



**ACES GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, April 8, 2021, Zoom Meeting at Noon**

**Governing Board:** Ellen Michaels, Branford; Laura Harris, Derby; Lynn Campo, Hamden; Robert Kosienski, Meriden; Ethel Grant, Naugatuck; Susan Riccio, Orange; Shelly Lacey-Castelot; Oxford; Robyn Berke, RSD #5; Norman Hicks, RSD #13; Michael Votto, Wallingford; Elizabeth Brown, Waterbury; Patricia Libero, West Haven; Roberta Leonard, Wolcott

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

**Not Present:** Ansonia, Bethany, Cheshire, East Haven, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven

**1. Welcome/Call to Order**

Mr. Norman Hickes called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:01 pm after determining a quorum was present.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Elizabeth Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Public Participation/Communications**

Ms. Susan Riccio thanked the ACES Foundation for an outstanding Gala. Although virtual, it was very engaging and entertaining.

Norman Hicks revealed that the Board donated a watch for the Gala, and it had not been recognized in the program.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Roberta Leonard motioned to accept the ACES Governing Board Minutes of March 11, 2021.

Ms. Susan Riccio seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: Patricia Libero

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. Danehy

Dr. Danehy shared the following information about happenings at ACES:

- a. Update on COVID-related Matters – Dr. Danehy stated that 24% of the state's citizens are vaccinated, and the numbers continue to climb. More than 68% of ACES employees have been vaccinated according to the employee survey administered recently. With the opening of vaccination slots to those over 16, that number will increase. Shortly we hope to be able to administer the vaccine in our Smart Care Clinic. Presently the Smart Care clinic does provide rapid COVID tests.
- b. Update on Schools - Mr. Rice, AED, for Schools has been working through a plan to reconfigure special education schools to capitalize on learning space utility, work through pockets of enrollment changes, and take advantage of the early retirement plan program in some special education schools. He will continue to vet the possibilities and grade level alignments and locations. A full assessment of the reconfiguration report will be presented at the May meeting.
- c. ESSR II Grant Application. The grant is \$1.4M. The submission date for the application is April 19, 2021. The grant allows funds to address learning loss, prepare schools for reopening, testing, repairing, and upgrading projects to improve air quality in school buildings, learning opportunities, summer school, after-school programs, and services by OTs, and PTs.
- d. RESC Alliance Contracts – The Learner Engagement Attendance Program LEAP grant was awarded to the six RESCs. LEAP is funded by a \$10.7M grant from the Governor's Emergency Education Grant. It is directed by the RESCs for 15 districts that have the highest percentage of students on free or reduced lunch, highest number of English Learners, and highest enrollments. ACES has been awarded \$3.1M to use for Waterbury, New Haven, and Meriden.
- e. Annual Evaluation of Executive Director will follow. Dr. Danehy will send the Board a guidance packet for them to conduct the evaluation, and it will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.
- f. Budget Proposals for FY 2021-2022. Olga Simoes, Director of Fiscal, presented and reviewed the Budget Proposal for International and Security with the Board.
- g. ACES Foundation Gala. The latest figure the Gala has earned for this year is \$84,231. There was little overhead this year with the Gala being virtual. Overall, over 17 years, the Gala has had an income of over \$1,000,000.

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

This month our financial position continues in a slight surplus. Student enrollment in special education schools has remained steady, and we anticipate the continuation of this trend. Demand for contracts within our services group continues to climb, which enhances our surplus. We continue to identify

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.



savings in salaries, wages, and health insurance costs to bring us into a surplus position through expense management. As we get closer to the end of the fiscal year, our expenditures are winding down, though we continue to manage pandemic-related costs. We are committed to continue to manage expenses, enroll students, and procure new contracts to strengthen our financial standing.

Ms. Susan Riccio motioned to approve the filing of the fiscal report.  
Ms. Laura Harris seconded.

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

VOTE

**7. Approval of Human Resources Report - Mr. Cook**

Mr. Cook presented the HR report and reported 11 new hires in various positions, one transfer/position change, four resignations, seven terminations, nine staff members out on leave. Mr. Cook said that they are now focusing on supporting staff with vaccinations, travel expectations for April break, Covid-related issues, and remote staff returning to their respective positions.

Ms. Susan Riccio made a motion to approve the filing of the HR report.  
Ms. Ellen Michaels seconded.

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

VOTE

**8. Curriculum & Instruction Report - Mr. Rice**

Mr. Rice reported on the COVID status of ACES Magnet Schools, Specialized Schools, Hybrid and Virtual Learning Programs. He also communicated the status of the Magnet Schools and ECA applications. Currently, ECA has 228 applications for 88 openings, and acceptance letters are being sent to families. WIMS has 70 acceptance letters being sent out. TEMS reports 474 commitment letters have been sent out, 180 commitment letters are still outstanding, 294 commitment letters have been received. Some 28 of the 32 families indicated that they would not participate in ACES at Chase from Meriden. There have been 121 acceptance letters sent to new applicants, and four of the 121 have stated that the student will not participate in ACES at Chase.

**9. Early Head Start Update - Dr. Danehy**

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

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.



Mr. Robert Kosienski made a motion to approve the Early Head Start monthly reports and contract updates summaries.

Ms. Susan Riccio seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

**10. Old Business - None**

**11. New Business**

- a. Tim Howes brought forward the action for the resolution of a real estate purchase.

**AREA COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

**RESOLUTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

April 9, 2021

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors previously authorized **Area Cooperative Educational Services**, a body corporate and politic established pursuant to Section 10-66a of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, having an address at 350 State Street, North Haven, Connecticut 06473 (“**ACES**”), to purchase and acquire the real property and other assets and properties formerly owned and operated by Chase Collegiate School and commonly known as 565 Chase Parkway, Waterbury, Connecticut (the “**Property**”), from **Chase Collegiate Land, LLC** and **Chase Collegiate Education, LLC**; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ACES is authorized and empowered to obtain financing in an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 (the “**Financing**”) consisting of Key Government Finance, Inc. or any of its affiliates (“**Lender**”) purchasing a tax-exempt bond, the proceeds of which will be lent to ACES to acquire the Property or refinance the Taxable Financing (as defined below). The terms and conditions of the Financing are set forth in a term sheet of Lender dated February 4, 2021, and approved by ACES, a copy of which has been reviewed by the Board and is hereby approved; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ACES is authorized and empowered to obtain financing in an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 (the “**Financing**”) consisting of Key Government Finance, Inc. or any of its affiliates (“**Lender**”) purchasing a tax-exempt bond, the proceeds of which will be lent to ACES to acquire the Property or refinance the Taxable Financing (as defined below); and it is

WWW.ACES.ORG

---

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



**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that, prior to entering into the Financing, ACES is authorized and empowered to obtain bridge financing in an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 (the “Taxable Financing”) from Lender to acquire the Property; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, to secure the Financing and the Taxable Financing, ACES is authorized and empowered to grant to Lender a mortgage lien on the Property and such other property of ACES; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, Thomas M. Danehy, Ed.D., Executive Director of ACES (the “Executive Director”), or any individual acting at his direction, be, and hereby is, authorized and empowered in the name of and on behalf of ACES to negotiate the terms and conditions of definitive loan documents for the Financing and Taxable Financing and to execute and deliver any and all documents necessary or appropriate to effectuate the Financing and Taxable Financing, including (without limitation) a loan agreement, a continuing covenants agreement, a mortgage, an environmental indemnity agreement (the “Loan Documents”); and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the said Executive Director, or any individual acting at his direction, be, and hereby is, authorized and empowered in the name of and on behalf of ACES to negotiate the terms and conditions of and to execute and deliver for and on behalf of ACES, all of the instruments, documents and agreements that may be necessary or appropriate to carry out any of the foregoing resolutions, including (without limitation) the Loan Documents, all with such changes, and in such forms, as he may approve, the execution and delivery of each such documents to be conclusive evidence of said approval; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the said Executive Director, or any individual acting at his direction, be, and hereby is, authorized to do and perform all such further acts and things as may be necessary or convenient in order to consummate the transactions authorized in the foregoing resolutions, and any actions heretofore or hereafter taken by the said Executive Director, or any individual acting at his direction, in carrying out the purposes of these resolutions are hereby confirmed, approved and ratified in all respects.

Susan Riccio read the below motion.

**Motion**

To consider and discuss a resolution entitled resolution-appropriating \$13,000,000 for the conversion of 565 chase Parkway, Waterbury, Connecticut into school facilities for the soon to be former ACES Thomas Edison Middle School in Meriden, Connecticut and authorizing the issue of up to \$10,000,000 general obligation bonds of ACES to meet the said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings (Bridge loan) for such purpose and authorizing further scrutinization of repayment including by real property mortgage or a pledge of specific revenues

Ms. Susan Riccio made a motion to approve the resolution.

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. Ethel Grant seconded.

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

VOTE

b. Action brought forward to approve FY2021-2022 Budget for International and Security.

Ms. Roberta Lenoard made a motion to approve the FY2021-2022 Budget for International and Security.  
Ms. Patricia Libero seconded.

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

VOTE

**12. Adjournment:** At 12:51 pm, a motion to adjourn was made by many.

**13. Attachments**

**14. Other** Next Meeting May 13, 2021

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.