

AGENDA



Addison Central School District

Facilities Committee

Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

208 Charles Avenue, Middlebury, VT & Virtual Connection

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/99220473008>

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Webinar ID: 992 2047 3008

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- 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 Minutes of November 3, 2021
- F. Committee Discussion:
 - 1. Bond Timing and Process
- G. Next Committee Meeting Date/Time
- H. Adjournment

MINUTES



Addison Central School District

Facilities Committee

Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 3, 2021, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

208 Charles Avenue, Middlebury, VT & Virtual Connection

In-Person Attendance

James Malcolm; Jennifer Nueder; Mary Cullinane; Victoria Jette

Remote Attendance

Mary Heather Noble

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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Webinar ID: 986 2024 4916

International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/u/adMPeeUSkk>

A. Call to Order Upon Reaching a Quorum

Meeting called to order at 12:04 PM.

B. Introductions: Board Members, Administrators and Staff

Administrators: Peter Burrows, Superintendent of Schools, Logan Price, Business Manager

Staff: Bruce MacIntire, Director of Facilities

C. Approve the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda.

Move: James Malcolm Second: Jennifer Nueder Status: Passed

D. Public Comments

Ruth Bernstein of Shoreham: She is a former teacher and a parent of three children in ACSD schools -- a 9th grader, 3rd grader, and preschooler. Her comment is centered on the issue of school choice -- she is strongly against school choice as her experience as a teacher in MAUSD confirmed that school choice exacerbates inequalities between schools in a community, where only wealthy families are able to take advantage of benefits and families with less means are not. School choice does not deal with the underlying issues at schools, which is the heart of what she has been trying to communicate to this Board over time. She does not understand why this is a topic within the Facilities Committee since it's not a facilities issue. She wants to remind the Board that systematic change potentially affects kids with the least support and resources the most.

E. Recommendation to Approve Minutes of October 19, 2021

Motion to approve the minutes.

Move: Jennifer Nueder Second: James Malcolm Status: Passed

F. Committee Discussion:

Victoria Jette provided the group with a few updates prior to proceeding with the agenda discussion topics:

- Regarding Act 72 from the Committee's last meeting: Bruce MacIntire and Peter Burrows have received notice from the State that it will be conducting the initial phase of its state-wide survey of school facilities very soon, and plans for its contractor to complete the first phase of the survey by end of December. Bruce MacIntire is the ACSD point of contact and will keep us posted. This legislation primarily aims to address decay of academic facilities across VT, and establishes standards for construction and renovation projects funded by the State.

- Victoria Jette, Peter Burrows and Mary Heather Noble met with contract writer, Ben Merrill, about the vision and content for the Facilities Master Plan Report. Victoria Jette was impressed with Ben's understanding of the work that has been done and expects to be able to proceed with a draft by end of December. Victoria Jette and Mary Heather Noble are drafting a community update letter for the full Board's review -- and once approved will pass on to the Communications & Engagement Committee to determine how the update will be distributed. Mary Cullinane requested that our communication also be coordinated with Emily Blistein, ACSD Director of Communications so that we always have one set of eyes on everything that goes out.

1. Sustainability

Victoria Jette shared some language around the concept of environmental sustainability as it pertains to ACSD Facilities:

"In line with our values and the principals of an International Baccalaureate education, we recognize our responsibility of being a citizen of the world and understanding how our actions affect others. Given this, the ACSD Board affirms our commitment to be responsible stewards of the environment while meeting our fiduciary responsibilities. As such, we are committed to understanding, considering and minimizing the environmental impact of our facilities and procurement practices by:

- Principle 1 (for example... Conducting an annual review of all district buildings to understand and address any high impact / low cost solutions that would minimize our carbon footprint)
- Principle 2 (Ensuring any new construction, to the best of our financial ability, minimizes our environmental impact and demonstrates our commitment to sustainable development)
- Principle 3 (Ensuring all procurement practices consider environmental impact of purchase decisions)
- Principle 4 (Ensuring all new district vehicles be, at a minimum, hybrid engines where feasible)"

She asked the group if the language looked good, and whether it needed to include reference to Act 72 standards. Bruce MacIntire said that wouldn't be necessary, since Act 72 is more narrowly focused on sustainability standards for construction and renovation projects, and our FMP should be more broad to include sustainability guidance for operational decision making.

The group agreed with the language but suggested removing the word "principle" and just including the bulleted statements. Victoria Jette will revise and post with materials for an upcoming Board meeting that includes the sustainability topic on the agenda. Peter Burrows reminded the group that the November 22 Board meeting may be cancelled in light of the District being closed that week.

2. Intradistrict Transfer/School Choice

Victoria Jette opened this discussion around Intra-district transfer with the question of whether this topic is a Board-level issue, or whether it is more appropriately addressed as an operational decision to be made by Administration. She wanted the group's opinion on this before proceeding with the pros and cons of school choice as a policy.

Jennifer Nuceder expressed her belief that intra-district transfer should be a Board discussion, but isn't sure whether it should reside in the Facilities Committee. Perhaps it should be a Policy Committee topic that gets elevated to the full Board. James Malcolm agreed that it needs to be a Board level decision, and that his views on school choice have changed from positive to negative.

Peter Burrows mentioned that ACSD does have a School Residence Policy in place that does allow for students to change schools within the district if their continued enrollment at their assigned school will cause them harm (e.g., in matters of trauma, interpersonal conflict, etc.). The next step could be the Board evaluating whether that particular policy should be expanded or revised.

Mary Cullinane said that the issue doesn't appear to be a Facilities issue, but that it was included in the Facilities Master Planning as part of an overall recognition that community members might want to see it as part of a changed footprint with school consolidation.

Peter Burrows clarified that the issue of school choice had already been decided when the ACSD was first created, and that the original group determined that it would not be beneficial for member schools. Mary Heather Noble agreed with the sentiments already expressed, noting particular concern about the perpetuation of inequities between Title I schools and schools within wealthier communities. She referenced Ruth Bernstein's public comment, but also wondered if the ACSD School Residence Policy allowed for students with special needs at small schools to transfer to a full-service school in the interim. Peter Burrows said this underscores the existing equity issues and the need to address this -- but we also do not want to create a system where all students on plans are segregated to Mary Hogan because it's currently a service hub.

Jennifer Nuceder suggest that perhaps the issue is best considered and researched by the Administration and then the findings presented to the Board for its consideration. Bruce MacIntire noted that the group can all agree that school choice is not a Facilities Committee topic. James Malcolm said that it IS an equity topic and needs the full Board's attention. Mary Cullinane and Peter Burrows both emphasized the complexity of the issue. Victoria Jette said that she would remove it from the Facilities Committee purview and that the Executive Committee can add the topic to a full Board agenda in the upcoming weeks.

OTHER TOPIC: Transportation

Victoria Jette asked what the group felt about transportation remaining in the Facilities Committee's territory. Peter Burrows said that the full transportation study was not completed since the FMP process was paused and the school configuration modeling ceased. We have half of a study based on a 3- and 4- school model.

Mary Cullinane said that the Board should determine transportation principles (e.g., bus rides should not exceed an hour, etc.), but that the actual determination of routes, how many busses, etc. should be an operational decision. There needs to be a recognition that we don't want kids on buses for long periods of time, but we are also a rural district and some degree of ride time is unavoidable. Mary Heather expressed concern about removing transportation from the Facilities Committee altogether -- since it has been and will be an essential component of school configuration modeling. Mary Cullinane agreed that the community clearly expressed how important transportation is to the decision-making process. She and Jen Nuceder suggested that the FMP report can state that as part of "what the Board has learned."

G. Next Meeting Date/Time: November 17, 2021, 12:00 Noon

H. Adjournment

Adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Heather Noble, recorder

Motion to adjourn.

Move: Jennifer Nuceder Second: James Malcolm Status: Passed