

Minutes

ACES Governing Board September 13, 2018

205 Skiff Street
Hamden, CT 06517

Present: Jana Balsamo, North Branford; Robyn Berke, Regional District #5; Elizabeth Brown, Waterbury; Lynn Campo, Hamden; Michele DeLucia, East Haven; Fran DiGiorgi, Ansonia; Ethel Grant, Naugatuck; Laura Harris, Derby; Cathy Hellreich, Cheshire; Norm Hicks, Regional District #13; Karen Hlavac, Wallingford; Inez Kelso, Bethany; Roberta Leonard, Wolcott; Dorothy Logan, North Haven; Ken Marcucio, Derby; Ellen Michaels, Branford; Susan O'Brien, Oxford; Susan Riccio, Orange

ACES: Carol Bunk, Thomas Danehy, Valerie Fenn, William Rice, Evelyn Rossetti-Ryan, Elaine Sein

Not Present: Meriden, Middletown, Milford, West Haven

Guests: John Fitzpatrick, WIMS Parent

1. Call to Order

Norm Hicks called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:15 PM after determining a quorum was present. Mr. Hicks welcomed the Board back after the summer break.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. DeLucia led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Participation/Communications

- WIMS Parent John Fitzpatrick was in attendance to express his concern over the future of the school. Mr. Fitzpatrick indicated that his children love the school and his family is committed to WIMS. Mr. Fitzpatrick strongly encouraged the Board to make every effort to find a resolution that would keep the school in tack and in place.
- Ms. Campo inquired about an anonymous letter she received regarding salary increases. Dr. Danehy responded that he sent correspondence to the Board during the summer.
- Mr. Hicks welcomed Dr. Valerie Fenn, the new Chief of ACES Institute.

- Mr. Hicks noted that Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro was inspirational as the keynote speaker for the annual ACES Convocation held on August 22, 2018. The event was held at the Oakdale Theatre and was a great day for ACES.
- Mr. Hicks informed the Board that he, Dr. Danehy and others traveled to China for the open of the ACES Campus in Beijing. Three of ACES teachers will stay for one semester and another for one year to help implement the program.

4. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Riccio moved to accept the ACES Governing Board minutes of June 7, 2018.
Ms. Leonard seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Branford, Derby, Hamden, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Oxford, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Waterbury, Wolcott

Abstention: Ansonia, Cheshire, East Haven, Wallingford

Opposed: None

VOTE

5. Executive Director's Report

- 1) Teacher of the Year and EDRA Award Recipients: Dr. Danehy and the Board recognized ACES Teacher of the Year Amy Perrone, and the Executive Director's Recognition Award Recipients Rebecca Cuevas, Jennifer Fox and Ken Murray for their selections.
- 2) WIMS Staff Recognition: Dr. Danehy and the Board recognized WIMS Teacher Assistant Courtney Jackson for saving a student from choking during the first week of school.
- 3) ACES Annual Report and Annual Meeting: Dr. Danehy thanked Evelyn Rossetti-Ryan for her work on the Annual Report which was distributed at the meeting.
- 4) Audit Completion for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2017: Two reports from the Auditors were distributed to the Board with its findings for year ending June 2017.
- 5) Status of International Education: Dr. Danehy reported three teachers are working in Beijing Film Academy and there have been requests for consultants for kindergarten programming. ACES International would collaborate on student transfers and hiring teachers.
- 6) Status of Leeder Hill Construction Progress: Dr. Danehy indicated a delay with the school opening due to the delivery of steel. The school is expected to open the week of August 20, 2019. The project continues to be under budget.
- 7) Status of ACES new brokerage service for special education transportation: Dr. Danehy reported that the Regional Special Education Transportation program is up and running with eight school districts participating. The program transports students to eight non-ACES special education schools.
- 8) Request by Ansonia for ACES to manage a program for emotionally disabled students in grades kindergarten to grade 6 at Mead School in Ansonia to begin November 2018: Dr. Danehy reported that Ansonia requested for ACES to manage a program in district. The program will include current outplaced students from Ansonia and possibly students from neighboring school districts. A contract is pending.

- 9) Annual BAC Employer Recognition Dinner, October 17, 2018: Dr. Danehy invited the Board to attend the 19th Annual Employer Recognition Dinner in celebration of employers who provide jobs to ACES students and consumers.

6. Filing of Fiscal Report (subject to audit)
Summary/Detail by Category

- 1) 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 reported the financial status as of September 1, 2018 showed that ACES was in a good financial position. Enrollments in most of the special education schools were at or had exceeded the target enrollments. The enrollment in the new Mill Elementary School was lower than anticipated but it is expected that enrollment will increase within a few months. ACES is also working on increasing enrollments in the magnet schools before the October 1st deadline.

Ms. Riccio moved to approve the filing of the Fiscal Report (subject to audit).
Ms. O'Brien seconded.

In favor: Ansonia, Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Derby, East Haven, Hamden, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Oxford, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Wallingford, Waterbury, Wolcott

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTE

- 2) Program Budget Descriptions

Budget descriptions for all programs were included in the packet.

7. 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 terminations, and grant the leaves as detailed on the Human Resources Report.

Ms. Bunk reviewed the Human Resources report indicating a busy summer of hiring new staff for resignations and transfers. Ms. Bunk shared a report which captured the number of transfers and resignations. The remainder of report was routine.

Ms. O'Brien moved to authorize the hirings and/or transfer/position changes, accept the resignations, confirm the terminations, and grant the leaves as detailed on the Human Resources Report.
Ms. DeLucia seconded.

In favor: Ansonia, Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Derby, East Haven, Hamden, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Oxford, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Wallingford, Waterbury, Wolcott

Abstention: None
Opposed: None

VOTE

8. New Business

1) Distribution of the 2017-2018 ACES Annual Report as mandated under Section 10-66 C.G.S.

The report was distributed to the Board. The organizational chart was reconfigured and is up for approval later in the agenda. The revised chart addresses the needs and outgrowth of the Design Plan.

2) Mill Road School

The Executive Director recommended that the former K-8 school name 'Mill Road School' be changed to differentiate between the original site which now only houses students in grades 4-8 and the new site at the former St. Stephen's School on Ridge Road which houses students in grades K-3. The recommended names will be brought to the October meeting for approval.

3) Approval of Organizational Chart 2018-2019

The Executive Director recommended the approval of the revised organizational chart for 2018-2019.

Ms. Riccio moved to approve the revised organizational chart for 2018-2019.
Ms. Kelso seconded.

In favor: Ansonia, Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Derby, East Haven, Hamden, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Oxford, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Wallingford, Waterbury, Wolcott

Abstention: None
Opposed: None

VOTE

4) Approval of Policies

The Executive Director recommended the approval of two new policies for first reading.

#3997 Disposition of Assets
#4118.25 Fraternalization

9. Old Business

Curriculum & Instruction

Mr. Rice reported:

Schools

ACES ECA/ECA International

- ECA has a new course offering this year. It is a virtual reality visual arts course.
- ECA will utilize the space and equipment owned by Creative Arts Space on Audubon Street.
- ECA welcomed 2 international students from China this fall.
- ACES-ECA China in Beijing opened this fall. ACES currently has staff on the campus teaching courses.

ACES Thomas Edison Middle School

- Open Choice enrollment increased by 51%.
- Major professional learning initiative in 18-19 with Discovery Education that will support an increase in schoolwide STEM focus through small group, large group and embedded professional learning. Support also includes community relationship building, parental engagement and summer programming.
- PLTW staff received training in the computer science course through the grant TEMS was awarded last school year and that course will be in place this year.

ACES Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School

- Open Choice enrollment increased by 27%.
- 2nd Annual WIMSPalooza was very successful.
- Major professional learning initiative in 18-19 with a focus on increasing Art Integration in all classrooms with the support of Crayola's Art Integration specialists.
- Will be hosting the Arts for Learning Cultural Arts Expo 2018 on September 28, 2018 from 9-2:30 pm.

ACES Mill Elementary

- Located at 400 Ridge Road opened this fall. The school has a focus on students in grades K-3 who have experienced and/or continue to experience different types of trauma that impacts their ability to access education in their home districts. The program has a partnership with a program called ALIVE that has programming to support the development of trauma informed schools.

ACES Mill (Middle)

- Located on Mill Rd in North Haven. The school has a focus on students from upper elementary through middle school who present with severe behavioral challenges in their home districts which make it challenging for the students to access education in their home schools.

Programs

Summer Academy

- One site this past summer located at Amity High School
- 34 students enrolled
- 100% successful completion of credit recovery/credit advancement

Curriculum and Instruction

- Curriculum development, implementation and revision is ongoing.
- Content leadership teams in the areas of Math, ELA and Science meet monthly.

WIMS

- Language Arts and Math curriculum maps in grades K-8 have completed drafts. Implementation and revision will happen in 18-19.

TEMS

- Language Arts and Math curriculum maps in grades 6-8 have completed drafts. Implementation and revision will happen in 18-19.

Science

- Middle School Scope and Sequence draft documents have been completed. Implementation and revisions will be made during the 2018-2019 school year.
- TEMS, WIMS, and Mill teachers were presented with the Instruction and Assessment guide, last spring and/or over the summer, and will be implementing it this year.
- Grade 6 -TEMS, Mill, WIMS curriculum maps are complete.
- Grade 7 -TEMS, Mill, WIMS- 2 of 4 Units have been completed.
- Grade 8 -TEMS, Mill, WIMS-2 of 4 Units have been completed.
- Grade 3 - Curriculum map draft complete and is in the process of being rolled out.
- Grades 4 & 5 - we are actively recruiting teachers from Mill and WIMS to begin working on those grade levels.

Schools are completing their first round of diagnostic testing.

In all schools/programs we are working on changing practice due to new laws for seclusion/restraint and exclusionary time out.

11. Early Head Start Update

Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance

- Monthly Early Head Start (EHS) enrollment was 60 for the period:
 - 54 children and 6 expectant families enrolled
- The program received 9 new referrals (6 Middletown, 1 Old Saybrook, 1 Westbrook, 1 Clinton) and completed 5 eligibility intakes
- There are 5 families pending eligibility determination.
- The program has 0 income eligible families on the wait list. There 4 Over Income families on a waitlist.
- The program has 11 children enrolled with IFSPs, meeting and exceeding the 10% requirement.
- 7 exited the program during this period. (1 child transitioned to a preschool, 1 never engaged, 1 child closed because of attendance issues, 2 moved out of service area, 2 expectant mothers delivered their babies).
- Recruitment and community outreach efforts provided excellent results throughout the summer months. Our shoreline enrollment increased by 8.

Policy Council Updates

- Policy Council (PC) met August 23rd at the ACES Education Center 300 Washington, Middletown. There was a great deal of business to review. There was a quorum and old and new business moved forward.
- PC Members approved the continuing application summary detailing results of our self-assessment data, community assessment data, program priorities, program planning and design. PC members were adjusting to the loss of a home visitor position and voiced the need for ongoing transparency with the Middlesex hospital contract.
- PC Members welcomed new members to policy council. Amanda Talbot from the Middletown Family Resource Center will serve as a new community representative and Christie Arnold is a new parent representative on the council.
- PC Members will receive their annual orientation in September.

Program Updates/Activities

- Socialization playgroups held in the community were successful this summer. In the new program year, we will continue those community experiences with families and restart the shoreline socialization group and the groups held at 300 Washington.
- Early Head Start held their annual family fun day at Veteran's memorial park in Middletown on August 6th. There were 57 family members of enrolled children in attendance along with 10 community providers that helped to provide valuable resources.
- The EHS staff went through their week long professional learning retreat at the EHS site the week of August 13th. Topics presented included Muslim families, Personality Disorders, practiced based coaching & education, self-care, safety, and health. This was a time to review program goals, objectives, and impact indicators.
- The CT Birth to Three Program - Rehabilitation Associates facilitated their weekly therapeutic playgroups onsite.

Governing Board Approvals

1. 2018 Continuing Application Summary
2. Practiced Based Coaching Plan

Attachments

1. Updated Fiscal Report
2. 2018 Continuing Application Summary
3. Governing Board Approval Letter
4. Practiced Based Coaching Plan

Ms. DeLucia moved to approve the monthly Early Head Start Reports.

Ms. Brown seconded.

In favor: Ansonia, Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Derby, East Haven, Hamden, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Oxford, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Wallingford, Waterbury, Wolcott

Abstention: None
Opposed: None

VOTE

11. Other

- A) Next meeting: October 11, 2018.
- B) Mr. Hicks welcomed Laura Harris, new representative from Derby.

12. Executive Session

The Executive Director requested an Executive Session for the purposes of discussing:

- 1) A stipulated agreement in lieu of expulsion;
- 2) Negotiation for sale of real estate.

Ms. DiGiorgi moved to go into Executive Session.
Ms. Grant seconded.

In favor: Ansonia, Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Derby, East Haven, Hamden, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Oxford, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Wallingford, Waterbury, Wolcott

Abstention: None
Opposed: None

VOTE

Return to Public Session

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the stipulated agreement regarding student expulsion.
Ms. Logan seconded.

In favor: Ansonia, Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Derby, East Haven, Hamden, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Oxford, Regional District #5, Regional District #13, Wallingford, Waterbury, Wolcott

Abstention: None
Opposed: None

VOTE

13. Adjournment

The ACES Governing Board meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.

Sincerely,

Elaine Sein
Secretary to the ACES Governing Board