



**ACES GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES**  
**THURSDAY, September 14, 2023**  
**SDA Building, 205 Skiff Street, Hamden, CT**

**Governing Board:** Fran DiGiorgi, Ansonia; Susan Bradford, Bethany; Ellen Michaels, Branford; Laura Harris, Derby; Tony Martorelli, III, Meriden; Ethel Grant, Naugatuck; Jana Balsamo, North Branford; Susan Riccio, Orange; Carol Oladele, RSD #5 Amity; Lindsay Dahlheimer, RSD # 13; Thomas Van Stone, Waterbury; Roberta Leonard, Wolcott.

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

**Not Present:** Cheshire, East Haven, Hamden, Middletown, Milford, New Haven, North Haven, Oxford, RSD #5, RSD #16, Seymour, Wallingford; West Haven, Woodbridge

**Guests:** Josh Borenstein Presented ACES Summary of ECA Study Report. David Stein, Architect, SPA Silver & Petrucelli, David Cravanzola, Construction, O & G, and Tim Gunn, Consultant, presented the progress construction project at 88 Bassett Road.

**1. Welcome/Call to Order**

Ms. Ethel Grant called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. after determining a quorum was present.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Ethel Grant

**3. Public Participation/Communications**

N/A

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Approval of minutes of Regular Board Meetings held on June 1, 2023, and ACES Governing Board Special Meeting on July 7, 2023.

Ms. Fran DiGiorgi motioned to accept the minutes of the ACES Governing Board of June 1, 2023, and July 7, 2023.

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Ms. Roberta Leonard seconded.

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

VOTE

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

1. ECA Study Review – Josh Borenstein
2. Construction Projects – David Stein, Silver/Petrucelli
3. School Openings
4. Federal Grant Submission for ECA
5. High Dosage Tutoring Grant Application – Andrew Skarzynski
6. Update on 370 James Street
7. ARPA School Mental Health Specialists Grant

**6. Filing of the Fiscal Report (subject to audit)** - Ms. Olga Simoes/Mr. Thomas Van Stone  
September report reflects July and August expenditures and encumbrances for supplies and services requested by schools and programs to kick off the new 2024 School Year. Current projections reflect a surplus based on the budgeted revenues and expenditures. We anticipate these projections will fluctuate as we gather student enrollment and service contract numbers. ACES schools and programs are evaluating their staffing needs and processing encumbrances for the year. We anticipate completing billing by mid-September, which will provide a starting point for future cash flow projections.

Mr. Thomas Van Stone motioned to accept the filing of the fiscal report.  
Ms. Roberta Leonard 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 76 new hires in various positions, 52 transfer/position changes, 15 resignations, nine leaves, 10 terminations, and four retirements.

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**8. Schools Report - Mr. Andrew Skarzynski**

Mr. Skarzynski reported on the upcoming Magnet, Specialized Schools and Programs. He also reported on the opening of ACES Schools, the Agency-wide Administrators retreat in July, and a School/Program gathering in August.

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

Mr. Rice reported on 88 Bassett, WIMS, and CHASE construction projects. He also reported on upcoming ASPIRE, WIMS, Helen Doron moves, ACES Magnet School Lottery, and Open Choice.

Mr. Rice requests the approval of the Early Head Start monthly reports and contract summaries.

Ms. Roberta Leonard motioned to accept the filing of the Early Head Start and Operations contract summaries.

Ms. Fran DiGiorgi seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

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

Ms. Freel reported that she has worked with the Human Capital Development and Executive Leadership Committee to submit an Anti-Discrimination Policy draft. She has also worked with Early Childhood to submit a Breastfeeding Policy. Emily is working with Indelible Solutions to conduct a cultural assessment of the agency, including an Anonymous digital survey, Employee focus groups, and Employee interviews. This will help our agency gain insights into our current workplace culture and collect data that will help us align with our organizational goals.

**11 Old Business**

**Possible Action to Approve Board Officers.**

1. Chair – Ms. Susan Riccio, Orange
2. Vice Chair – Ethel Grant, Naugatuck
3. Fiscal Officer – Thomas Van Stone, Waterbury
4. Executive Committee Members – Fran DiGiorgi, Ansonia, Roberta Leonard, Wolcott
5. Policy Committee – Lindsay Dahlmeier, Region 13
6. Building Committee – Ray Ross, Wallingford

Ms. Ellen Michaels motioned to accept the approval of the Approved Board Officers.

Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

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