

## Minutes

### ACES Governing Board January 11, 2018

205 Skiff Street  
Hamden, CT 06517

Present: Elizabeth Brown, Waterbury; Lynn Campo, Hamden; Ethel Grant, Naugatuck; Cathy Hellreich, Cheshire; Norm Hicks, Regional District #13; Inez Kelso, Bethany; Roberta Leonard, Wolcott; John Lineen, Meriden; Dorothy Logan, North Haven (1:25pm); Susan O'Brien, Oxford; Tammy Raccio, Wallingford (alternate); Susan Riccio, Orange

ACES: Thomas Danehy, Tim Howes, Evelyn Rossetti-Ryan, Elaine Sein, Rachel Sexton  
Technology Services Staff: Scott Olm  
Union Representation: Bill Jacobs

Not Present: Ansonia, Derby, East Haven, Middletown, Milford, Regional District #5, Woodbridge

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#### 1. Call to Order

Norm Hicks called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:30 PM after it was determined that a quorum was present. Dr. Danehy explained that due to recent changes and non-participation from several member districts the quorum was reduced.

#### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Lineen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### 3. Public Participation/Communications

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Judith Hotz. Mr. Hicks spoke fondly of Ms. Hotz and her contributions to the ACES Governing Board.

Mr. Hicks announced that Sara Querfeld resigned from the Board and wished her well.

#### 4. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Grant moved to accept the ACES Governing Board minutes of December 14, 2017.

Ms. Riccio seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Cheshire, Hamden, Meriden, Naugatuck, Orange, Oxford, Regional District #13, Wallingford, Waterbury, Wolcott

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTE

#### 5. Executive Director's Report

- 1) Commissioner of Education Dianna Wentzell provided an update on Standards of Alternative Educational Opportunities for students who have been expelled, Act Concerning Revisions to Statute Relating to Magnet Schools, Act Concerning Us of Exclusionary Time Outs, Act Concerning the Department of Education's Options for Actions Against Educator Certificates, Authorizations or Permits, Act Requiring Special Education Teacher to Complete a Program of Study in Evidence-Based Structured Literacy Interventions for Students with Dyslexia, Act Affecting State Board Regulations for Teacher Certificates, Act Concerning Revisions and Additions to the Education Statutes, Act Concerning State Board Regulations for Teacher Certificates, and Act Concerning Teacher Education and Mentoring Program.
- 2) Policy and EHS Committees Update: Dr. Danehy reported that Mr. Drake will serve as the Board representative for Early Head Start. One more member is needed each for the Policy and Finance Committees.
- 3) Six Bold Steps Update: Dr. Danehy reported that there have been revisions to the Six Bold Steps and that a report will be presented at the February meeting.
- 4) School/Program Visits: Dr. Danehy indicated there was a Board tour on December 20, 2017 of some ACES schools and programs and that additional tours will be arranged in the future. Ms. Riccio added that she attended the tour and was amazed by the programs and encouraged Board members to participate in the future.
- 5) Handouts: Dr. Danehy referred to the Staff Report, Special Education Transportation Services, and Curriculum Summary reports that were distributed to the Board. The staff report was shared at the request of Ms. Logan and detailed the total number of employees by month. Ms. Sexton updated the Board on the regionalized out-of-district of special education transportation efforts indicating that several districts have expressed interest. The goal is to pilot a program for the 2108-2019 school year. ACES would manage the program and will start with services to six non-ACES sites. The Curriculum Report was distributed for informational purposes.

#### 6. Old Business

##### Mission, Vision and Tagline

The Executive Director recommended the approval of the new ACES Mission, Vision and Tagline which included the recommendation by Ms. Logan to the mission statement.

Mission: Dedicated to enhancing and transforming lives through education, innovation, and leadership.  
Vision: To create an equitable and socially just world, one life at a time.  
Tagline: Advocacy, Commitment, Excellence, Service.

Mr. Lineen moved to approve the new ACES Mission, Vision and Tagline.  
Ms. Brown seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Cheshire, Hamden, Meriden, Naugatuck, North Haven, Orange, Oxford,  
Regional District #13, Wallingford, Waterbury, Wolcott

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTE

## 7. Fiscal Matters

### a) Filing of Fiscal Report (subject to audit)

The Executive Director recommended that the ACES Governing Board approve the filing of the Fiscal Report (subject to audit).

Ms. Riccio reviewed the Fiscal Report and indicated that the financial position for January had improved by \$257,853 over the previous month. Special Education School enrollment remained strong and billing for special education services was robust and helping the bottom line. Contracts and referrals for service have increased and it is anticipated that trend to continue throughout the remainder of the year. As noted the previous month, the State informed ACES of cuts in funding, most specifically in magnet school programming, in light of this ACES is always monitoring expenses in all programs to safeguard our financial position.

Ms. Riccio moved to approve the filing of the Fiscal Report (subject to audit).

Mr. Lineen seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Cheshire, Hamden, Meriden, Naugatuck, North Haven, Orange,  
Oxford, Regional District #13, Wallingford, Waterbury, Wolcott

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTE

### b) Construction Project Update

Dr. Danehy reported that the bids for Leeder Hill came in \$10 million below budget. Construction was delayed due to inclement weather but is underway with trees cleared and the start of interior abatement work. The project is expected to be completed for an opening of August 2019. Ms. Riccio emphasized that the \$10 million under budget for the bids will significantly impact the budget.

c) Technology Update

Dr. Danehy reported an assessment of the Technology Services Department yielded the need to reduce three staffing positions, cap on the number of devices, and a student protection plan for 2108-2019 at the magnet schools.

8. Approval of Human Resources Report

The Executive Director recommended that the ACES Governing Board authorize the hirings and/or transfer/position changes, accept the resignations, confirm the termination, and grant the leaves as detailed on the Human Resources Report.

Dr. Danehy referenced the Human Resources report indicating the report was routine with a few resignations and included one termination.

Ms. Riccio moved to authorize the hirings and/or transfer/position changes, accept the resignations, confirm the termination, and grant the leaves as detailed on the Human Resources Report.

Mr. Lineen seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Cheshire, Hamden, Meriden, Naugatuck, North Haven, Orange, Oxford, Regional District #13, Wallingford, Waterbury, Wolcott

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTE

9. Curriculum & Instruction Update

In Mr. Rice's absence the report was distributed.

10. Early Head Start Update

The Executive Director requested the approval of the Early Head Start monthly report.

Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance

- Monthly Early Head Start (EHS) enrollment was 60 for the period:
  - 56 children and 4 expectant families enrolled
- The program received 6 new referrals (6 Middletown) and completed 7 eligibility intakes
- There are 2 families pending eligibility determination.
- The program has 0 eligible family on the wait list.
- The program has 8 children enrolled with IFSPs, meeting and exceeding the 10% requirement.
- 1 child exited the program during this period due to poor attendance. 1 Expectant mother exited the program due to attendance issues.

Policy Council Updates

- Policy Council met December 20, 2017 for an abbreviated meeting to accommodate the Early Head Start federal monitoring at the ACES Middletown Community Education Center.

- Policy Council members and the governing board representative Vincent Loffredo met with the federal reviewers.

#### Program Updates

- The Early Head Start socialization playgroups were held at two locations (Middletown Community Education Center, & Russell Library). Due to the relocation of materials during renovations at 300 Washington Street, 1 socialization for infants has relocated to Russell library until all the furniture is reorganized.
- The Early Head Start program had their scheduled Focused Area Two Federal monitoring visit December 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. The focus area two monitoring is an opportunity for grantees to demonstrate their effectiveness in implementing high quality programming to promote positive outcomes and school readiness for children and their families. The areas reviewed and measured through federal regulation standards included; *program design and management, education and child development services, health program services, family and community engagement services, fiscal infrastructure, eligibility, recruitment, selection, enrollment, and attendance*. The federal lead reviewer provided positive feedback in all areas but all final reporting comes from the national federal level. A final report will be completed and sent to the program in a month to six weeks. This report will come from the National Office of Head Start and will notify the program of any findings.

#### Governing Board Approvals

1. None needed at this time.

#### Attachments

1. Updated Fiscal Report.

Dr. Danehy added that the federal audit resulted in positive feedback.

Mr. Lineen moved to approve the monthly Early Head Start Report.

Ms. Riccio seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Cheshire, Hamden, Meriden, Naugatuck, North Haven, Orange, Oxford,  
Regional District #13, Wallingford, Waterbury, Wolcott

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTE

#### 11. New Business

- Next meeting: February 8, 2018.

#### 12. Request for Executive Session

Ms. Riccio moved to go into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing pending negotiations and invited Dr. Danehy and Mr. Howes to the session.

Ms. O'Brien seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Cheshire, Hamden, Meriden, Naugatuck, North Haven, Orange, Oxford,  
Regional District #13, Wallingford, Waterbury, Wolcott

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTE

Executive Session.

Ms. Riccio moved to return to Regular Session.

Mr. Lineen seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Cheshire, Hamden, Meriden, Naugatuck, North Haven, Orange, Oxford,  
Regional District #13, Wallingford, Waterbury, Wolcott

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTE

### 13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.

Sincerely,

Elaine Sein  
Secretary to the ACES Governing Board