



**DRAFT**  
**ACES GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES**  
**THURSDAY, March 14, 2024**  
**SDA Building, 205 Skiff Street, Hamden, CT**

**Governing Board:** Ellen Michaels, Branford; Ann Marie Cullinan, Cheshire; Laura Harris, Derby; Mike Smith, Milford; Ethel Grant, Naugatuck; Susan Riccio, Orange; Carol Oladele, RSD #5 Amity; Lindsay Dahlheimer, RSD #13; Thomas Van Stone, Waterbury; Roberta Leonard, Wolcott

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

**Not Present:** Ansonia, Bethany, East Haven, Hamden Meriden, Middletown, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Oxford, Region #16, Seymour, Wallingford; West Haven, Woodbridge

**Guests:** Representative Jeff Currey, Co-Chair Education Committee, Chris Smith, Rome & Smith, David Stein, Silver Petrucelli, David Cravanzola, O & G.

**1. Welcome/Call to Order**

Ms. Susan Riccio called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:03 pm after determining a quorum was present.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Susan Riccio

**3. Public Participation/Communications**

N/A

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting held on March 14, 2024.

Ms. Lindsay Dahlheimer seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

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

- a. Special Guest, Representative Jeff Currey, Co-Chair Education Committee with update on Legislative Matters
- b. Presentation on Guaranteed Maximum Price Amendment for Construction Project at 88 Bassett Road, North Haven – David Stein, Silver Petrucelli, and David Cravanzola, O&G
- c. FY25 Budgets for Review – Olga Simoes
  - 1. Whitney Academy/RISE
  - 2. Village School
  - 3. Village EIBI
  - 4. SAILS
  - 5. PDSI
  - 6. International/HD Pre-K
- d. ARPA Grant funds ending and concern for ACES’ management fee necessitate reductions in some staff, including Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Director of DEI, coordinator of autism programming, and educational specialist
- e. ACES 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala

**6. Filing of the Fiscal Report (subject to audit) - Ms. Olga Simoes/Mr. Thomas Van Stone**

In the March 2024 Board Statement, we continue to show favorable progress in our financial standing. As we navigate potential budget fluctuations, our proactive cash flow monitoring remains committed, ensuring we meet ongoing financial obligations efficiently and diligently. We recognize the persistent challenge posed by the deficit within Magnet Schools for the current fiscal year, and despite this hurdle, we remain resolute in our commitment to addressing it head-on, leveraging innovative solutions and collaborative efforts to achieve sustainable financial health across all sectors of the agency. Moving forward, we remain focused on optimizing resources, fostering innovation, and promoting equitable access to education for all students. While accommodating potential budget fluctuations, our proactive cash flow monitoring ensures ongoing financial obligations are met. Preliminary assessments reveal a surplus, reflecting our commitment to fiscal responsibility while keeping our focus on addressing the deficit challenge within Magnet Schools for the current fiscal year.

Mr. Thomas Van Stone motioned to accept the filing of the fiscal report.  
Ms. Lindsay Dahlheimer seconded.

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 HR report and reported 14 new hires in various positions, 21 transfers/position changes, nine resignations, 13 leaves, and three terminations. She also noted that we have a career fair on March 16, 2024, and HCD participated in the Greater New Haven Chamber’s Regional Workforce Summit on Feb 15<sup>th</sup> at Gateway College.

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to approve the Human Capital Report.  
Mr. Mike Smith seconded.

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

VOTE

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

Mr. William Rice provided updates on ACES Construction projects (88 Bassett, WIMS, and CHASE).

A Security Grant for multiple sites and the HVAC grant have been submitted. We are in the process of applying for an Interdistrict Magnet School Capital Improvement Grant. Mr. Rice requests approval for the Early Head Start monthly reports and contract summaries.

Ms. Lindsay Dahlheimer motioned to accept the Operations and Early Head Start monthly reports and contract summaries.

Mr. Mike Smith seconded.

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

VOTE

**9. Core Knowledge Report – Ms. Emily Freel**

Ms. Freel provided updates on the administrator book study, civil rights data collection report, data compliance, professional learning, diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as the grant for RESC IED to facilitate retention for our current educators of color.



**10. New Business**

- a. Possible Action to Approve Guaranteed Maximum Pricing for 88 Bassett Road.

Ms. Lindsay Dahlheimer motioned to accept the Guaranteed Maximum Pricing for 88 Bassett Road.

Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

- b. Possible Action to Approve Proposed Budgets for FY 2024-2025.

- 1. Whitney Academy/RISE
- 2. Village School
- 3. Village EIBI
- 4. SAILS
- 5. PDSI
- 6. International/HK Pre-K

Ms. Lindsay Dahlheimer motioned to approve the Proposed Budgets for FY25 for Whitney Academy/RISE, Village School, Village EIBI, SAILS, PDSI, and International/HK Pre K budgets.

Mr. Mike Smith seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

- c. Possible Action to Approve CTSD-Connecticut State Department Increasing Educator Diversity Plan.

Ms. Lindsay Dahlheimer motioned to approve the CTSD-Connecticut State Department Increasing Educator Diversity Plan.

Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

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- d. Possible action to approve the position of Coordinator of DEI, Belongingness, and Community Liaison and merge Translation Services with International Services

Mr. Mike Smith motioned to approve the position of Coordinator of DEI, Belongingness, and Community Liaison and merge Translation Services with International Services.

Mr. Thomas Van Stone seconded

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

VOTE

- e. Possible action to eliminate the following positions effective June 30, 2024, unless otherwise expressed in a contract or terms of employment: Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Director of DEI, Coordinator of Pupil Services, and Educational Specialist

Ms. Lindsay Dahlheimer motioned to approve the elimination of the following positions effective June 30, 2024, unless otherwise expressed in a contract or terms of employment:

Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Director of DEI, Coordinator of Pupil Services, and Educational Specialist.

Mr. Mike Smith seconded

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

VOTE

**11. Possible Executive Session- Regarding Real Estate Matters**

Ms. Susan Riccio motioned to enter into an Executive session with Timothy Howes, William Rice, and Thomas Danehy regarding real estate matters at 1:34 pm.

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to pursue real estate matters.

Ms. Lindsay Dahlheimer seconded.

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

VOTE



## **12. Other**

Finance Committee Meeting April 4, 2024

Regular Board Meeting April 4, 2024

## **14. Adjournment**

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to adjourn at 1:49 pm.

Mr. Thomas Van Stone seconded.

Motion passes unanimously.

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