

## MINUTES

**Addison Central School District  
ACSD Board  
Board Meeting  
Monday, May 22, 2023, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm  
208 Charles Avenue, Middlebury VT & Virtual Connection**

### *ACSD District Vision and Mission*

#### **OUR VISION**

*All students will reach their full academic potential and be prepared for success as engaged citizens.*

#### **OUR MISSION**

*To provide an innovative, rigorous, and supportive educational community that inspires a passion for learning and cultivates empathy and responsibility.*

### **In-Person Attendance**

Barbara Wilson; Brian Bauer; Ellen Whelan-Wuest; Ellie Romp; James Malcolm; Joanna Doria; Lindsey Hescocock; Mary Heather Noble; Steve Orzech; Suzanne Buck; Tricia Allen

### **Remote Attendance**

Jason Chance

### **Not In Attendance**

Jamie McCallum

A. Call to Order Upon Reaching A Quorum Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m.

1. Introductions - Board Members, Administrators and Staff

ACSD Staff and Administrators also present: Nicole Carter, Assistant Superintendent and Director of Equity & Student Services; Heather Crowley, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent; Matt Corrente, Director of Finance & Operations; Will Hatch, Director of Technology; Emily Blistein, Director of Communications & Engagement; and Caitlin Steele, Principal of MUHS and outgoing Director of Teaching & Learning

Other guests: Emma Mulvaney-Stanak, Consultant; Camila Blanco, MUHS Student representative on the ACSD Strategic Planning Action Team; Samantha Paine, Shoreham and MUHS Parent representative on the ACSD Strategic Planning Action Team; Ethan Murphy, President of Middlebury Skatepark Project; Jill Quackenbush, Secretary & Treasurer of Middlebury Skatepark Project

## 2. Public Comment

Mary Slosar of Weybridge spoke up as a parent and representative of the ACSD SEPAC --

she heard that the Policy Committee will be revisiting the recently adopted Family Engagement Policy, and wanted to state her perspective: This is a real cultural values decision that the full Board should consider and make a decision. The AOE has a selfassessment guide on family engagement that she encourages the Board to use -- she is happy to share the link. She believes this is not just for the Policy Committee to discuss, the for the full Board -- as this is a systems/culture/values discussion.

## B. Recommendation to Approve Minutes of 5/3, 5/8, 5/9, 5/12 & 5/18

Barb Wilson suggested that the meeting minutes from 5/3, 5/8, 5/9, 5/12, and 5/18 be considered and approved collectively. Steve Orzech objected, noting that many Board members have missed several meetings, and that they traditionally would abstain from voting if they missed meetings. He believes this information is important for the public record. Mary Heather Noble agreed, and stated that doing each meeting individually is fine for the minutes.

For 5/3/23 minutes: Steve Orzech made a motion to approve the 5/3 minutes. Suzanne Buck seconded. The motion passed with 11 'ayes.' Ellie Romp abstained.

For 5/8/23 meeting: Suzanne Buck made a motion to approve the 5/8 minutes. James Malcolm noted that the 5/8 meeting is listed as a Special Board Meeting, but was in fact a regularly scheduled meeting. Mary Heather Noble and Heather Crowley will make that correction. Steve Orzech seconded. The motion passed with 12 'ayes.'

For 5/9/23 meeting: Steve Orzech made a motion to approve the 5/9 minutes. James Malcolm seconded. The motion passed with 11 'ayes.' Ellen Whelan-Wuest abstained.

For 5/12/23 meeting: Suzanne Buck made a motion to approve the 5/12 minutes. Ellie Romp seconded. The motion passed with 10 'ayes.' Ellen Whelan-Wuest and Ellie Romp abstained.

For 5/18/23 meeting: Suzanne Buck made a motion to approve the 5/18 minutes. Steve Orzech seconded. The motion passed with 9 'ayes.' Brian Bauer, Ellen Whelan-Wuest, and Ellie Romp abstained.

### C. Approve ACSD Bills

James Malcolm presented a summary of the ACSD Bills read since the last regular Board meeting on 5/3/23. They were reviewed by both Jason Chance and himself.

General Fund: \$548,929.02

McGilton Fund: \$3,000

Payroll: \$927,757.70

Motion to approve and pay the ACSD Bills as presented.

Move: James Malcolm Second: Steve Orzech Status: Passed

### D. Report of the Superintendent

Nicole Carter opened the discussion on behalf of Peter Burrows, who was absent. She introduced Emma Mulvaney-Stanak, the consultant who has been facilitating work on the Strategic Plan for Equity, as well as the two co-chairs of the Strategic Planning Action Team: Camila Bianco -- MUHS Student representative, and Samantha Paine -- Shoreham and MUHS Parent representative.

#### 1. Discussion: Strategic Plan for Equity

Emma Mulvaney-Stanak lead the Board through a slideshow presentation to review the Strategic Planning work that has been completed to date, including Phase 1, 2 and 3 of the process. Phase 3 has been ongoing since January 2023, and includes the work of the Action Team to translate the Board's Strategic Planning Goals into actionable strategies and tasks. The Action Team consists of 4 students, 3 parents/caregivers, 3 educators, 1 building-based admin, the Director of Equity and Student Services, the Director of Finance & Operations, and the Director of Teaching & Learning.

The process: The Action Team identified a few focus areas for the work -- marginalized students & families, socio-economic barriers & poverty, special education & disability, and equitable access to resources. They invited a number of experts into their sessions, depending on the focus area, and asked: What is ACSD doing well, and what are the areas needing improvement? There was a much longer list for areas where ACSD needs improvement. MUMS and MUHS students were also surveyed and confirmed the expert opinions. The group is now reviewing the list of needs with an equity impact perspective (how to maximize the equity impact for the greatest number of people). Final steps

will include a report from the Action Team to the Board, which summarizes its recommended strategies/action steps. This is expected sometime in June/July. Then assuming the Board approves the Strategic Plan, it can begin working with the interim superintendent and staff in August/Sept/Oct to create benchmarks and implement the plan.

Members of the Board asked questions about the "Equitable Access to Resources" focus -which includes things like equitable access to transportation, early education, and after school/enrichment programming across the District. Others asked for additional information on the "Equity Impact Tool" and student survey. Barb Wilson asked about next steps -- Emma Mulvaney-Stanak responded that the Board should expect to add the Strategic Plan to a meeting Agenda in July/August and invite the Action Team to receive the report.

## 2. Discussion: International Baccalaureate Presentation

Caitlin Steele presented preliminary results of her work to conduct a reflective analysis of the IB program. Initial work focused on MUHS staff and students to ask about what is appreciated and disliked about the IB framework, the local implementation of IB in the school, and to identify whether the concerns/critiques are centered more around IB as a whole, or around the Diploma Program specifically. She provided a very brief snapshot of survey results:

- She received positive feedback on the IB mission and learner profile, the IB rubrics, onCAS, and on MUHS departmental collaboration.
- There was negative feedback on the year-long block schedule, mixed feelings about the language requirement, ManageBac, and the student/teacher stress levels associated with the full DP course load. There was also feedback indicating that the interdisciplinary units could be better implemented, and that the MUMS-MUHS collaboration needs improvement.

Caitlin also acknowledged issues around providing equivalent support and attention to flexible pathways to graduation from MUHS, so that all students feel seen, heard, welcome, and celebrated no matter which path they choose. Some issues to tackle: a perception that DP is the best/most valid path, pressure on high-achieving students to enroll in full DP even if they don't want to/think it's best for them, variety of DP/non-DP classes, and lack of equally robust alternative pathways.

The District's To-Do: Expand the reflective surveys to all ACSD educators to look at the PYP at all 7 elementary schools and MYP at MUMS, talk to students, expand the conversation to parents & caregivers, and incorporate this effort into ACSD's NEASC and IB reauthorization process.

The Board asked questions and brought up a number of additional considerations, including:

- Perceptions around the inflexibility of the IB program
- Whether the IB program is yielding higher skills in students (or whether it's still too early to tell -- current 2nd graders are the only students who have only received IB instruction) - If other Districts with IB schools have also experienced similar issues and whether ACSD could network and benefit from their solutions
- How IB can accommodate relaxing the language requirement for some special education students

### 3. Professional Appointments

Suzanne Buck noted that the list of professional appointments had a typo.

Motion to approve the additional ACSD professional appointments for the '23-'24 academic year as presented.

Move: Steve Orzech Second: Ellen Whelan-Wuest Status: Passed

## E. Report of the Board

### 1. Action: Skatepark Support Letter

Nicole Carter introduced Ethan Murphy and Jill Quackenbush of the Middlebury Skatepark

Project to lead a presentation on the proposed Skatepark to be located at the Middlebury Recreation fields adjacent to Mary Hogan School. (See meeting materials.)

The proposed location is ACSD property under lease by the Middlebury Parks & Recreation Department. The Middlebury Skatepark is seeking permission for use of the land to construct a temporary skate structure and eventually a concrete skatepark open to the public.

Highlights of the presentation:

- This request and presentation is a culmination of a year's worth of work. They have received overwhelming support from parents, community, and the Middlebury Parks & Recreation Department.
- Alternative sites were considered, but this location is the one recommended by the Parks & Rec Dept. They have worked with Dustin Hunt of Midd Parks & Rec, Bruce Macintire of ACSD, Peter Burrows of ACSD, and Jen Kravitz with the Mary Hogan School to answer questions and address concerns. This site was chosen because of its central location and public accessibility, access to bathrooms and water, and availability of parking. The project will comply with all wetland, utility and other setback requirements.

- Insurance will be covered by Middlebury Parks & Rec -- the Lease requires \$2 million liability for a single incident, and their policy covers up to \$10 million.
- Maintenance will be shared by Midd Parks & Rec and the Middlebury Skatepark Project organization.
- Cost of the project \$5,000 - \$7,000 for the concrete park. Project completion will take 1-3 years, depending on fundraising. The organization needs permission & letters of support to secure grants and other funding.
- The request includes: 1) letter of permission from ACSD Board for construction of the concrete skatepark, and 2) permission to construct a temporary mini ramp for skating while fundraising and planning for the concrete skatepark continues.

Board questions:

James Malcolm asked about current field uses -- the fields are used for soccer, etc -- but Parks & Rec reportedly has flexibility to offset this. Steve Orzech asked about the intent of keeping the park open to the public during school hours -- and whether this could potentially invite conflict between adult users and school activities. Suzanne Buck asked about accessibility to other ACSD users outside of Middlebury. Mary Heather Noble asked about parameters of the lease agreement, noting that the liability insurance requirements should probably be updated to reflect higher risk/unsupervised activities at the bike pump track and skatepark. She also wondered about the possibility of needing that area for construction/staging with any future renovations to Mary Hogan School. Lindsey Hescocock echoed Steve Orzech's concerns about use during school hours, and liability issues. James Malcolm and Mary Heather Noble agreed that most of these matters are lease agreement/operational issues.

Tricia Allen and Ellen Whelan-Wuest expressed their support for the project and commended the organizers for their efforts.

James Malcolm made a motion to authorize Barb Wilson to issue a letter of permission to the Middlebury Skatepark Project to construct a concrete skatepark at the site described in the meeting materials. Brian Bauer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

James Malcolm made a motion to authorize Barb Wilson to issue permission to the Middlebury Skatepark Project to install a temporary skate ramp at the site while plans for the permanent park proceed. Brian Bauer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Other

None.

G. Executive Session: Superintendent Search - Personnel 1 VSA 313 (a) (3)

Entered Executive Session at 9:00 p.m.

Exited Executive Session and re-entered Open Session at 9:45 p.m.

Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel matter related to Interim Superintendent Search, per 1 VSA 313 (a) 3.

Move: Mary Heather Noble Second: Joanna Doria Status: Passed

H. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Heather Noble  
ACSD Board Secretary

Motion to adjourn.

Move: Suzanne Buck Second: James Malcolm Status: Passed

\*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.