

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**

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

- A. Call to Order Upon Reaching A Quorum
 - 1. Introductions - Board Members, Administrators and Staff
- B. Recommendation to Approve Minutes of August 9, 2022
- C. Committee work - reviewing assignments and other districts language and requirements
- D. Other
- 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
Friday, September 9, 2022, 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
208 Charles Avenue, Middlebury, VT & Virtual Connection**

In Attendance

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

Please click the link below to join the webinar: Link to join Webinar
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84006526576>

A. Call to Order Upon Reaching A Quorum

Meeting called to order at 4:03 p.m. by Peter Burrows, ACSD Superintendent.

1. Introductions - Board Members, Administrators and Staff
2. Action: Elect Committee Chair

Peter Burrows opened the meeting by taking nominations for Committee Chair. Joanna Doria nominated Barbara Wilson, seconded by Mary Heather Noble. Mary Heather Noble nominated Suzanne Buck, seconded by Steve Orzech.

Votes for Barbara Wilson: 2
Votes for Suzanne Buck: 3

Suzanne Buck is the Committee Chair. Suzanne made a motion to add to the agenda the nomination of a committee clerk to record minutes. Steve Orzech seconded, and the motion passed.

Steve Orzech nominated Mary Heather Noble to take minutes; Barbara Wilson seconded. All voted Mary Heather Noble as the Ad Hoc Committee clerk.

Motion to add election of Ad Hoc Committee Clerk to the agenda.

Move: Suzanne Buck Second: Steve Orzech Status: Passed

3. Public Comment
None.

B. Committee Discussion

1. Scope of Work Discussion

Suzanne Buck opened the discussion with a confirmation about the purpose of the Committee: to 1) research articles of agreement for Vermont school districts to identify the range of options re: provisions for school closure, and 2) present findings to the full board. Barb Wilson asked for clarification regarding whether the Committee should present

recommendations to the full board.

Mary Heather Noble checked the minutes from the last full Board meeting, which read: "Suzanne Buck suggested moving the conversation to a later date, and establishing an ad-hoc committee to explore options/possible language to address provisions for school closure.

Peter Conlon noted that the Board Chair has authority to designate an ad-hoc committee, but we should define the committee's job: to provide this Board with a menu of options for language concerning Article 14 Provisions for School Closure. Peter Burrows said it might be beneficial for the committee to do some work to identify the best options to choose from. Barb Wilson cautioned that it will be important to include different viewpoints on the committee. Steve Orzech cautioned that the full Board must have a very clear understanding of the committee's role and its deliverables -- noting that some people have used the facilities committee process to accuse other members of the Board of hiding things and not being transparent. Mary Heather agreed with Steve's observation, noting that we need to have clear lines about the limitations of the committee. Victoria agreed -- the ad-hoc committee will only research how other school districts have structured their provisions for school closure (no other articles), and then present some recommendations to the full Board."

The group turned to a spreadsheet that Mary Heather Noble assembled, using information provided by Donna Russo-Savage with the Agency of Education -- including District names, the range of grades they operate and tuition, whether their articles of agreement provide provisions for school closure, any temporary moratorium on school closures, and details about requirements prior to school closures (e.g., town vote, district vote, majority or supermajority board vote). Suzanne Buck invited feedback on the spreadsheet as a starting point for the committee's work.

Joanna Doria suggested including Districts that underwent forced mergers by the State Board of Education. They all started with the same template for articles of agreement (provided by the State), but many made amendments that should be reflected in our spreadsheet. Mary Heather Noble acknowledged that we have work to do to check the accuracy of the data -- the spreadsheet likely does not include all Unified Districts and there may be more updated articles of agreement for some districts. Steve Orzech suggested that the Agency of Education should have all of this information, and noted that we should perhaps be requesting them to compile the information for us. Joanna noted the effort already made by Donna Russo-Savage, and the limitations of the information she provided. Other potential sources of information: Town Clerk Offices, Secretary of State's office. Steve will reach out to the Agency of Education to see if they maintain the most current articles of agreement for all unified districts.

Mary Heather Noble asked the group if we are in agreement about the spreadsheet columns. Peter Burrows said it might be helpful to classify the different "protections" into broader categories: Town Vote, District Vote, Board Vote. Barb Wilson also suggested providing a summary of the actual article language on a different spreadsheet so Board members can easily reference that information. Suzanne Buck suggested adding a column that indicates when a district's temporary protections against school closure "sunset."

Steve Orzech asked about the "Other Criteria/Requirements" column, and whether we want to get that complex -- he cited the challenges around accurate measurement of criteria, etc. All agreed that this would be too detailed/involved. The focus is to see how many districts specify provisions for school closure in their articles of agreement, and what general methods are used.

The group discussed the total number of Districts -- likely around ~49/50. To do:

- 1) Complete a comprehensive list of unified districts (Steve Orzech),
- 2) Track down amendments to articles of agreement for those unified districts created under SBE-forced mergers (Barb Wilson and Joanna Doria), and
- 3) Modify the existing spreadsheet to provide columns for Supervisory Unions, Forced Merger, Dates temporary protections sunset, and add flesh out specific article language (on separate sheet), and most current information (Mary Heather and Suzanne).

C. Other Business

None.

D. Next Committee Meeting Date/Time

Next Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 20 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

E. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Motion to adjourn.

Move: Steve Orzech Second: Barbara Wilson Status: Passed

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