Bradford, Bethany; Laura Harris, Derby; Ethel Grant, Naugatuck; Martin Rudnick, North Haven; Susan Riccio, Orange; Carol Oladele, RSD #5; Ray Ross, Wallingford; Thomas Van Stone, Waterbury; Kimberly Kenny, West Haven;

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

**Not Present:** Ansonia, Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Hamden, Meriden, Middletown, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, Oxford, Seymour, Wolcott, Woodbridge

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**1. Welcome/Call to Order**

Ms. Susan Riccio called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:05 pm after determining a quorum was present.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance Lead by: Ms. Susan Riccio**

**3. Public Participation/Communications**

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the Regular Board Meeting held on October 12, 2023.

Mr. Ray Ross motioned to accept the minutes of the ACES Governing Board on October 12, 2023.  
Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: Martin Rudnick, Ethel Grant, Ray Ross

VOTE

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

- A. Presentation of Annual Report as required by statute
- B. Early Head Start Annual Training – Heather Granja
- C. Status of construction projects at Bassett Road, ACES at Chase, and Wintergreen
- D. Presentation of proposed tuitions for special education schools and programs, service rates, non-bargaining employees' wages and benefits effective July 1, 2024.
- E. Presentation of proposed substitute employee wages effective November 17, 2023
- F. Status of central office move to 370 James Street, New Haven
- G. Goals for Executive Director for 2023-2024 School Year

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

The November report offers a snapshot of our agency's financial status, detailing year-to-date expenditures and encumbrances. Preliminary projections currently indicate a positive financial position, with expected fluctuations as we gather more data, including student enrollment and service contract numbers, which will hinge on factors like actual student enrollment numbers and unforeseen circumstances. We are on track to complete November billing, which will provide us with financial data for future cash flow projections. Monitoring our cash flow is essential to meet financial obligations. While early projections suggest a surplus, the dynamic nature of our operations and the education sector requires us to stay vigilant and adaptable to changing circumstances. By actively assessing staffing needs, processing encumbrances, and closely monitoring cash flow, we're committed to ensuring the ongoing success and stability of ACES.

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

Mr. Ray Ross Seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

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

Ms. Rebecca Cuevas presented the HR report and reported 28 new hires in various positions, 16 resignations, 19 transfers/position changes, 12 leaves, two terminations, and no retirements.

Mr. Martin Rudnick motioned to approve the Human Capital Report.

Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

**8. School Report-** Mr. Andrew Skarzynski

Mr. Skarzynski reported on the upcoming Magnet, Specialized Schools and Programs.

**9. Operations and Early Head Start Report** – Mr. William Rice

Mr. William Rice reported on Construction Project Updates for 88 Bassett, WIMS, and CHASE. ACES is in the process of submitting an HVAC grant application for Wintergreen and Village School. Early Head Start, Heather Granja presented a Governance Review, Eligibility Determination, and Verification slide show. Mr. William Rice requested the approval of the Early Head Start monthly reports and contract summaries.

Mr. Ray Ross motioned to accept the filing of the Early Head Start and Operations contract summaries.

Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded.

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

VOTE

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

Ms. Emily Freel reported on Curriculum, Data-Informed PLCs, Professional Development and School Improvement, Educational Technology, the Office of Talent Development, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

**11. Old Business**

**A. Possible action to approve policy concerning Chest feeding, second read.**

Mr. Ray Ross motioned to approve the Chest feeding policy.  
Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

All in favor: Susan Riccio, Ethel Grant, Ray Ross, Martin Rudnick, Laura Harris, Kimberly Kenny, Thomas Van Stone.  
Opposed: Susan Bradford  
Abstention: Carol Oladele

VOTE

**B. Possible action to approve policy concerning Affirmative Action, second read.**

Ms. Carol Oladele motioned to amend the Affirmative Action Policy to read the Antidiscrimination Policy.  
Ms. Laura Harris seconded.

Ms. Ethel Grant motion to approve the Antidiscrimination Policy.  
Mr. Ray Ross seconded.

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

VOTE

**12. New Business**

**A. Possible action to approve job description for Behavior Technicians.**

Mr. Ray Ross motioned to approve the job description for Behavior Technicians.  
Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded.

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

VOTE

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**B. Possible action to approve job description for Individual Aides.**

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to approve the job description for Individual Aides.

Mr. Ray Ross seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

**C. Possible action to approve tuitions for special education schools and programs, effective July 1, 2024.**

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to approve the tuition for special education schools and programs, effective July 1, 2024.

Mr. Ray Ross Seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: Laura Harris

VOTE

**D. Possible action to approve service rates, effective July 1, 2024.**

Mr. Martin Rudnick motioned to approve the service rates effective July 1, 2024.

Mr. Ray Ross seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: Laura Harris

VOTE

**E. Possible action to approve salary increases and benefits for non-bargaining employees, effective July 1, 2024.**

Mr. Ray Ross motioned to approve salary increases and benefits for non-bargaining employees, effective July 1, 2024.

Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

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- F.** Possible action to approve the sale of furnishings and accouterments at 350 State Street by auction or liquidation sale consistent with the policy process regarding the liquidation of vehicles before moving to 370 James Street, New Haven.

Mr. Ray Ross motioned to approve the sale of furnishings and accouterments at 350 State Street by auction or liquidation sale consistent with the policy process regarding the liquidation of vehicles before moving to 370 James Street, New Haven.

Ms. Laura Harris seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

- G.** Possible action to approve substitute pay increases effective November 17, 2023.

Mr. Martin Rudnick motioned to approve substitute pay increases effective November 17, 2023.

Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

- H.** Early Head Start Policy Council By-Laws for the first read.

The Board voted on the Early Head Start Policy Council By-Laws as a possible action to approve in the December Regular Board Meeting.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

**13. Adjournment:** 1:28 pm.

**14. Other**

- a. Finance Committee Meeting, December 14, 2023
- b. Regular Board Meeting, December 14, 2023

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