



**ACES GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES**  
**THURSDAY, January 14, 2021 Zoom Meeting at Noon**

- Governing Board:** Edward Maher, Bethany; Laura Harris, Derby; Mary Ellen Pellegrino, East Haven; Lynn Campo, Hamden, (until 1:20 pm); Robert Kosienski, Meriden; Ethel Grant, Naugatuck; Jana Balsamo, North Branford; Susan Riccio, Orange; Shelley Lacey-Castelot, (joined at 12:30 pm); Robyn Berke, RSD #5; Norman Hicks, RSD#13; Michael Votto, Wallingford; Elizabeth Brown, Waterbury,
- ACES:** Olga Simoes, Steven Cook, Timothy Howes, Tomas Danehy, Evelyn Rossetti-Ryan, William Rice, Dee Colson
- Not Present:** Ansonia, Branford, Cheshire, New Haven, West Haven, Wolcott
- Guests:** Attorney Thomas Mooney (joined at 1:10 pm); Patrice McCarthy, Deputy Director and General Counsel, CABE, (joined at 1:40)

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**1. Welcome/Call to Order**

Norman Hicks called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:05 pm after determining a quorum was present.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Laura Harris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Public Participation/Communications** – none

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Elizabeth Brown moved to accept ACES Governing Board Minutes of December 10, 2020.  
Ms. Susan Riccio seconded.

**All in favor:** Passed Unanimously

**Opposed:** None

**Abstention:** Dorothy Logan, North Haven; Robyn Berke, RSD #5; Robert Kosienski, Meriden **VOTE**

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

Dr. Danehy discussed the completed audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. The federal and state single audits were submitted to the state as required by December 31, 2020. For fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, there was a \$1.5M surplus.

Dr. Danehy also gave an update on the roll-out and status of vaccinations. Health-related employees had been entered in the VAMS system back in December and vaccinations have begun. ACES employees will

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be entered into the VAMS system for upcoming appointments. After January 21, 2021, employees will need to wait for a vaccine until the teacher's group in 1B are asked to create appointments.

Dr. Danehy also discussed the SmartCare Employee Health Clinic opening, which opens on January 19, 2021 at 261 Skiff Street, Hamden.

Dr. Danehy requested that a Naming Committee created for a new school that is replacing Thomas Edison Middle School.

Tim Howes and Olga Simoes explained the 2021-22 budget approval process for Schools and Programs. Budgets will include the salary and benefits as negotiated in contracts as well as those approved by the Board in November 2020 for non-bargaining employees which includes, effective July 1, 2021, a step increase for those not on the maximum step, a wage freeze for those at top step, and no increase on the health and dental insurance co-share premiums.

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

Although the January bottom line reflects a slight deficit, we project that the anticipated CRF grant funding will offset COVID-related purchases contributing to the deficit. ACES cash flow is currently trending on target while we maintain close oversight of spending. Hence, we may see some fluctuation in the cash flow as we get closer to the end of the fiscal year, and we are ready to adjust the spending to ensure a positive outcome for the year-end. ACES continues its commitment to successfully support our districts and their families to provide quality services are delivered.

Ms. Susan Riccio moved to accept the filing of the Fiscal Report (subject to audit)  
Ms. Ethel Grand seconded

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

**VOTE**

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

Mr. Cook presented the HR Report and reported an update on the current leaves and resignations. Mr. Cook noted that HR also has been dealing with COVID issues. With the ending of FFCRA (Families First Coronavirus Response Act), they will continue to accommodate as needed and offer FMLA and our Employee Assistance Program to those who are eligible. He is also continuing to reach out to our member districts to participate in the Teacher Residency Program.

Mr. Robert Kosienski moved to accept the Human Resources Report  
Ms. Ethel Grant seconded

**All in favor:** Passed Unanimously

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**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 Programs concerning Hybrid and Virtual Learning. He also noted that referrals continue to come in for all specialized programs. The Curriculum committee work continues along with equity work with principals and directors supported by PDSI.

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

Dr. Danehy provided the Early Head Start monthly reports and contract summaries.

Ms. Dorothy Logan moved to accept the Early Head Start Updates  
Ms. Susan Riccio seconded

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

**VOTE**

**10. Old Business**

Dr. Danehy discussed Thomas Edison Middle School's location and possible action to select a Naming Committee with the following members: Norm Hicks, Tom Danehy, William Rice, and Karen Habegger

**11. New Business - None**

**12. Possible Executive Session**

Ms. Susan Riccio moved to enter into Executive Session at 12:40 pm with Attorney Thomas Mooney, Dr. Danehy, Mr. Howes, and Mr. Rice to negotiate a real estate transaction.  
Seconded by Laura Harris

Out of Executive session 1:37 pm

Patrice McCarthy, Deputy Director at CABE joined the meeting and spoke about the new legislative session. She also answered questions by Board members.

**13. Adjournment**

Ms. Susan Riccio motioned to adjourn at 1:45 pm  
Ms. Robyn Berke seconded

**14. Attachments**

**15. Other**

Next Board Meeting February 11, 2021

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