AGENDA

Addison Central School District
Communications and Engagement Committee
Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 15, 2022, 9:15 am - 10:15 am
208 Charles Avenue, Middlebury, VT & Virtual Connection

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82383836838

A. Call to Order Upon Reaching a Quorum
B. Introductions: Board Members, Administrators and Staff
C. Approve the Agenda
D. Public Comment
E. Recommendation to Approve the Minutes of May 25, 2022
F. Committee Discussion:
    1. Board Voicemail Messages
    2. Board Update Newsletter
    3. Best Practices for Community Engagement
G. Other Business
H. Next Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 29 2022, 9:15-10:15 AM
I. Adjournment

MINUTES

Addison Central School District
Communications and Engagement Committee
Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 25, 2022, 8:45 am - 9:45 am
ACSD Conference Room, 49 Charles Avenue, Middlebury & Virtual Connection

In-Person Attendance

Brian Bauer; Lindsey Hescock; Mary Heather Noble

Remote Attendance

Joanna Doria

A. Call to Order Upon Reaching a Quorum

Meeting called to order at 8:54 a.m.

B. Introductions: Board Members, Administrators and Staff

ACSD Staff present: Emily Blistein, Director of Communications

C. Approve the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda.

Move: Lindsey Hescock Second: Brian Bauer Status: Passed

D. Public Comment

No public comment.

E. Recommendation to Approve the Minutes of May 13, 2022

Motion to approve the minutes of May 13, 2022.

Move: Brian Bauer Second: Lindsey Hescock Status: Passed

F. Committee Discussion:

1. Communications & Engagement Around FMP Report

Mary Heather Noble reported that she had met with the Facilities Committee to talk about communication and engagement around the FMP report. They would like to get the report out & distributed, but have concerns about doing significant public engagement now with everything else going on. They would also like to coordinate the engagement with the Strategic Plan for Equity work, if possible, so that people aren't confused or overwhelmed. The Strategic Plan will be the guiding North Star document to help the Board address equity in facilities planning and resource distribution. The Facilities Committee liked the idea of doing a Q&A webinar or series of webinars on the report.

Mary Heather Noble shared a first draft of a press release for the FMP report with the group and requested feedback. Brian Bauer expressed concern about the information not being broken up and distributed by town. He shared this concern with Victoria Jette and was told that the Board is not doing facilities planning by town, but as a whole District. Brian Bauer feels there is a difference between what the Committee wants to present and what people in

member towns want to hear. He also feels that there hasn't been enough people participating in the process -- how much feedback has the Board really received? He suggested connecting with the Select Board of each member town to compel people to participate through those channels as well.

Lindsey Hescock offered her feedback on the draft press release: She suggested that we add a sentence to direct people to a specific chapter or page range to see the details on their particular schools. She also mentioned making the title in the press release consistent with the title on the report. Also add other libraries in other member towns, and double check with Meg Baker to make sure we have all the partner PreK centers included. Also wondered about having a copy of the report at CSAC.

Joanna Doria said that while she agrees with the statement in the draft press release about the report identifying infrastructure needs, she does not feel comfortable saying that the report addresses equity or educational adequacy. Different schools have different features, but does not agree that this is inherently an equity issue. Also does not necessarily agree that the differences between the schools underscores an educational adequacy problem. These are opinions. She needs help identifying evidence in the report for equity/educational adequacy.

Mary Heather Noble pushed back, noting that the facilities assessments did uncover problems with inequitable facilities and distribution of resources. Perhaps the wording should be changed to "equitable distribution of resources"? She agreed that the language should be mindful of the fact that the Equity Advisory Committee for Strategic Planning process is still working on a common understanding of "equity." This also applies to the educational adequacy language. Joanna pointed out that different does not equal inadequate, and Mary Heather noted some of the issues that the facilities master planning process uncovered with respect to student access to specialists and services, dedicated spaces for certain learning activities, etc. They agreed to work together later to find language that accurately describes what the report conveys.

Emily Blistein said that she is hoping to issue two more District newsletters -- one this week and another one in June. If we don't have things ready to put in this week's newsletter, it will be included in the June one. She noted the difficulty around engagement with this material because of the different perspectives community members bring to the idea of equity and educational adequacy. It will be an ongoing conversation. She thinks it would be helpful for the Board to identify the question it wants to ask the community. Brian Bauer also emphasized the fact that people want to have a conversation -- that they don't want to feel like it's already been settled.

G. Other Business

Mary Heather Noble reported that Jennifer Nuceder wishes to step down as the Board representative on the ACSD Community Partnership Council, and asked if anyone on this committee would like to join. Emily Blistein provided some background information on the history and work of the Council -- it had been borne from the last Strategic Plan to cultivate partnerships within the community to work on broad District issues. Recent work includes the implementation of the Health and Wellness Clinic at MUHS, and the free outdoor ice rink at the Mary Hogan fields. They meet on a monthly basis, though that may change. The group's focus has shifted over time and seems to be interested in tackling larger issues (e.g., healthcare access for rural students, transportation for rural school students to be able to participate in after-school activities, etc.). Mary Heather Noble asked members to circle back with her or reach out to Emily Blistein directly.

Lindsey Hescock asked about the August retreat, and whether that is separate from the Strategic Planning work? Wondered if a date has been selected. She also wanted to bring up the statements that were made at the last Board meeting re: public comment limitations. She wondered if our committee should speak to that, and suggested that we take a look at VSBA Policy 21. Mary Heather Noble agreed and said she thinks the Policy Committee is investigating this. It will probably be a full Board discussion, especially since so many of us are concerned about it. Brian Bauer noted problems with receiving public comment through zoom. He feels there are several in the community who don't know how to navigate that technology.

H. Next Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 8, 2022, 8:45-9:45 AM

June 8th does not work for everyone. Next Committee meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, June 15 at 9:15 a.m.

I. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Heather Noble, Recorder

Motion to adjourn.

Move: Lindsey Hescock Second: Brian Bauer Status: Passed