



**ACES GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES  
THURSDAY, June 1, 2023  
SDA Building, 205 Skiff Street, Hamden, CT**

**Governing Board:** Fran DiGiorgi, Ansonia; Laura Harris, Derby; Kevin Shea, Hamden; Ethel Grant, Naugatuck; Martin Rudnick, North Haven; Susan Riccio, Orange; 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:** Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Meriden, Middletown, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, Oxford, RSD#5, RSD #13, RSD #16, Seymour, Wallingford; West Haven, Woodbridge

**Guests:** ACES Teacher of the Year, Erika Henley. Executive Directors Recognition Awards Winners Melissa Alers, Cassandra Nonossi. Rookie of the Year, David Sanchez. Laura Cross, ECA parent.

**1. Welcome/Call to Order**

Ms. Susan Riccio called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. after determining a quorum was present.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Susan Riccio

**3. Public Participation/Communications**

N/A

**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: None

VOTE

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

- a. Teacher of the Year – Erika Henley, Social Worker Mill Road School.
- b. Executive Director Recognition Awards: Melissa Alers, Cassandra Nonossi, Nicole Richardson.
- c. Rookie of the Year Award – David Sanchez.
- d. Update on Building Committee Work at 88 Bassett Road, ACES at Chase, and Wintergreen School.
- e. Summer School, Extended Year Programming, Revisions and Additions to Programs and Services.
- f. MSAP Grant - Foundations of Racially Conscious Collaboration Training.

**6. Filing of the Fiscal Report (subject to audit)** - Ms. Olga Simoes/Ms. Laura Harris

June 2023 Fiscal Report outlines our projected positive cash flow position, which reflects ACES’ continued commitment to financial stability and growth, highlighting the key financial indicators and achievements contributing to our favorable outlook. Throughout the fiscal year, we have diligently focused on enhancing our revenue streams, optimizing operational efficiencies, implementing cost-saving measures, and making strategic investment decisions. Our revenue collection growth has gained traction with continuous efforts to diversify our revenue sources by exploring grant and investment opportunities. Our schools and services are working on closing out their open purchase orders and will complete June billing by July 15<sup>th</sup>—both year-end expenditures.

Ms. Laura Harris motioned to accept the filing of the fiscal report.  
Ms. Ethel Grant 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 24 new hires in various positions, four transfer/position changes, 12 resignations, eight leaves, one termination, and three retirements.

Ms. Laura Harris motioned to accept the filing of the Human Capital Development Report.  
Ms. Roberta Leonard seconded.

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

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

Mr. Rice reported on the Capital Improvement of the 88 Bassett, WIMS, and Chase construction projects. The walkthrough of 670 Wintergreen has been completed. The annual report for ACES properties will be available in Fall 2023. Mr. Rice requests the approval of the Early Head Start monthly reports and contract summaries.

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to accept the filing of the Early Head Start and Operations contract summaries.

Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded.

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

VOTE

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

Mr. Skarzynski reported on the upcoming Magnet, Specialized Schools and Programs. He also shared the End of Year Promotion and Graduation Ceremonies dates. ACES was awarded the contract to operate the educational program for the Plainville REGIONS site, which will be operational in August.

**10. Old business**

- a. Possible action to hear nominations from Nominating Committee for the position of Board Chair and elect a nominee to the position for the term June 1, 2023, through June 15, 2024.
- b. Possible action to hear nominations and elect Board Officers – Vice Chair, Fiscal Officer, and two Board members to the Executive Committee for the term June 1, 2023, through June 15, 2024.

Ms. Susan Riccio proposed that the ACES Committee Members remain acting members unit a vote in September 2023 meeting.

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

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to accept the budgets for 2023-2024 for Extension Therapy Services, Core Knowledge, Security, and Professional Development and Staff Improvement (PDSI).

Ms. Fran DiGiorgi Seconded.

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

VOTE

d. Possible action to adopt a resolution in support of full funding of HB 5003.

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to accept a resolution to support the full funding of HB5000.  
Ms. Roberta Leonard seconded.

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

VOTE

**11. Possible Executive Session**

For the purpose of conducting the Executive Director’s Annual Evaluation.

Ms. Susan Riccio moved to enter into Executive Session at 12:48 pm with the Governing Board for the purpose of discussing the Executive Director’s Annual Evaluation and contract.  
Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

The Governing Board reconvened to regular session at 1:42 PM.

**12. New Business**

a. Possible action to approve terms of employment for Executive Leadership Council members.

Ms. Roberta Leonard motioned to approve terms of employment for the Executive Leadership Council members, a 3% salary increase, and a flat annuity of \$8,000 for Tim Howes, William Rice, and Rebecca Cuevas. A \$5,600 flat annuity for Olga Simoes, Andy Skarzynski, Emily Freel, and Scott Sadinsky; health insurance with CSEA contract, five personal days, and four days of remote work per month. Additional \$250 salary increase for Rebecca Cuevas and a salary increase to begin January 1, 2024, for Olga Simoes, Andy Skarzynski, and Emily Freel.  
Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

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

VOTE

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b. Possible action to approve the contract for Executive Director.

Ms. Roberta Leonard motioned to extend the contract for Executive Director until June 30, 2026, provide a 2.75% salary increase, \$10,000 annuity increase, health insurance with CSEA Plan; offer retirement notice benefit that was offered to qualifying employees in 2020, remove the use of automobile effective October 1, 2023; four days of remote work per month; \$600 monthly car allowance.

Ms. Laura Harris seconded

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

VOTE

**13. Other**

Finance Committee Meeting September 14, 2023

Regular Board Meeting September 14, 2023

**14. Adjournment:** 1:51 pm

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