



**ACES GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, May 11, 2023
SDA Building, 205 Skiff Street, Hamden, CT**

Governing Board: Fran DiGiorgi, Ansonia; Susan Bradford, Bethany; Ellen Michaels, Branford; 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, Derby, East Haven, Hamden Meriden, Middletown, Milford, Naugatuck, New Haven, North Haven, Oxford, Seymour, Wallingford, West Haven, Woodbridge

Guests: Kathy Vitagliano, CESA

1. Welcome/Call to Order

Ms. Susan Riccio called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:00 pm after determining a quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Susan Riccio

3. Public Participation/Communications

ECA Parent Forum:

Tom Goldberg, Laura Cross, Christina Shallow, Greg Robbins, and Ruby Gonzalez Hernandez voiced their concerns about the changes being made at ECA.

4. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Fran DiGiorgi motioned to accept the minutes of the ACES Governing Board of May 11, 2023.

Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: Jana Balsamo

VOTE

WWW.ACES.ORG

Peter C. Young Building • 350 State Street • North Haven, CT 06473-3108 | Phone (203) 498-6800 • Fax (203) 498-6890

The Regional Educational Service Center Serving South Central Connecticut.
ACES does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability or sexual orientation.



5. Executive Director's Report - Dr. Thomas M. Danehy shared information on the following topics:

- A. Legislative Session Update – Legislative Session ends June 7, 2023 – Dr. Danehy
1. SB1200 Restraints and Seclusions - the bill is still active and has major ramifications for school districts. Should the present language be adopted, ACES may not be able to support some students' needs, hiring more staff would be essential, parent meetings would engage much time that may otherwise be required for instruction, and costs of placements would escalate dramatically.
 2. HB5003 School Funding This bill remains active and is presently proposed to be half funded. Should full funding be available, the bill will serve our magnet schools well. Magnet schools have had a 2% increase in state funding over the past 18 years. This bill will create more equitable k-12 funding throughout the state. Our member districts should support this bill and communicate such support to local legislators.
 3. School Construction Grants for projects at Chase, Wintergreen and 88 Bassett Road are moving along well at this point.
- B. Presentation of Budgets – Ms. Simoes presented budgets for the following programs:
1. Professional Development and School Improvement PDSI
 2. Security
 3. Core Knowledge
 4. Extension Therapy
 5. Behavioral Services
- C. Update on Mill Road School – Dr. Danehy provided information regarding programs at Mill Road and how a team is reviewing data to design and implement new services that will realistically address the needs of about 15% of the Mill population that have needs surpassing the programming that Mill presently provides. We hope to kick off that new program in late summer 2023.

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

May projections reflect a surplus based on the projected revenues, encumbrances, and expenditures. The expenditure projections include school and program encumbrances completed by April 21st deadline and year-end payroll forecast. April billing has been completed and reflected in the billed-to-date column of the fiscal report, along with the projected revenues for the remainder of the year. We are closely monitoring our revenue and expenditures to ensure a positive year-end cash flow position.

Ms. Susan Riccio motioned to accept the filing of the fiscal report.

Ms. Ellen Michaels seconded.

WWW.ACES.ORG

Peter C. Young Building • 350 State Street • North Haven, CT 06473-3108 | Phone (203) 498-6800 • Fax (203) 498-6890

The Regional Educational Service Center Serving South Central Connecticut.

ACES does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability or sexual orientation.



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

VOTE

7. Approval of Human Capital Development Report - Ms. Cuevas

Ms. Cuevas presented the HR report and reported 33 new hires in various positions, six resignations, two transfers/position changes, eight leaves, 0 terminations, and 0 retirements.

Ms. Roberta Leonard motioned to accept the filing of the Human Capital Development Report.
Ms. Fran DiGiorgi seconded.

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

VOTE

8. School Reports - Mr. Skarzynski

Mr. Skarzynski reported on the upcoming Magnet, Specialized Schools, and Programs. ACES schools are preparing for the Smarter Balanced Assessment. The Summer Curriculum writing institute is scheduled for the week of August 7, 2023.

9. Operations and Early Head Start Report Update – William Rice

Mr. Rice requests the approval of the Early Head Start monthly reports and contract summaries, as well as the approval of the COLA and Quality Improvement application. He also reported that the Capital Improvement Annual Report for ACES properties will be available in Fall 2023. And reported on the Magnet School Lottery and Open Choice accepting/pending/waitlist numbers.

Ms. Fran DiGiorgi’s motioned to accept the filing of the Early Head Start and Operations contract summaries and the COLA and Quality Improvement application.
Ms. Ellen Michaels seconded.

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

VOTE

10. New Business

A. Possible action to approve budgets for 2023-2024 for Extension Therapy Services, Core Knowledge, Security, and Professional Development and Staff Improvement (PDSI)

WWW.ACES.ORG

Peter C. Young Building • 350 State Street • North Haven, CT 06473-3108 | Phone (203) 498-6800 • Fax (203) 498-6890

The Regional Educational Service Center Serving South Central Connecticut.
ACES does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability or sexual orientation.



Ms. Susan Riccio motioned to postpone possible action on the Extension Therapy Services, Core Knowledge, Security, and Professional Development and Staff Improvement (PDSI) budgets until the June Board meeting so that the Board members have more time to review them.

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

VOTE

B. Granting of Signing Authority

“That Dr. Thomas M. Danehy, Executive Director, and in his absence or incapacity, Timothy Howes, Deputy Executive Director, be authorized to make, sign, execute, and approve on behalf of the ACES Governing Board all grants/contracts with the State of Connecticut and its Agencies and School Districts and Municipalities. This authorization shall remain in force until rescinded by the action of the ACES Governing Board.

Ms. Roberta Leonard motioned to approve the granting of signing authority to Dr. Thomas M. Danehy and, in his absence or incapacity, Timothy Howes, Deputy Executive Director.
Ms. Fran DiGiorgi seconded.

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

VOTE

C. Possible action to Establish a Nominating Committee for Board Officers for the Term Beginning July 2023 through June 2024 and to Appoint Board Chair, Vice-Chair, Fiscal Chair, and two Executive Committee Members.

Lindsay Dahlheimer volunteered to join the Nominating Committee for Board Officers.

Ms. Ellen Michaels motioned to establish a nominating committee for board officers.
Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

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

VOTE

11. Adjournment: 1:22 pm



12. Attachments

13. Other

- a. Finance Committee Meeting, June 1, 2023
- b. Regular Board Meeting, June 1, 2023

WWW.ACES.ORG

Peter C. Young Building • 350 State Street • North Haven, CT 06473-3108 | [Phone \(203\) 498-6800](tel:(203)498-6800) • [Fax \(203\) 498-6890](tel:(203)498-6890)

The Regional Educational Service Center Serving South Central Connecticut.

ACES does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability or sexual orientation.