



Area Cooperative Educational Services

DRAFT
ACES GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, October 9, 2025
SDA Building, 205 Skiff Street, Hamden, CT

Governing Board: Ellen Michaels, Branford; Ann Marie Cullinan, Cheshire; Mckimmy Hayes, Meriden; Mike Smith, Milford; Martin Rudnick, North Haven; Susan Riccio, Orange; Carol Oladele, RSD #5 Amity; Lindsay Dahlheimer, RSD #13; Thomas Van Stone, Waterbury; Roberta Leonard, Wolcott

ACES: Dr. Thomas Danehy, Timothy Howes, Dr. William Rice, Michelle Coogan, Dee Colson

Not Present: Ansonia, Bethany, Derby, East Haven, Hamden, Middletown, Naugatuck, New Haven, North Branford, Oxford, RSD # 16, Seymour, Wallingford, West Haven, Woodbridge

Guests: Carolyn Nelson, AEA; Bob Moore, Region 13; Brad Anderson; David Stein; Silver and Petrucelli; Chip Natsis, Downs Construction; Tim Gunn, Bear Notch.

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.

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Susan Riccio.

II. Recognition and Board Member Services

Dr. Danehy and Ms. Susan Riccio recognized the following Board Members for their years of service on the ACES Governing Board. Mr. Mike Smith, Milford; Ms. Ethel Grant, Naugatuck; Ellen Michaels, North Branford; and Lindsay Dahlheimer, RSD #13.

III. Public Participation

Mr. Martin Rudnick announced that Green Acres Elementary School in North Haven received the inaugural 2025 Connecticut Blue Ribbon Schools Program Honor.

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IV. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Lindsay Dahlheimer motioned to approve the Regular Board Meeting held on September 11, 2025.

Ms. Ellen Michaels seconded the motion.

All in favor:	Motion Passed Unanimously	VOTE
Opposed:	None	
Abstention:	Carol Oladele	

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to approve the Special Board Meeting Minutes held on September 16, 2025.

All in favor:	Motion Passed Unanimously	VOTE
Opposed:	None	
Abstention:	Carol Oladele, Martin Rudnick, Ellen Michaels	

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

- a. Review of the ACES CHASE Academy renovation project. David Stein, Silver & Petrucelli.
- b. 88 Bassett Road Tour Highlights
- c. October 1, 2025 Student Enrollment

VI. Filing of the Fiscal Report (subject to audit) – Thomas Van Stone

Mr. Van Stone moved that the ACES Board of Directors accept the financial report as presented, subject to audit, reflecting a positive surplus position supported by strong enrollment in our special education schools. Revenue for the magnet schools and service contracts remains strong, and expenses are being effectively managed.

Ms. Roberta Leonard motioned to accept the filing of the fiscal report subject to audit.

Ms. Lindsay Dahlheimer seconded.

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

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

Ms. Cuevas presented the HR report, which showed 34 new hires across various positions, 10 resignations, 45 terminations (many from LEAP with end-of-contract/pre-established end dates), 11 transfers/position changes, 13 leaves, and 0 retirements. She



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also reported attending the AESA Advocacy in Action Conference in Washington, DC, with Dr. Thomas Danehy and Dr. William Rice. On September 30, 2025, she attended Shipman’s 2025 Labor and Employment Law Seminar. CT FMALA was also discussed at length.

Mr. Martin Rudnick motioned to approve the HCD Report.
Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

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

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.

Ms. Lindsay Dahlheimer motioned to accept the Early Head Start Report.
Mr. Mike Smith seconded.

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

IX. Assistant Superintendent Report – Ms. Michelle Coogan

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

X. Possible Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a Student Expulsion matter and the Executive Director Search process.

Ms. Susan Riccio moved to enter into Executive Session at 1:18 pm with Dr. Danehy to discuss a stipulated agreement and the Executive Director search.

Ms. Susan Riccio moved to amend the agenda to include a vote on adding a stipulated agreement regarding a student's expulsion.



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Ms. Lindsay Dahlheimer motioned to amend the agenda to include a vote on adding a stipulated agreement regarding a student's expulsion.

Mr. Mike Smith seconded.

The Board returned to Regular Session at 1:29 pm.

Ms. Susan Ricco motioned to approve the stipulated agreement.

Ms. Ethel Grant seconded,

Motion Carries

VOTE

Opposed: Carol Oladele

Abstention: None

XI. Other

- a. Finance Committee Meeting, November 13, 2025
- b. Regular Board Meeting, November 13, 2025

XII. Adjournment:

Ms. Susan Ricco moved to adjourn at 1:39 pm to begin a tour of the renovation project at 88 Bassett Road, North Haven.