

Minutes

ACES Governing Board March 8, 2018

205 Skiff Street
Hamden, CT 06517

Present: Jana Balsamo, North Branford; Lynn Campo, Hamden; Chris Drake, Middletown; Ethel Grant, Naugatuck; Karen Hlavac, Wallingford; Norm Hicks, Regional District #13; Inez Kelso, Bethany; Pat Libero, West Haven; Dorothy Logan, North Haven; Susan Riccio, Orange

ACES: Carol Bunk, Jo-Anne Cegan, Thomas Danehy, Tim Howes, Evelyn Rossetti-Ryan, Nadine Savage, Elaine Sein, Rachel Sexton
Technology Services Staff: Nathan Tavares

Not Present: Ansonia, Cheshire, Derby, East Haven, Meriden, Milford, Oxford, Regional District #5, Waterbury, Wolcott

Guests: Thomas Hennick, Freedom of Information Commission; Patrice McCarthy, CABA

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Hlavac led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Participation/Communications

- A moment of silence was observed for Lucas Giordano, student from Branford that attended Whitney High School East.
- Ms. Campo inquired if Dr. Danehy would be responding to Mike D'Agostino's recent inquiry. Dr. Danehy indicated he was in the process of compiling a response.
- Ms. Riccio announced that a dinner was scheduled to honor Former Board Member Sue Cohen for her years of service to her community.

- Mr. Hicks reminded the Board about the ACES Education Foundation's annual gala to be held on March 22, 2018 at Woodwinds, Branford.

4. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Riccio moved to accept the ACES Governing Board minutes of February 8, 2018.
Ms. Grant seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Hamden, Middletown, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Orange,
Regional District #13, Wallingford

Abstention: West Haven

Opposed: None

VOTE

5. Executive Director's Report

- 1) Patrice McCarthy, CABE: Ms. McCarthy provided a legislative update. Ms. McCarthy encourage the Board to attend the CABE Day on the Hill on March 15 to voice concerns with legislators and also highlighted unfunded mandates, fingerprinting and the pending school walk-out day on March 14.
- 2) Thomas Hennick, Freedom of Information Commission: Mr. Hennick discussed the differences among regular, special and emergency meetings and highlighted the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act.
- 3) 2018-2019 Proposed Budgets: Dr. Danehy that the 2018-2019 would be presented later in the agenda and include a 1.95% overall increase.
- 4) School Security Update: Dr. Danehy stated that he is developing a plan to strengthen technology resources.

6. New Business

- 1) Possible Approval of 2018-2019 Budgets

Mr. Howes reviewed the 2018-2019 presented indicating the budgets were presented to the Finance Committee during a recent workshop. The budget drivers included the increase health insurance and wage increases. Board discussion followed. After discussion it was determined the approval process would be requested at the next meeting.

7. Old Business

- 1) Approval of Policies

The Executive Director recommended the approval of policies as a second read.

- a) Policy #3281 School or Agency Fundraisers including Online Campaigns
- b) Policy #4112.52 Security Check/Fingerprinting
/4212.52

- c) Policy #4118.11 Nondiscrimination – Act Concerning Discriminatory Practices
 /4218.11 Against Veterans in accordance with PA17-127
 0521
- d) Policy #4145.1 Tax Sheltered Annuities
 /4245.1
- e) Policy #5118.1 Homeless Students
- f) Policy #6172.4 Parent and Family Engagement Policy for Title I Students

Ms. Riccio moved to approve the policies listed for a second read.

Ms. Kelso seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Hamden, Middletown, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Orange,
Regional District #13, Wallingford, West Haven

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTE

2) Curriculum & Instruction Update

Mr. Rice reported:

- Enrollment data trend is in alignment with historical trends
- Overall Schools are up to date on drills fire and lockdown
- ACES International
 - Two students from China have arrived and are attending New Haven Academy. Coursework is going well. One student is in theater program and the other is in visual arts. Program is working to find a placement for them to complete their senior year of high school.
- Schools are working closely with grant writer to identify potential grant opportunities
- Met with Senator Slossberg in January with RESC Alliance on behalf of magnet school funding
- Met with CSDE representatives about magnet schools
 - State still invested/committed to their success but acknowledges state budget constraints
- ECA Dual enrollment issues - working with state
- Magnet Schools are working on additional open house programming and WIMS is attending New Haven Magnet School Expo - scheduling Spring Open Houses
- Schools gathered testimonials from families for Magnet School Policy Conference February 2018 - Met with Joe Courtney; Staffers from the offices of DeLauro, Murphy, Himes, Blumenthal and Larson
- All magnet schools working to increase visibility through our marketing and outreach office.
 - Social media
 - Commercial advertising
- Thomas Edison Magnet School - Distinguished Gateway School for PLTW
- TEMS will also be applying for a grant to support the implementation of two PLTW Gateway units – PLTW App Creators and PLTW Computer Science for Innovators and Makers

- Partnership with ECA and Wintergreen - Students in grades 3-5 (Theater Works) Disney's Sleeping Beauty for Kids - who are in the play will participate in theatre workshop prior to their performance in March; Grades 6-8 (Theater at the Green) will be doing a performance at ECA in May - Beauty and the Beast Jr.
- Testing Season is beginning
 - New NGSS science assessment - pilot
 - CTAA Science (Alternative Assessment) - Online for first time
- Early Headstart - opportunity to work with YMCA Working Cities grant
- DIY - (Design It Yourself) - 3/29.

8. 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 ACES has again seen improvement in the revenue from Special Education programs. Enrollments continue to increase at Whitney North, Mill Road and Village School. There have also been slight increases in revenue projections for PDSI and Behavior Services programs.

As an offset, however, ACES has made an adjustment to the revenue projections for Special Education Billing for Wintergreen, Assistive Technology and Extension Therapy Services. The overall deficit for this fiscal period \$370,106, which is low for the time of year.

During the month, ACES will review the salary projections in all of the programs for savings due to absences, unfilled positions and staff turnover. ACES will also review costs and projections for employee benefits. Once this review is complete, ACES will adjust the financial position to reflect savings. ACES will make the Board aware of any savings that we find at the next meeting.

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

Ms. Hlavac seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Regional District #13, Wallingford, West Haven

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTE

9. 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 and the retirement, and grant the leaves as detailed on the Human Resources Report.

Ms. Bunk reviewed the Human Resources report indicating few new hires and the transfer of a staff member who is now licensed and moved to a Behavior Analyst position. The remainder of report was routine.

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

Ms. Logan seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Regional District #13, Wallingford, West Haven

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTE

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:
 - 57 children and 3 expectant families enrolled
- The program received 3 new referrals (2 Middletown and 1 Clinton) and completed 1 eligibility intake
- There are 4 families pending eligibility determination.
- The program has 0 eligible families on the wait list.
- The program has 11 children enrolled with IFSPs, meeting and exceeding the 10% requirement.
- 6 children exited the program during this period. 3 of these were closed due to poor attendance. 2 families moved. 1 family requested to be discharged due to other commitments.

Policy Council Updates

- Policy Council did not meet in February.
- Parent Committee will meet Wednesday February 28th.

Program Updates/Activities

- The Early Head Start socialization playgroups were held at our three locations (Middletown Community Education Center/EHS Site, Russell Library, and Grace Episcopal).
- The Early Head Start program hosted weekly Circle of Security sessions facilitated by Nurturing Families.
- The CT Birth to Three Program - Rehabilitation Associates facilitated their weekly therapeutic playgroups onsite.
- The Early Head Start program had grantee specialist Gladys Rivera from Region 1 facilitate a data dive with staff on February 1st. The focus was on identifying key steps in managing data

for use in continuous quality improvement. Subsequently, Gladys met individually with Becky Cuevas, EHS Coordinator to identify other key needs of the program.

- Wesleyan University has committed to offering the Lullaby project beginning in April to Early Head Start families. Five Wesleyan students were selected for the program. Becky Cuevas hosted the students February 23rd and gave them an overview of ACES and the Early Head Start program. Through the Lullaby Project pregnant women and new mothers are invited to create personal lullabies for their babies with the help of professional musicians. It is intended to promote maternal health, child development, and parent-child attachment.
- Infant massage sessions started in February. Dale Saul from Yale Family Based Recovery has facilitated the sessions. Infant massage has been shown to encourage positive parent/child interactions, help regulate baby's emotions, and relieve stress.

Governing Board Approvals

1. None needed at this time.

Attachments

1. Updated Fiscal Report

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

Ms. Logan seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Regional District #13, Wallingford, West Haven

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTE

11. Other

- Next meeting: April 12, 2018.
- Mr. Hicks acknowledged the Board during Board Appreciation month.
- Dr. Danehy reported CSEA negotiations will begin.

12. Adjournment

Ms. Riccio moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:17pm.

Ms. DiGiorgi seconded.

In favor: Bethany, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Regional District #13, Wallingford, West Haven

Abstention: None

Opposed: None

VOTE

Sincerely,

Elaine Sein
Secretary to the ACES Governing Board