



**ACES GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES  
THURSDAY, February 10, 2022  
Meeting at Noon  
205 Skiff Street, Hamden, CT & ZOOM**

- Governing Board:** Fran DiGiorgi, Ansonia; Edward Maher, Bethany; Ellen Michaels, Branford; Anthony Perugini, Cheshire; Laura Harris, Derby; Tony Martorelli, III, Meriden; Amanda Gabriele, North Haven; Susan Riccio, Orange; Carol Oladele, RSD #5; Roy Ross, Wallingford; Roberta Leonard, Wolcott
- ACES:** Olga Simoes, Steven Cook, Timothy Howes, Thomas Danehy, William Rice, Evelyn Rossetti-Ryan
- Not Present:** East Haven, Hamden, Middletown, Milford, Naugatuck, New Haven, North Branford, Oxford, RSD#13, RSD#16, Seymour, Waterbury, West Haven, Woodbridge
- Members of Audience:** William Jacobs, AEA; Eric Carson, ACES Whitney Academy

**1. Welcome/Call to Order**

Ms. Susan Riccio called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:07 pm after determining a quorum was present.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Evelyn Rossetti-Ryan

**3. Public Participation/Communications**

Dr. Danehy presented the CABE Communication Award, The Whitney Weekly Student News Plaque, to Eric Carson for his leadership in guiding students through the production of the weekly school news program.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Fran DiGiorgi motioned to accept the ACES Governing Board Minutes of January 13, 2022.  
Ms. Laura Harris seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously  
Opposed: None  
Abstention: Tony Perugini & Ray Roy

VOTE

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

- a. Dr. Danehy congratulated Evelyn Rossetti-Ryan for her years of service to ACES. Dr. Rossetti-Ryan will be relocating out of state with her family. Most recently she has lead the work at ACCESS, our program for adults with special needs.
- b. Dr. Danehy announced that we will be working on the Strategic Design Plan for the next years 2022-2027. Work on the strategic plan will start in the summer/fall 2022 and we expect to be completed by year end.
- c. Olga Simoes presented budgets for the following programs and schools: SAILS
  - 1. Whitney HS North
  - 2. Mill Elementary
  - 3. Pupil Services
  - 4. Extension Therapy Services
  - 5. Behavioral Services
  - 6. Governing Board
  - 7. Office of Executive Director
  - 8. PDSI
  - 9. ACES International
- d. Dr. Danehy presented Job Descriptions for Special Programs and Community Engagement Director, Coordinator of Head Start, and Coordinator of ACCESS. Given the recent resignation, the new job descriptions describe how the work of the former position will be distributed.
- e. We will commence contract negotiations with CSEA soon.
- f. Dr. Danehy shared the mid-year report for the Executive Director’s Goals 2021-2022
- g. Mr. Howes presented the Chase Parent Feedback for informational purposes.

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

February projections continue to show a deficit in our budget’s bottom line as we work closely to bring it to a break-even position. Special education schools and programs continue with a surplus trend, with steady enrollment. ACES Magnet schools are currently in a deficit position, which further stresses our efforts to close the gap through prudent expense and revenue monitoring. ACES Service revenue stream remains steady. Building operations are trending unfavorably due to the unexpected maintenance costs at the ACES at Chase campus. We are taking a conservative approach to our spending and closely monitoring our cash flow to ensure a favorable financial position for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

Ms. Laura Harris motioned to accept the filing of the Fiscal Report.  
Ms. Fran DiGiorgi seconded.

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

VOTE

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

Mr. Cook presented the HR report and reported 19 new hires, including two LEAP staff, seven transfers/position changes, ten resignations, 0 retirements, and seven leaves. COVID being so prevalent shortly after the holidays has made following COVID testing mandates easier. We now have a small number of staff who need to test weekly, and they have been complying. In addition, aces will be part of a pilot for special education TRP residents.

Ms. Roberta Leonard motioned to accept the filing of the HR Report.  
Ms. Fran DiGiorgi seconded.

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

VOTE

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

ACES Schools are in full in-person programming with appropriate COVID Protocols in place. Referrals continue to come in for specialized programs. Parent Engagement Specialist reviewed parent surveys with schools and has developed a RESC parent engagement group and a parent engagement affinity group for schools in the ACES catchment.

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

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

Ms. Laura Harris motioned to accept the filing of the Early Head Start Report.  
Mr. Tony Martorelli, III seconded.

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

VOTE

**10. New Business**

Possible action to approve job descriptions for Special Programs and Community Engagement Director, Coordinator of Head Start & Coordinator of ACCESS.

Ms. Fran DiGiorgi motioned to approve the job descriptions above.  
Mr. Tony Martorelli, III seconded.

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

VOTE

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Possible action to approve the below budgets as presented by Olga Simoes

1. SAILS
2. Whitney HS North
3. Mill Elementary
4. Pupil Services
5. Extension Therapy Services
6. Behavioral Services
7. Governing Board
8. Office of Executive Director
9. PDSI
10. ACES International

Ms. Fran DiGiorgi motioned to accept the approval of the presented budgets.  
Ms. Laura Harris seconded.

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

VOTE

**11. Possible Executive Session**

Negotiation of Real Estate- Entered into negotiations at 12:52 pm

Ms. Fran DiGiorgi motioned to enter into negotiations.  
Mr. Tony Martorelli, III seconded

**12. Adjournment** - Out of Executive Session 1:05 pm

**13. Other** – Next meeting, March 10, 2022

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