



ACES GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, April 5, 2023
SDA Building, 205 Skiff Street, Hamden, CT

Governing Board: Fran DiGiorgi, Ansonia; Susan Bradford, Bethany; Laura Harris, Derby; Ethel Grant, Naugatuck; Martin Rudnick, North Haven; Susan Riccio, Orange; Carol Oladele, RSD #5 Amity; Lindsay Dahlheimer, RSD #13; Kimberly Kenny, West Haven

ACES: Olga Simoes, Andy Skarzynski, Timothy Howes, Thomas Danehy, William Rice, Rebecca Cuevas, Dee Colson

Not Present: Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Hamden, Meriden, Middletown, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, New Haven, Oxford, RSD #16, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury, Wolcott, Woodbridge

Guests: Kathleen Vitagliano, CSEA, and William Jacobs AEA

1. Welcome/Call to Order

Ms. Susan Riccio called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:06 pm after determining a quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Susan Riccio

3. Public Participation/Communications

Ms. Laura Harris shared that Principal Rachael Caggiano was selected as Connecticut Association of Schools 2023 Connecticut Middle School Principal of the Year.

4. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Laura Harris motioned to accept the minutes of the ACES Governing Board of March 9, 2023.

Ms. Fran DiGiorgi seconded.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstention: Ethel Grant

VOTE

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5. Executive Director's Report

1. Budget Proposals were presented to the Board by Olga Simoes. The following budgets reflect a 3.4% overall budget increase for ACES schools and services and reflect completed contract negotiations with teachers, administrators, behavior technicians, and CSEA members.
 - a. Whitney Academy
 - b. Village School
 - c. EIBI
 - d. Pupil Personnel Services
 - e. Marketing
 - f. Family & Community Engagement
 - g. International
 - h. Education Center for the Arts
 - i. Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School
 - j. ACES at CHASE
2. Staffing Needs – reductions in force for teachers and staff members at ACES at Chase will follow procedures outlined in employment contracts, and they may be offset by vacancies in other units as well as by potential new work, especially in the programming that may include another location for a REGIONS program for young females.
3. Executive Director's Annual Evaluation Process has begun.
4. ACES Foundation Gala – The ACES Foundation held its annual Gala on March 26 at Anthony's. Special thanks to committee members for their work on securing donations, auction items, and ticket sales. Net proceeds approached about \$88,000 based on revenue of \$122,000 and expenses of \$34,000. ACES Foundation awards grants annually to staff members interested in providing additional programming beyond those funded by the general budget.

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

April projections reflect a surplus based on the projected revenues, encumbrances, and expenditures. The expenditure projections included design plan adjustments, school and program encumbrances, and payroll projections. The revenue projections fluctuate monthly based on the special education school enrollment and service contracts. We diligently monitor school and program expenditures, with the final date to encumber funds set for April 21st to ensure a positive outcome. March billing has been completed and reflected in the billed-to-date column of the fiscal report along with the projected revenues, which presents a positive outlook for the year-end cash flow position.

Ms. Laura Harris motioned to accept the filing of the fiscal report.

Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

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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 20 new hires in various positions, 12 transfers/position changes, 15 resignations, six leaves, 0 terminations, and two retirements. The Executive Director’s Recognition Awards will be held on May 31, 2023. In partnership with Early Head Start, the department is supporting and helping to develop a breastfeeding/chestfeeding policy.

Mr. Martin Rudnick motioned to accept the filing of the Human Capital Development Report.
Ms. Laura Harris seconded.

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

VOTE

8. Schools Report - Mr. Skarzynski

Mr. Skarzynski reported on the upcoming Magnet, Specialized Schools, and Programs. He also noted that our schools are getting ready for the administration of the 2023 Smarter Balanced Assessment.

9. Early Head Start and Operations Report – Mr. Rice

Mr. Rice requests the approval of the Early Head Start monthly reports and contract summaries. In addition, the updated Mitigation policy was presented to the board. He also reported on Capital Improvement of the construction projects of 88 Bassett, WIMS, and CHASE, along with preparing for the move to 670 Wintergreen.

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

Ms. Carol Oladele seconded.

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

VOTE

10. New Business

1. Possible Action to Approve School and Program Budgets for 2023-2024.

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The Board motioned to accept the School and Program Budgets for 2023-2024.

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

VOTE

2. Possible Action to Reduce Certified Staff due to economic reasons effective July 1, 2023.

Ms. Laura Harris motioned to approve the reduction of Certified Staff for economic reasons.
Ms. Lindsay Dahlheimer seconded.

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

VOTE

3. Discussion and Possible Action regarding the recommendation that the Board votes not to renew the teachers' contracts based on a reduction in force.

Ms. Lindsay Dahlheimer motioned to approve the recommendation not to renew the Teacher's Contracts based on a reduction in force.
Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded.

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

VOTE

4. MOVED: The contracts of the following teachers are non-renewed for the 2023-2024 school year.

5. Non-Tenured:

- A2V0
- A33T
- A2YO
- A2W4
- A2FZ
- A2OV
- A2L3
- A21I

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FURTHER MOVED: That this action is necessitated by budgetary reasons unrelated to the performance of these teachers, which is appreciated,

and

FURTHER MOVED: The Executive Director is hereby authorized to notify these teachers of this action.

Ms. Lindsay Dahlheimer motioned to approve items 4 and 5 concerning the contract of the Non-Tenured teachers in item 5.

Ms. Laura Harris seconded.

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

VOTE

6. Possible Action to Approve Revised Authorized Signature of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs.

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to accept the revised authorized signature of the ED-99 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs.

Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded.

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

VOTE

11. Adjournment:

Ms. Ethel Grant motioned to adjourn at 1:06 pm

Mr. Martin Rudnick seconded.

12. Other

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

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