

AGENDA



**Addison Central School District
Ad Hoc Charter Research Committee
Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 2, 2023, 7:30 am - 8:30 am
Virtual Connection**

ACSD District Vision and Mission

OUR VISION

All students will reach their full academic potential and be prepared for success as engaged citizens.

OUR MISSION

To provide an innovative, rigorous, and supportive educational community that inspires a passion for learning and cultivates empathy and responsibility.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82522977955>

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- A. Call to Order Upon Reaching A Quorum
 - 1. Introductions - Board Members, Administrators and Staff
 - 2. Public Comment
- B. Recommendation to Approve Minutes of January 23, 2023
- C. Continue work on language for possible Charter Article 14 Revision
- D. Other Business
- E. Next Committee Meeting Date/Time
- F. Adjournment

***Public Comment Guidelines:**

Public comments are encouraged and welcome at each regular board meeting during the period designated for public comment. Comments are limited to three minutes per person. Citizens will be called to make their statement by the board chair. Public comments regarding personnel, students or legal matters will not be heard by the Board.

MINUTES



**Addison Central School District
Ad Hoc Charter Research Committee
Committee Meeting
Monday, January 23, 2023, 4:15 pm - 5:15 pm
208 Charles Avenue, Middlebury VT & Virtual Connection**

ACSD District Vision and Mission

OUR VISION

All students will reach their full academic potential and be prepared for success as engaged citizens.

OUR MISSION

To provide an innovative, rigorous, and supportive educational community that inspires a passion for learning and cultivates empathy and responsibility.

In-Person Attendance

Barbara Wilson; Joanna Doria; Mary Heather Noble; Suzanne Buck

Remote Attendance

Steve Orzech

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

Link to join Webinar

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82252373655>

1. Call to Order Upon Reaching a Quorum

Meeting called to order at 4:19 p.m.

2. Introductions - Board Members, Administrators and Staff

3. Approve the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda.

Move: Barbara Wilson Second: Mary Heather Noble Status: Passed

4. Public Comment

No public comment.

5. Recommendation to Approve Minutes of October 18, 2022

Motion to approve the minutes of October 18, 2022.

Move: Joanna Doria Second: Barbara Wilson Status: Passed

6. Committee Discussion

Suzanne Buck reviewed the committee's charge: to create two motions with language to amend Article 14 of the ACSD Charter to add either a District-wide vote or a Town vote

requirement prior to any school closure.

Barb Wilson noted that it would be nice to include the language of the entire article amendment in the motion so that the record is clear about what Board members are voting on. Mary Heather Noble agreed.

Suzanne said that per Robert's Rules, the committee's charge requires the group to produce a document for the Board. She also advised that whatever language that the committee generates will need to go through legal review so that the Board has some assurance that what it is voting on meets legal requirements.

7. Understanding and start work on committee charge

The committee began work by reviewing amendment language options created by Barb Wilson and Mary Heather Noble. The language provided by both were similar, with relatively minor details in how the font was edited to show changes. Barb's version adopted language from Slate Valley SD; Mary Heather's borrowed language from Calcedonia SD, Echo Valley SD, and Paine Mountain SD. The group discussed some of the details to be refined, including:

- single paragraph verses two paragraph format
- "consent of the [Town/District] electorate" verses "a positive vote of the [municipality/district] in which the school is located."
- revising language to include the possibility of multiple simultaneous school closures
- whether a minimum number of public hearings to be held should be specified (current Article 14 does not specify, but other districts require at least 3)
- whether to add language requiring the Board to include identification of impacts and mitigation strategies along with its reasons for school closure in the public notice prior to a Board vote
- whether public notice of the Board's intent to vote on a school closure should be given 10 days or 30 days prior to the vote (current Article 14 requires 10 days; other districts require 30)
- whether to maintain the current supermajority (10 of 13 Board members) required to approve a school closure.

Suzanne Buck explained that some of the specific language (e.g., the number of public meetings, etc.) was proposed during the original Charter committee work, but that it did not make it in at the time. ACS D was one of the first unified districts, so they were doing the best they could without much example or guidance language.

Steve Orzech spoke up in favor of removing the current supermajority Board approval required to close a school if we are adding language to provide for District or Town approval. He believes that the supermajority Board approval requirement was originally put into place to provide a barrier to school closure, and that adding a District or Town vote is redundant and creating even more of a barrier. Statute only requires a majority Board approval. Joanna Doria argued that she thinks of adding a District or Town vote as a healthy process and not a barrier.

The group discussed Steve's suggestion, and whether it was consistent with their understanding of the Committee's charge. Barb Wilson said that her understanding was for the amended language to be in addition to the existing Supermajority Board approval requirement. Joanna recalled asking this question at the Cornwall meeting, and that everyone indicated with their body language the Supermajority Board approval was to remain in place. Mary Heather agreed that her understanding was to preserve the existing supermajority requirement and add to that with a district or town vote. Steve pushed back, noting that the committee's charge was to create two motions that provided for district vote and town vote -- and did not specify preservation of the supermajority Board vote. Suzanne and Mary Heather suggested checking in with the full Board to clarify the collective understanding at the next Board meeting. Suzanne also noted that if the threshold for Board approval is changed to a "majority" -- this will need to be defined: a majority of the full board or a majority of voting members present.

Suzanne posed a hypothetical about what if a Town initiates a request for school closure. Mary Heather said that the Towns not longer have authority to make that decision, but that they could bring that request to the Board. The group continued comparison between Mary Heather and Barb's amendment language options -- and recommended revision to combine the efforts to a two-paragraph version with consistent language (e.g., "Town" instead of "Community").

The group talked about Barb's suggested language about requiring the Board to identify and mitigate impacts of proposed school closure. Joanna argued that at a minimum this should be included as part of a school closure proposal. Barb agreed. Mary Heather offered the perspective that the proposal should clearly indicate the pros & cons of both school closure and keeping an underutilized school open. Steve did not believe the addition was necessary, but did not feel the need to stand in the way of it. Suzanne cautioned against adding too much language that would best be handled by a policy. The committee agreed to keep a basic reference to this expectation.

Finally, the group discussed how to specify District approval: As commingled votes counted and reported by Towns (as with budgets and election of Board members), or as Town votes where all Towns need to approve the measure (as with the addition or removal of a member Town). Mary Heather spoke in favor of the commingled votes as it is consistent with the school closure provisions for other districts, and is also aligned with other decisions over which the collective District electorate has authority.

TO DO: Ask full Board about the Supermajority Board approval component. Revise the amendment options to incorporate both Barb and Mary Heather's suggestions -- highlighting new language so the changes are clear to Board members.

8. Set next meeting date and time

Next meeting to be scheduled for Monday, February 6th at 4:30 p.m.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Motion to adjourn.

Move: Mary Heather Noble Second: Barbara Wilson Status: Passed

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Possible Language for Amending ACSD Article 14

Note: Highlighted language indicates a change/addition from the original language of Article 14

Layers of Requirements	Type(s) of Requirements	Article Language
2	Public Hearings and Supermajority Board Approval	Current Article 14 Language: An affirmative vote of ten members of the Addison Central School District Board of Directors shall be required to approve the closure of a school. Prior to holding a vote on whether to close a school, the Board shall hold public hearings regarding the proposed school closure, at least one of which must be held in the town in which the school is located. Following the public hearings, the Addison Central School District Board of Directors shall give public notice of its intent to hold a vote on whether to close a school, stating the reason for the closure, at least ten days prior to the vote.
3	Binding District Vote , Public Hearings and Supermajority Board Approval	Possible Language: An affirmative vote of ten (10) members or more of the Addison Central School District Board of Directors and the consent of the Addison Central School District electorate shall be required to approve the closure of a school. Prior to holding a vote on whether to close a school, the Board shall hold at least three (3) public hearings regarding the proposed school closure(s). At least one (1) of the public hearings shall be held in the town(s) in which the school(s) is (are) located. Following the public hearings, the Addison Central School District Board of Directors shall give public notice of its intent to hold a vote on whether to close a school, stating the reason for the closure, which shall include identifying the impacts school closure and mitigation strategies, at least ten (10) days prior to the vote. If the Board votes to close a school, a binding referendum to that effect shall be submitted to an annual or special meeting for approval by the voters of the Addison Central School District. The school closing shall become effective only if approved by a majority of the electorate voting by Australian ballot. The votes shall be counted and reported by towns, but shall be commingled and approval of the referendum shall require a majority of all those voting.
3	Binding Town Vote , Public Hearings and Supermajority Board Approval	Possible Language: An affirmative vote of ten (10) members or more of the Addison Central School District Board of Directors and the consent of the electorate of the affected town shall be required to approve the closure of a school. Prior to holding a vote on whether to close a school, the Board shall hold at least three (3) public hearings regarding the proposed school closure(s). At least one (1) of the public hearings shall be held in the

Possible Language for Amending ACSD Article 14

		town(s) in which the school(s) is (are) located. Following the public hearings, the Addison Central School District Board of Directors shall give public notice of its intent to hold a vote on whether to close a school, stating the reason for the closure, which shall include identifying the impacts of school closure and mitigation strategies, at least ten (10) days prior to the vote. If the Board votes to close a school, a binding referendum to that effect shall be submitted to an annual or special meeting for approval by the electorate of the affected town. The school closing shall become effective only if approved by a majority of the electorate voting by Australian ballot.
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