



Area Cooperative Educational Services

**DRAFT**

**ACES GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, April 4, 2024**

**SDA Building, 205 Skiff Street, Hamden, CT**

**Governing Board:** Rich Bshara, Ansonia; Ellen Michaels, Branford; Laura Harris, Derby; Greta Johnson, Hamden; Mike Smith, Milford; Ethel Grant, Naugatuck; Kim Dawson, North Branford; Martin Rudnick, North Haven; Susan Riccio, Orange; Lindsay Dahlheimer, RSD #13; Thomas Van Stone, Waterbury; Kimberly Kenny, West Haven; Roberta Leonard, Wolcott

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

**Not Present:** Bethany, Cheshire, East Haven, Meriden, Middletown, New Haven, Oxford, RSD #5 Amity, RSD #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Woodbridge

**Guests:** Cathy Sewell, EIR Region 11, White Settlement, Texas

**1. Welcome/Call to Order**

Ms. Susan Riccio called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:02 pm after determining a quorum was present.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Susan Riccio

**3. Public Participation/Communications**

Ms. Susan Riccio encouraged folks to see a play in Woodbridge, Mean Girls.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Susan Riccio moved to amend the March 14, 2024, minutes to add Thomas Danehy to the Executive Session and to change the wording of the real estate motion to "pursue real estate matters."

Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

Mr. Mike Smith motioned to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on March 14, 2024.

Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

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

VOTE

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

- A. Executive Director Design Plan Update
- B. Executive Director Annual Evaluation
- C. ACES Foundation Gala Update
- D. Budget Proposals
  - a. Mill Road ASCEND
  - b. Governing Board
  - c. Executive Director
  - d. Fiscal Management
  - e. Deputy Executive Director
  - f. Community Engagement

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

In the April 2024 Board Statement, our financial outlook remains positive, with ongoing progress towards surplus. All schools and programs are concluding the processing of encumbrances to ensure timely year-end closing. We continue to monitor cash flow proactively, ensuring efficient management of financial commitments amidst potential budget variations. By leveraging innovative strategies and fostering collaboration, we aim to achieve sustainable financial well-being throughout the organization. Our focus remains on optimizing resources, promoting innovation, and ensuring equitable access to education for all students.

Ms. Roberta Leonard motioned to accept the filing of the fiscal report.  
Mr. Martin Rudnick 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 18 new hires in various positions, 22 resignations, 13 transfer/position changes, seven leaves, and one termination. Rebecca reported on ACES EDRA awards, the ACES Career Fair, and the ACES Wellness Walking Challenge.

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



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

VOTE

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

Mr. Rice provided updates on ACES Construction projects (88 Bassett, WIMS, and CHASE) ACES Security is completing the review of the All Hazards Plans for each school site. Mr. Rice requests approval for the Early Head Start monthly reports and contract summaries.

Mr. Martin Rudnick motioned to accept the Operations and Early Head Start monthly reports and summaries.

Ms. Lindsay Dahlheimer seconded.

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

VOTE

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

Ms. Freel reported that the Administrator Book Study is underway. PDEC is continuing to review the state model plan for certified educator evaluation. PSDI hosted a forum on Understanding Legislative Changes on School Districts Part 1 and will host Part Two at the end of April. Ed Tech is working on many projects using TDX in the agency.

**10. Possible Executive Session** for the purpose of conducting an evaluation of the Executive Director and real estate negotiations update.

Ms. Susan Riccio made a motion to enter into an Executive Session at 12:41 pm with Thomas Danehy, Timothy Howes, and William Rice for the purpose of conducting the evaluation of the Executive Director and real estate negotiations update.

Mr. Mike Smith motioned to enter into an Executive session for the purpose of conducting the evaluation of the Executive Director and real estate negotiations update.

Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

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

VOTE

The board entered into regular session at 1:22 pm.



**11. New Business**

**A. Possible action to approve budgets for Mill Road ASCEND, Governing Board, Executive Director, Fiscal Management, Deputy Executive Director, and Community Engagement.**

Ms. Roberta Leonard motioned to approve budgets for Mill Road ASCEND, Governing Board, Executive Director, Fiscal Management, Deputy Executive Director, and Community Engagement.

Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

**B. Possible action to approve salary and benefits package for Timothy Howes, William Rice, Rebecca Cuevas, Olga Simoes, Emily Freel, Scott Sadinsky, and Dee Colson, effective July 1, 2024. General wage increase is 3.5%, health insurance of .005%, and benefits as proposed.**

Ms. Roberta Leonard motioned to approve salary and benefits package for Timothy Howes, William Rice, Rebecca Cuevas, Olga Simoes, Emily Freel, Scott Sadinsky, and Dee Colson, effective July 1, 2024.

Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded.

**C. Possible action regarding a contract with the Executive Director.**

The general wage increase is 3.5%, health insurance increase of .005%, adjustment on deferred compensation, and automobile benefits as proposed.

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to approve the action regarding a contract with the Executive Director.

Ms. Roberta Leonard seconded

**12. Adjournment: 1:26 pm**

Ms. Roberta Leonard motioned to adjourn at 1:26 pm.

Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded.

**13. Other**

a. Finance Committee Meeting, May 9, 2024.

b. Regular Board Meeting, May 9, 2024.



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**14. Attachments**

- a. ACES Design 3.0 update.

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