



**DRAFT**  
**ACES GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES**  
**THURSDAY, December 12, 2024**  
**SDA Building, 205 Skiff Street, Hamden, CT**

**Governing Board:** Ellen Michaels, Branford; Laura Harris, Derby; Greta Johnson, Hamden; NicKimmy Hayes, Meriden; Mike Smith, Milford; Ethel Grant, Naugatuck; Marjorie Bonadies, Alternate, North Branford; Susan Riccio, Orange; Carol Oladele, RSD #5 Amity; Lindsay Dahlheimer, RSD #13; Ray Ross, Wallingford; Thomas Van Stone, Waterbury; Roberta Leonard, Wolcott

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

**Not Present:** Ansonia, Bethany, Cheshire, East Haven, Middletown, New Haven, North Haven, Oxford, RSD #16, Seymour, West Haven, Woodbridge

**Guests:** David Stein, Silver Petrucelli, Timothy Gunn, Bear Notch, and Heather Gish, Ansonia.

**I. Welcome/Call to Order**

Ms. Susan Riccio called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:05 pm after determining a quorum was present.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Susan Riccio

**III. Public Participation/Communications**

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Roberta Leonard motioned to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes held on November 14, 2024.

Mike Smith seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: Carol Oladele, Ethel Grant, Ray Ross

**VOTE**

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- V. **Executive Director’s Report** - Dr. Thomas M. Danehy
  - a. ACES Student Holiday Presentation Awards
  - b. 049 Application for CHASE, David Stein Silver Petrucelli
  - c. Schools and Programs for Students with Emotional Disabilities - Heather Gish
  - d. Dr. Danehy congratulated Dr. Rice on his successful defense of his dissertation.

VI. **Filing of the Fiscal Report (subject to audit)** - Mr. Thomas Van Stone  
 I am pleased to report that ACES is in a positive fiscal position, with a notable yearly surplus. This positive financial outcome is supported by robust enrollments across our programs and solid contracts within our services group, which continue to drive revenue stability.

Mr. Thomas Van Stone motioned to accept the filing of the fiscal report.  
 Ms. Roberta Leonard seconded.

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

**VOTE**

VII. **Approval of Human Capital Development Report** – Ms. Rebecca Cuevas  
 Ms. Cuevas presented the HR report and reported 16 new hires in various positions, eight resignations, six transfer/position changes, nine leaves, and five terminations. Ms. Cuevas also gave an update on the Human Capital Development Department and announced that the SDE approved the ACES Increasing Educator Diversity Plan.

Ms. Laura Harris motioned to accept the Human Capital Report.  
 Ms. Ellen Michaels seconded.

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

**VOTE**

VIII. **Operations and Early Head Start Report** - Dr. William Rice  
 Dr. William Rice presented updates on ACES construction projects at CHASE, 670 Wintergreen Avenue, and 88 Bassett Road. He also provided comprehensive updates on Capital Improvement Projects, Operations, Facilities, Maintenance, Internal Transportation, Security, Data Privacy, ACCESS, Magnet School Lottery, Open Choice Program, Community Engagement initiatives, Nutrition Services, Network Services, and the Early Head Start Program.



Dr. William Rice requests approval for the Early Head Start monthly reports and contract summaries.

Ms. Roberta Leonard motioned to accept the Early Head Start monthly reports and contract summaries.

Ms. Carol Oladele seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

**VOTE**

**IX. Core Knowledge – Ms. Emily Freel**

Ms. Emily Freel provided updated reports on Curriculum and Schools, Talent Development, Data Support, Educational Technology, and Professional Development Support.

**X. Possible Executive Session**

- a. Possible executive session for purposes of negotiations and regarding a student expulsion.

Ms. Susan Riccio moved to enter into an Executive Session with Dr. Thomas Danehy, Dr. William Rice, Timothy Howes, Rebecca Cuevas, and the Board at 1:44 p.m.

Ms. Laura Harris motioned to enter into an Executive Session.

Ms. Ellen Michaels seconded.

Ms. Susan Riccio motioned to reopen the regular session at 1:53 pm.

**XI. New Business**

Ms. Susan Riccio moved to amend the December 12, 2024, agenda to add an item for Possible action to approve a student Stipulation Agreement.

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to add possible action to approve a student Expulsion Stipulated Agreement.

Ms. Ellen Michaels seconded.

Motion to amend agenda passed unanimously.

- a. Possible action to approve CSDE authorized signatures change to add Dr. William Rice.

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Ms. Roberta Leonard motioned to approve the CSDE-authorized signature changes to add Dr. William Rice.  
Ms. Carol Oladele seconded.

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

**VOTE**

b. Possible action to approve Agreement between ACES Administrators Association and ACES Governing Board for July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028.

This matter was tabled to the next Governing Board Meeting in January.

c. Possible action to approve Resolution 049 application for ACES at CHASE.

Ms. Roberta Leonard motioned to approve Resolution 049 application for ACES at CHASE.  
Mr. Ray Ross seconded.

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

**VOTE**

d. Possible action to approve Community Investment Grant Resolution application approval.

Ms. Carol Oladele motioned to approve the Community Investment Grant Resolution application approval.  
Mr. Ray Ross seconded.

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

**VOTE**

e. Possible action to approve an Expulsion Stipulated Agreement.

Mr. Ray Ross motioned to approve an Expulsion Stipulated Agreement.  
Ms. Carol Oladele seconded.

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

**VOTE**

**XII. Other**

- a. Finance Committee Meeting, January 9, 2025
- b. Regular Board Meeting, January 9, 2025

**XIII. Adjournment**

Ms. Roberta Leonard motioned to adjourn at 1:59 pm  
Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.,

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