

AGENDA



**Addison Central School District
Ad Hoc Charter Research Committee
Committee Meeting
Monday, October 3, 2022, 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
49 Charles Avenue, Middlebury VT & Virtual Connection**

Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84526031759>

- A. Call to Order Upon Reaching a Quorum
 - 1. Introductions - Board Members, Administrators and Staff
- B. Recommendation to Approve Minutes of September 20, 2022
- C. Public Comment
- D. Committee work - reviewing assignments and other districts language and requirements
- E. 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
Tuesday, September 20, 2022, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
208 Charles Avenue, Middlebury, VT & Virtual Connection**

In-Person Attendance

Mary Heather Noble; Steve Orzech; Suzanne Buck

Remote Attendance

Barbara Wilson; Joanna Doria

Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83982344638>

A. Call to Order Upon Reaching A Quorum

Meeting called to order by Suzanne Buck at 6:00 p.m.

1. Introductions - Board Members, Administrators and Staff

Also present: Peter Burrows, ACSD Superintendent

B. Recommendation to Approve Minutes of September 9, 2022

Motion to approve minutes from September 9, 2022 meeting.

Move: Steve Orzech Second: Barbara Wilson Status: Passed

C. Committee work - reviewing assignments and other districts language and requirements

Suzanne Buck asked committee members to report on the information they'd been asked to gather.

Steve Orzech reported that he had talked with Donna Russo-Savage at the Agency of Education. The information the committee already has was prepared by her in response to a request from Tim O'Leary in Ripton. She sent Steve additional information to clarify what we have. The most recent list she sent is a complete list. There were about a dozen SBE-forced mergers.

Steve also reported that the state's default language for the articles of agreement were for used most of those mergers -- but the AOE does not maintain a database with updated articles of agreement. If the committee puts together a complete spreadsheet, we can ask Donna to review it for accuracy. Just a courtesy review -- if we want any legal review, we must use ACSD's counsel. Donna also clarified that unless a district has special provisions for school closure in its articles of agreement, the authority to close a school lies with the school board. Act 46 did not provide a temporary protection/sunsetting of protection. To find amendments, go to any one town clerk in a district. Steve will forward the additional documents to the group.

Barbara Wilson asked a clarifying question on "Sunsetting" and Joanna Doria questioned Donna's explanation about a school board's authority to close a school -- per 16 VSA 821, hasn't

the authority to close a school always been with a town? Suzanne explained that towns relinquish their financial responsibility and authority over schools when they merged into a unified school district. Those responsibilities fall to the board of the new unified district.

Barbara and Joanna reported their findings for the SBE-forced merger districts. They reviewed the AOE website and found the same information that Steve reported. They updated their spreadsheet so it can be merged with the one for the voluntarily merged districts. Joanna reported the spectrum of their findings -- they were able to find a few amended articles of agreement, but not all. Barb Wilson wondered if Peter Burrows could send an inquiry to the Superintendents of those districts to see if any of them have recently passed amendments. Peter agreed to the request. Barb said that she noticed some trends with their findings -- that the Districts whose Boards have a more even composition of members across the towns were more likely to have a provision for town vote in their charter. She added information about Board composition to their spreadsheet. Steve Orzech questioned the observation, since it appeared to be only ~2 of 11 or 12 districts. Peter Burrows mentioned that similar language seen between the articles of agreement for different districts is likely a factor of 1) AOE default language, 2) consultation with Donna Russo-Savage from AOE, and 3) legal counsel shared between districts. There was a lot of coordination/collaboration between districts & agencies at that time.

Mary Heather Noble presented the updated spreadsheet to the group, and noted the data gaps that still exist. She agreed that we need the most recent articles of agreement for this work, so any amendments that have been recently passed should be included. Joanna asked how comprehensive the group needs to get, and what the timeline is for presenting the work to the full board. Suzanne Buck noted that we still have some missing information, especially if there are updated amendments that we're not aware of. Barb Wilson suggested that the group should make some recommendations to the Board, per Victoria's original request. Joanna Doria suggested that within that, the work should also address the matter of board composition. Mary Heather said the committee's work is limited in scope researching provisions for school closure. Suzanne Buck reminded the group that it cannot tread into anything that gets into policies of the board.

To do: Merge the two spreadsheets, continue research on finding any amendments/updates to articles of agreement (esp. for SBE-created districts). Peter will reach out to other Superintendents. Begin to gather language for the different layers of protections (town vote, district vote, board vote, public meetings, etc.).

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, October 3, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

D. Other

None.

E. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Motion to adjourn.

Move: Steve Orzech Second: Barbara Wilson Status: Passed

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