

AGENDA



**Addison Central School District
Policy and Governance Committee
Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, October 6, 2021, 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

ACSD CO, 49 Charles Avenue, Middlebury, VT and Virtual Connection

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/92668678505?pwd=WG5VUTc1OSStNSXJLTmd2Zjg5Q1pSZz09>

Passcode: gET5tp

Or One tap mobile:

US: 13126266799,,92668678505#,,,,*425510# or 16465588656,,92668678505#,,,,*425510#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: 1 312 626 6799 or 1 646

558 8656 or 1 301 715 8592 or 1 346 248 7799 or 1 669 900 9128 or 1 253 215 8782

Webinar ID: 926 6867 8505

Passcode: 425510

International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/u/ab4SQuEib>

- A. Call to Order Upon Reaching a Quorum
- B. Introductions: Board Members, Administrators and Staff
- C. Approve the Agenda
- D. Public Comments
- E. Recommendation to Approve Minutes of September 15, 2021
- F. Discussion Topics:
 - 1. Follow-up on Flagpole Policy Motion to be Presented to the Board on October 11, 2021
 - 2. Review (Spring 2021) Policy Work on Responding to Public Comments and Community Engagement - Next Steps
 - 3. Review Policies Worksheet and Follow-up on Previous Discussions:
 - a. Class Size
 - b. Animal Dissection
- G. Other
- H. Next Meeting: October 20, 2021, 4:00 PM
- I. Adjournment

MINUTES



Addison Central School District Policy and Governance Committee Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

ACSD Central Office Conference Room, 49 Charles Avenue, Middlebury

In Attendance

Lindsey Hescocock; Mary Gill; Suzanne Buck

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Sep 15, 2021 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: ACSD School Board Policy Committee

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/95022841565>

Or One tap mobile :

US: 16465588656,,95022841565# or 13126266799,,95022841565#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: 1 646 558 8656 or 1 312 626 6799 or 1 301 715 8592 or 1 346 248 7799 or 1 669 900 9128 or 1 253 215 8782

Webinar ID: 950 2284 1565

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

A. Call to Order Upon Reaching a Quorum

Meeting called to order at 4:15 PM by Mary Gill.

B. Introductions: Board Members, Administrators and Staff

Administrator: Caitlin Steele

C. Approve the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda.

Move: Suzanne Buck Second: Mary Gill Status: Passed

D. Public Comment

None

E. Recommendation to Approve Minutes of July 12, 2021

Motion to approve the minutes.

Move: Suzanne Buck Second: Mary Gill Status: Passed

F. Review Board Member Feedback regarding possible Flag Policy Motion

We went over the following suggestions from board members as to how the committee could move forward.

OPTIONS

1. United States flag only "In accordance with Vermont state statute 16 V.S.A. § 3742, Addison Central School District (ACSD) shall erect a flagpole on the building or premises of each public school and, while school is in session, at such times as it directs, shall cause a United States flag, which shall not be lettered or marked in any way, to be displayed.

No other flags shall be displayed on the pole in addition to the United States flag. Each school in ACSD may decide how best to respond to student expression in other displays." JN

2. US, Vermont, flag of social significance representing board voice by supermajority: It is the policy of the ACSD Board, that the ACSD Flag poles located outside the primary entrance of any ACSD school, are designated as government flag poles. As such, the flags flown on these poles are limited to the flags of the United States of America, the State of Vermont and the agency or organization certifying the instructional practices of our institution, and. In rare cases, the School Board may, with a supermajority vote, choose to fly an additional flag for a limited time in acknowledgement of a significant social circumstance. Such a decision will reflect the expression of the Board and therefore only the Board may initiate such an occurrence. MC

3. US, Vermont, IB only. Option to erect an alternative flag pole for student voice. Under state statute, the Addison Central School District is a municipality and a government body. The ACSD Board, as a government entity, determines its speech through the actions of the Board. The speech of the Board is not controlled or limited by any individuals other than the elected members of the Board. Therefore, it is the policy of the ACSD that flags flown on the official District flagpole in front of each District school are a form of government speech, and shall be restricted to flying the American flag, the Vermont state flag, and the International Baccalaureate flag as an entity of institutional significance to the ACSD. This policy does not preclude the ACSD from designating an alternative flag pole or location on school property for student expression of free speech in a manner that is consistent with District policy.

Essentially the same as #3 above. The Board determines that the official MUHS flag pole is reserved *only* for flying the American flag, Vermont state flag, and IB flag -- but decides to designate an alternative flag pole or space for student expression and develop a policy by which Student requests for displaying signs, banners, or flags can be approved.

Motion to fly BLM flag on alternative pole/location. "Motion to accept revised Draft Flag Policy I, and direct the Superintendent to prominently display a Black Lives Matter flag or sign on the MUHS entrance circle near the MUHS sign for a duration to be determined by the Superintendent. The Black Lives Matter flag shall not be flown from the official pole which flies the American flag, Vermont state flag, and International Baccalaureate flag, but shall instead be flown or displayed on an alternative pole near the MUHS entrance circle." MH

Direction to develop a policy for student requests to display flags, banners, etc. "Motion to accept revised Draft Flag Policy I, and direct the Policy and Governance Committee to develop a policy by which student requests for displaying flags, banners, or signs in an alternative location that are consistent with the mission and academic goals of ACSD can be approved."

[This option would then require follow-up to warn & vote on a different draft policy for approving student displays. Much of the language could come from the process indicated in Draft Flag

Policy II -- it would just need to be adjusted to clearly indicate that such displays will not be flown from the official flag pole.] MH

4. **US, Vermont, flag of social significance representing student voice (measurable level of student support, requires board approval process):** It is the policy of the ACSD board to support and encourage student speech and to ensure its guarantees provided under the law. When a student group can demonstrate majority student support (or some other measurable level of support among the student body of the school) for the flying of a flag on the school flag pole, the board shall consider that request. The proposed flag must have a message that is positive, supportive and inclusive, and be free of overt political messages. PC

Flag Policy motion - last school board meeting 8/23 for other board members to offer suggestions. Flag policy options we went over the 5 options. Comments around the IB flag we can not regret any others so should it be in the policy? Especially if we can not get another flag. Points of view were around discussing whether or not a separate pole, honoring student voice vs political. Do not include the IB flag within the context of what we are discussing. The discussion was around the exact meaning of each of the options. Broaden the ways for students to express themselves within a student space that is allocated to them.

Options 3 and 4 are really the same thing but the motion on 3 is strictly BLM and would then tie us to only that flag. IB should not be on the pole as we are affiliated with other organizations.

The Board group did not want to see the board take on something political

Government body would take requests to fly a student request

Discussed ways to strengthen student's voices, should we send one or two options to the board. Student voice vs government voice

Student's voice has created lots of discourse within the community and beyond. IB flag does not fly at the same level as the US and State Flag. Are we better off going through this process? Do we have learning that has occurred over this period?

Look at #2 -

It is the policy of this Board, that the ACSD Flag poles located outside the primary entrance of any ACSD school, are designated as government flag poles. As such, the flags flown on these poles are limited to the flags of the United States of America, the State of Vermont, and in rare cases, the School Board may, with a supermajority vote, choose to fly an additional flag for a limited time in acknowledgment of a significant circumstance. Such a decision will reflect the expression of the Board.

- G. Follow-up on Procedure for Student Representative and Board Communication with Constituent Concerns

Move to next meeting

H. Review Spreadsheet and Identify Priority Policies

Suzanne Buck shared a slightly different spreadsheet to work from that shows policies by date, includes spaces for changes made, etc. Will take a closer look at our next meeting.

I. Report on Instructional Information about Animal Dissection Procedures

Move to next meeting

J. Discuss Class Size - Prepare a Policy Draft

Move to next meeting

K. Other

L. Next Meeting: October 20, 2021, 4:00 PM

M. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Buck, Recorder