



ACES GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, October 14, 2021 Meeting at Noon
205 Skiff Street, Hamden, CT

Governing Board: Fran DiGiorgi, Ansonia; Ellen Michaels, Branford; Lynn Campo, Hamden; Dorothy Logan, North Haven; Ethel Grant, Naugatuck; Susan Riccio, Orange; Shelley Lacey-Castelot; Oxford; Norman Hicks, RSD #13; Karen Hlavac, Wallingford; Elizabeth Brown, Waterbury; Roberta Leonard, Wolcott

ACES: Olga Simoes, Steven Cook, Timothy Howes, Thomas Danehy, William Rice, Steven Cook, Dee Colson

Not Present: Bethany, Cheshire, Derby, East Haven, Meriden, Middletown, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, RSD#5, RSD#16, Seymour, West Haven, Woodbridge

Member of Audience: William Jacobs from AEA

1. Welcome/Call to Order

Mr. Norman Hicks called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:04 pm after determining a quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Lynn Campo & Dorothy Logan

3. Public Participation/Communications

4. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Karen Hlavac motioned to accept the ACES Governing Board Minutes of September 9, 2021.

Ms. Susan Riccio seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

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5. Executive Director's Report - Dr. Danehy and Mr. Hicks recognized Lynn Campo and Dorothy Logan for their years of service and dedication to the ACES Governing Board. Dr. Danehy and Norman Hicks presented proclamations, gifts, and flowers.

- a. Dr. Danehy provided an update on COVID Matters and Executive Order 13G. Attestation requests were received from New Haven, Branford, and West Haven. Steve Cook and the Human Resources team are working through the requests to assure compliance.
- b. Regarding the sale of the property on Skiff Street, Hamden, Dr. Danehy reported that he was prepared to sign a purchase and sale agreement once the Board votes on the new business item later on the agenda.
- c. Dr. Danehy provided an update on the audit status and the auditor's recommendation to diversify investments. There is an action item later on the agenda for this matter.
- d. There is an upcoming Professional Learning regarding Emotional Poverty – by Dr. Ruby Payne, November 2. The scope of Dr. Payne's work includes strategies for educators to use in better understanding the psyche in poverty and in crisis. Skills learned may be used to de-escalate emotionally charged situations resulting in better outcomes for students, families and educators.
- e. Upcoming negotiations this year include negotiations with administrators and with members of CSEA. Non-bargaining employee salary and benefits packages will come to the Board at the November regular meeting.
- f. There will be a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for our first electric-powered bus which was funded through a grant with CT DEEP on October 15, 1:00 pm at 60 United Drive. All are invited to attend.

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

Our bottom line projections reflect a surplus for October as we receive enrollment data to estimate revenues and expenses for FY22 more precisely. October invoices are being processed for tuition and transportation and showing promising results as we look ahead. We are managing our expenditures conservatively by paying close attention to the enrollment trends. We are prepared to adjust the spending if needed to ensure a positive outcome for the year-end. Our emphasis is to continue to monitor student enrollment numbers and requests for services better to estimate the cash position of the agency for FY22.

Ms. Susan Riccio motioned to accept the filing of the Fiscal Report.

Ms. Roberta Leonard seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

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Opposed: None
Abstention: None

VOTE

7. Approval of Human Resources Report - Mr. Cook

Mr. Cook presented the HR report and reported 84 new hires, including 32 LEAP staff, 3 transfers, 15 resignations, 0 retirements, and 4 leaves. Regarding Covid and the Governor’s Executive Order 13G, we have collected vaccination cards, had staff sign off on attestations, created attestation documents for districts we support. In addition, we have developed a process for unvaccinated staff to upload test results, including a 72-hour window and increased hours of our clinic that provides testing.

Ms. Fran DiGiorio motioned to accept the filing of the Human Resources Report.
Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

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

VOTE

8. Curriculum & Instruction Report - Mr. Rice

- a. Mr. Rice reported on the COVID status of ACES Magnet Schools, Specialized Schools, and Programs. Magnet Schools, Specialized Schools, and Programs are all full in-person programming with appropriate COVID protocols in place.
- b. ACES Schools and Programs are continuing to experience significant bussing issues due to a shortage of drivers as our surrounding districts are.
- c. ACES at Ansonia Middle School is a new program modeled after the Mead Elementary School program. ACES staff will operate a classroom of Ansonia Middle School students to help the students develop the skills necessary to function in a typical classroom environment with minimal support.
- d. Mr. Rice discussed ACES Common Core alignment with Curriculum Management Plan.
- e. Sponsored by the Zinn Education Project, an ACES educational specialist was awarded an opportunity to host a free book study on Teaching for Black Lives.

9. Early Head Start Update - Dr. Danehy

The Executive Director requests the approval of the Early Head Start monthly reports and contract summaries.

Ms. Ellen Harris motioned to accept the filing of the Early Head Start Report.
Ms. Susan Riccio seconded.

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

VOTE

10. Old Business

- a. Possible action concerning authorization of the sale of real estate on Skiff Street Hamden. Norman Hicks requested a motion to authorize the sale of 261 Skiff Street, Hamden.

Ms. Susan Riccio motioned to accept the motion of the sale of 261 Skiff Street, Hamden.
Ms. Dorothy Logan seconded.

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

VOTE

- b. Possible action authorizing the termination of lease of property in Clinton. Norman Hicks requested a motion to authorize the termination of Clinton lease.

Ms. Susan Riccio motioned to accept the motion of the sale of 261 Skiff Street, Hamden.
Ms. Elizabeth Brown seconded.

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

VOTE

11. New Business

- a. Possible action to approve the transfer of funds to Liberty Bank Guaranteed Investment Fund.

Susan Riccio requested a motion to transfer two million into the Liberty Bank Guaranteed Investment Fund.

Ms. Susan Riccio motioned to accept the motion of transferring funds.
Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

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

VOTE

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12. Possible Executive Session

Motion to Enter Executive Session at 12:56 pm

- a. For the purpose of reviewing two stipulated agreements involving student discipline.

Ms. Karen Hlavac motioned to accept the Stipulated Agreements approved.

Ms. Dorothy Logan seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

- b. Real Estate Transaction

Motion was made to authorize Executive Direct to execute purchase and sale agreement for Skiff Street property.

Ms. Susan Riccio motioned to accept.

Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

13. Adjournment

Executive session ended 1:07 pm

14. Attachments

15. Other

Next meeting: November 18, 2021 at noon.

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