



**ACES GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES**  
**THURSDAY, September 12, 2024**  
**SDA Building, 205 Skiff Street, Hamden, CT**

**Governing Board:** Ann Marie Cullinan, Cheshire; Laura Harris, Derby; Mike Smith, Milford; Ethel Grant, Naugatuck; Martin Rudnick, North Haven; Susan Riccio, Orange; Lindsay Dahlheimer, RSD #13; Thomas Van Stone, Waterbury; Roberta Leonard, Wolcott.

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

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

**Guests:** Silver & Petrucelli, Downes Construction, William Jacobs, AEA, Kevin Buno, Educational Center for the Arts, Dionne Lowndes, Early Headstart, Heather Granja, Early Headstart, Scott Sadinsky, ACES Human Capital Development.

**1. Welcome/Call to Order**

Ms. Susan Riccio called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:01 pm after determining a quorum was present.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Susan Ricco

Ms. Susan Ricco asked to join in a moment of silence to honor and remember those affected by 9/11.

**3. Public Participation/Communications**

Ms. Susan Riccio informed the Board of Olga Simoes's new position with the Association of Educational Service Agency (AESA).

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Roberta Leonard motioned to approve the Regular Governing Board Meeting minutes on June 6, 2024.

Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded.

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

VOTE

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to approve the Special Board Meeting Minutes on July 30, 2024.  
Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded.

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

VOTE

Mr. Mike Smith motioned to approve the Special Board Meeting Minutes on August 27, 2024.  
Ms. Laura Harris seconded.

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

VOTE

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

1. Presentation on Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School - Silver and Petrucelli and Downes Construction
2. Schools’ Opening Report – Dr. Danehy
  - a. Cell Phone practices – Dr. Danehy
  - b. District Literacy Plan – Ms. Emily Freel
  - c. Establish a Building Committee for the Educational Center for the Arts - Dr. Danehy and Mr. Kevin Buno
3. Recognizing Dionne Lowndes work on the Chest Feeding/Breast Feeding Policy – Dr. Danehy and Ms. Rebecca Cuevas
4. Human Capital Development Increasing Educator Diversity Report- Ms. Rebecca Cuevas
5. Retirement Consortium Savings – Mr. Timothy Howes

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

As we begin the school year, the financial outlook is promising, with early projections indicating a potential surplus. Enrollment numbers are strong, and contract agreements have been robust, providing a solid foundation for our fiscal planning. While it's still early in the process, these positive trends suggest a healthy financial year ahead.

Mr. Thomas Van Stone motioned to accept the filing of the fiscal report.  
Mr. Mike Smith seconded,

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

VOTE

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

Ms. Cuevas presented the HCD report and reported 70 new hires in various positions, 59 transfers/position changes, 16 Leaves, 64 terminations, and seven retirements. ACES had 58 participants in the first orientation of the new year. HCD has updated the annual employee handbook and administrators manual.

Ms. Roberta Leonard motioned to accept the Human Capital Report.  
Ms. Laura Harris seconded.

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

VOTE

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

Mr. Rice provided updates on the ACES Construction Projects at CHASE, 670 Wintergreen, and 88 Bassett Road, including Capital Improvement Projects for 670 Wintergreen, HVAC, ECA upgrades, a new roof, HVAC, LED upgrades, FF&E and Technology, and Structural work. Updates were also given on Operations, Facilities, Maintenance, Internal Transportation, ACES Security, Data Privacy, School and Programs. Mr. Rice reported on the 2024 Community Assessment for Early Head Start.

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

Ms. Roberta Leonard motioned to accept the Operations and Early Head Start monthly reports and summaries.

Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded.

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

VOTE

Mr. Rice requested approval for the 2025 baseline application and budget for the Five-Year Head Start Grant programs.

Ms. Laura Harris motioned to accept the 2025 baseline application and budget for the Five-Year Head Start Grant programs.

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Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

**9. Core Knowledge Report**

Ms. Emily Freel provided details on the ACES 2024-2025 District Literacy Plan and updated reports on curriculum, evaluation, professional development, data, educational technology, and talent development.

**10. Old Business**

- 1. Resolutions for the Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School Project

Mr. Martin Rudnick motioned to accept the Resolutions for the Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School Project.

Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

**11. New Business**

- 1. Possible action to establish a Building Committee for the Educational Center for the Arts

Mr. Martin Rudnick motioned to establish a Building Committee for the Educational Center for the Arts.

Martin Rudnick, Mike Smith, Ethel Grant, and Lindsey Dahlheimer volunteered on the building committee.

Mr. Mike Smith seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

**12. Possible Executive Session**

- 1. For the purpose of negotiations



Ms. Susan Riccio moved to enter into an Executive Session with Dr. Thomas Danehy, Timothy Howes, and William Rice at 1:25 p.m. for negotiations. The regular board meeting resumed at 1:41 p.m.

### **13. Other**

- a. Finance Committee Meeting, October 10, 2024
- b. Regular Board Meeting, October 10, 2024

### **14. Adjournment**

Mr. Martin Rudnick moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:45 p.m.  
Ms. Roberta Leonard seconded.

### **15. Attachments**

1. Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School Phasing Plan

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