



**DRAFT MINUTES
ACES GOVERNING BOARD
THURSDAY, September 10, 2020 Zoom Meeting /SDA Building at Noon**

Governing Board: Fran DiGiorgi, Ansonia, Edward Maher, Bethany, Ellen Michaels, Branford, Anthony Perugini, Cheshire, Laura Harris, Derby, Lynn Campo, Hamden, Ethel Grant, Naugatuck, Dorothy Logan, North Haven, Susan Riccio, Orange, Robyn Berke, RSD#5, Norman Hicks, RSD#13, Patricia Libero, West Haven.

ACES: Steven Cook, Thomas Danehy, Timothy Howes, William Rice, Evelyn Rossetti-Ryan, Olga Simoes, Dee Colson

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

1. Welcome/Call to Order

Norman Hicks called the ACES Governing Board meeting to order at 12:11pm after determining a quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Dorothy Logan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Participation/Communications

Mr. Hicks spoke about the recent Convocation, which was held virtually for the first time in many years given the COVID pandemic. The video was shared with the Board recently. Mr. Hicks remarked on the excellent work by staff members, including Ingrid Ellinger-Doviak who produced the video with the participation of many ACES’ staff members.

4. Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Susan Riccio moved to accept the ACES Governing Board Minutes of June 4, 2020 & August 13, 2020.

Ms. Fran DiGiorgi seconded.

All in favor: Passed Unanimously

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

VOTE

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5. Executive Director's Report-Dr. Danehy spoke about the following topics:

- I. Filing and submission of ACES' Annual Report Section 10-66 C.G.S.. Dr. Danehy thanks Elaine Sein for her work in pulling together various informational items as well as stories and pictures for the annual report. The report is available through Elaine Sein or Dee Colson.
- II. ACES Reopening Update – Dr. Danehy reported on the summer work in preparing the reopening plan which was done with the help of various staff members throughout the agency in numerous summer zoom meetings. He thanked the Reopening Crews who were employed to prepare each building for the opening. As for enrollment, many students in schools for special needs are attending school in person as are students in magnet schools. Thomas Edison Middle School is the only school that is operating in a hybrid model.
- III. Convocation – Dr. Danehy thanked the various staff members who were involved in the creation of the video and echoed Mr. Hicks' earlier remarks.
- IV. HR and Fiscal Summary – Dr. Danehy provided a review of summer hiring and COVID related changes in HR as well as impacts to fiscal matters.
- V. TJ v DiBlasio lawsuit – Dr. Danehy shared information for the latest judge's response to the plaintiffs in the case. It appears that states other than New York will be dropped from the suit. The plaintiffs need to show reasons why other states should not be dismissed by September 14, 2020.
- VI. WIN Wednesdays – Staff Development Menu of PD classes (Academic and Technology based) – Dr. Danehy stated that we will hear an overview of this new program in the October Board meeting.
- VII. RESC Alliance maintaining a roster of teachers available as substitutes for area school districts – Dr. Danehy surveyed local districts to see if they needed support for substitutes as recommended by the Commissioner.
- VIII. Real Estate matter for building formerly housing Whitney High East - Dr. Danehy shared information regarding possible use of the property as housing for adults with special needs and a recent tour with Elm City Housing of the property. In the meanwhile, while further study ensues, the ACES HealthStat Walk-In clinic for employees will possibly be housed there.
- IX. Business Advisory Council activities – Evelyn Rossetti-Ryan reported on the annual BAC Dinner to be postponed until April, 2021 as well as other matters related to work with local businesses and the interrelation it has with our ACCESS program providing jobs to our adults with special needs.

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

Possible action to approved monthly financial statement for August 2020.

At the end of August, our bottom line projections reflect a slight deficit as we are finalizing our enrollment and estimate the expenses associated with the PPE and safe reopening due to COVID 19. ACES continues to work with our districts to provide information related to invoicing for tuition and services to ensure a fair and equitable solution for all concerned. Our expenditures primarily focused on PPE stock replenishment and support for the continuation of teaching and learning, providing services and outreach. We are monitoring our enrollment numbers as well as requests for services to better estimate the cash position of the agency for FY21.

Mr. Norman Hicks moved to approve the filing of the Fiscal Report (subject to audit).
Ms. Fran DiGiorgi seconded.

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

VOTE

7. Service Platform Report

Update on Services Reopening - **Tim Howes

I. Details on continuing contracts for Services Platform for extension therapy, behavioral services, technology services, fiscal services, and transportation services

II. Details on new services or service expansions

1. Pricing for our services within market ranges continues to be a matter to work through as does contract extensions by school districts during this year. Districts have called asking how they will be billed should parents opt to keep students home during COVID. They have also asked about transportation costs if children stay home.
2. Ansonia Paraprofessional Onboarding Program
3. RSET Expansion
4. West Campus Outpatient service clinic
5. HealthStat – internal health services for employees which serves to reduce costs for the health insurance collaborative as long as employees opt to use it in lieu of emergency room visits for minor medical matters. The average cost of an emergency room visit is over \$1,000 while a clinic visit costs much less and allows for better pricing with prescriptions and health tests.

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

The Executive Director recommended that the ACES Governing Board authorize the hiring and/or transfer/position changes, accept the resignations and retirement, confirm the termination, and grant the leaves as detailed on the Human Resources Report.

Ms. Fran Digorgi moved to authorize the hiring and/or transfer/position changes, accept the resignations and retirement, confirm the termination, and grant the leaves as detailed on the Human Resources Report. Ms. Susan Riccio seconded.

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

VOTE

9. Curriculum & Instruction Report--Mr. Rice

- I. Details of SPED Schools
 - 1. Mostly full in person
 - 2. No district needs to worry about not having services of IEP provided
- II. COVID-19 agreement highlights with teachers during pandemic
- III. Synchronous / Asynchronous learning
- IV. New Daycare center
- V. Calendar

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

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

Ms. Susan Riccio moved to accept the Early Head Start Updates. Ms. Ethel Grant seconded.

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

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11. New Business

- 1. Filing of ACES' Annual Report to the Commissioner of Education.
Ms. Ethel Grant moved to approve filing of Annual Report.
Ms. Fran DiGiorgi seconded.

All in Favor: Passed Unanimously
Opposed: None
Abstention: None VOTE

- 2. Possible action to approve substitute teacher pay rates for 2020-2021 to become effective beginning with the pay period starting September 11, 2020.
Ms. Susan Riccio moved to approve pay rates, increasing the substitute rate by \$5.00 per day.
Ms. Dorothy Logan Seconded.

All in Favor: Passed Unanimously
Opposed: None
Abstention: None VOTE

- 3. Possible action to approve changes to Service Platform.
Ms. Susan Riccio moved to approve Service Platform changes created by high pricing relevant to market rates, COVID-19 contractual changes and fiscal impact, and efficiencies of streamlining in the design plan by eliminating four positions: Budget Analyst, Director of Behavior Services, Coordinator of Technology Services, and Assistant Director of Extension Therapy.
Ms. Laura Harris Seconded.

All in Favor: Passed Unanimously
Opposed: None
Abstention: None VOTE

12. Request for Executive Session:

Executive Session order 1:16pm

Dot Logan moved to go into Executive Session with Steve Cook and Tom Danehy for the purposes of an employment matter concerning one employee. Ms. Lynn Campo seconded. Board unanimously approved the session.

Fran DiGiorgi moved to exit Executive Session and her motion was seconded by Ethel Grant.

Fran DiGiorgi made a motion to allow for donation of sick days to an employee in the hospital. Up to half of an employee's annual allotment may be donated to the employee to cover time through December 31, 2020, and such donations do not create a past practice.

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Ms. Dorothy Logan motioned to allow donation of sick days.
Mr. Lynn Campo seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.

13. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 1:15pm

14. Attachments

15. Other Next Meeting, October 8, 2020

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