



**Draft**  
**ACES GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES**  
**THURSDAY, March 11, 2021, noon, via Zoom**

**Governing Board:** Edward Maher, Bethany; Ellen Michaels, Branford; Laura Harris, Derby; Mary Ellen Pellegrino, East Haven; Lynn Campo, Hamden; Robert Kosienki, Meriden; Ethel Grant, Naugatuck; Susan Riccio, Orange; Shelly Lacey-Castelot, Oxford; Robyn Berke, RSD #5; Norman Hicks, RSD#13, Michael Votto, Wallingford; Elizabeth Brown, Waterbury; (joined at 12:25 pm) Roberta Leonard, Wolcott

**ACES:** Olga Simoes, Steven Cook, Timothy Howes, Thomas Danehy, William Rice, Dee Colson

**Not Present:** Ansonia, Cheshire, Middletown, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, RSD#16, Seymour, West Haven, Woodbridge

**1. Welcome/Call to Order**

Norman Hicks called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:02 pm after determining a quorum was present.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Edward Maher led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Public Participation/Communications**

Dr. Danehy reminded the Board of the upcoming ACES Foundation Virtual Gala on at 5:30PM, March 25, 2021, and encouraged them to attend.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Michael Votto made a motion to accept the ACES Governing Board Regular Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2021

Ms. Ellen Michaels seconded

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

Ms. Ethel Grant made a motion to accept the minutes of the ACES Governing Board Special Meeting held on March 4, 2021

Mr. Michael Votto seconded

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All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously  
Opposed: None  
Abstention: Bethany, Branford, East Haven, RSD#5,

VOTE

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

- a. Dr. Danehy reported on COVID vaccines. ACES employees participated in a COVID questionnaire. We received 567 responses, and 65% of ACES' employees have received their first vaccine, and 57% have received their second vaccine.
- b. The ACES School Calendars for FY 2021-2022 were presented to the Board. One denoted the calendar for special education schools; the other, Wintergreen, Thomas Edison and Educational Center for the Arts.
- c. ACES Director of Finances Olga Simoes presented and reviewed with the Board Budget Proposals for FY 2021-2022 for the following schools and services:
  - 1. Whitney Academy and CREATE
  - 2. Mill Academy
  - 3. Village School
  - 4. Village EIBI
  - 5. SAILS
  - 6. Whitney High School North
  - 7. Mill Elementary School
  - 8. Transportation

**6. Filing of the Fiscal Report (subject to audit)** - Mrs. Simoes/Ms. Riccio

This month our financial position continues in a slight surplus position. Student enrollment in special education schools has remained steady, and as we begin to transition into a fully open model, we anticipate enrollment to continue to climb. We have received additional contracts within our services group, which enhances our surplus. We have also been scrutinizing expenses and continue to manage pandemic-related costs. We have identified savings in salaries, wages, and health insurance costs to bring us into a surplus position through expense management. As we shift to the last few months of the school year, we will continue to manage expenses, enroll students and procure new contracts to strengthen our financial standing.

Ms. Susan Riccio motioned to approve the filing of the fiscal report.  
Ms. Roberta Leonard seconded.

All in favor: The Motion Passed Unanimously

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Opposed: None  
Abstention: None

VOTE

**7. Approval of Human Resources Report - Mr. Cook**

Mr. Cook presented the HR report and reported ten new hires in various positions, three transfers or position changes, nine resignations, one retirement, and twelve leaves of absence, which are similar to prior years.

Mr. Cook shared that we are currently focusing on the pandemic and how we can best support our staff with vaccination sign-up, FFCRA time due to Covid exposure, and travel expectations as we approach the April break.

Our current focal areas include:

- a. The Teacher Residency Program moving into the next phase of interviewing interested applicants for the ACES cohort
- b. Fingerprinting, which has been running smoothly, and we may be part of the 20-21 random FBI audits through the State.
- c. Filling positions as needed for the individuals who will retire at the end of this academic year

Ms. Robyn Berke made a motion to approve the filing of the HR report  
Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

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

VOTE

**8. Curriculum & Instruction Report - Mr. Rice**

Mr. Rice reported on the COVID status of ACES Magnet Schools, Specialized Schools, and Hybrid and Virtual Learning programs. He also noted referrals continue to arrive for all specialized programs. Curriculum committee work continues along with equity work with principals and directors supported by PDSI. ACES Summer Academy - High School Credit Recovery Dates are 7/6/21 through August 13, 2021

**9. Early Head Start Update\*\***-Dr. Danehy

The Executive Director requests the approval of the Early Head Start monthly reports and contract summaries.

Mr. Robert Kosienski motioned to approve the Early Head Start Updates.  
Ms. Elizabeth Brown seconded.

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

VOTE

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**10. Old Business**

N/A

**11. New Business**

Approval of FY 2021-2022 Proposed Budgets

1. Whitney Academy and CREATE
2. Mill Academy
3. Village School
4. Village EIBI
5. SAILS
6. Whitney High School North
7. Mill Elementary School
8. Transportation

Ms. Susan Riccio motioned to approve the FY2021-2022 Budgets.

Ms. Ethel Grant & Rob Kosienski seconded.

All in favor: Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

**12. Adjournment:** 12:38 pm

**13. Attachments**

**14. Other** Next Meeting April 8, 2021

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