

MINUTES



**Addison Central School District
Policy Committee
Committee Meeting
Monday, September 25, 2023, 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm
208 Charles Avenue, Middlebury VT & Virtual Connection**

ACSD District Vision and Mission

OUR VISION

Our vision is for all ACSD students to reach their full learning potential, have a sense of belonging in our schools, and enrich our community and the communities where they live in the future.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide high-quality, equitable, and varied learning environments that inspire a passion for learning and growth among our students.

A. Call to Order Upon Reaching a Quorum

Suzanne Buck called the meeting to order at 5:25 PM

1. Introductions - Board Members, Administrators and Staff

Present: Suzanne Buck, Joanna Doria, Tim Williams, Lindsey Hescok (virtual), Jamie McCallum

B. Public Comment - Agenda Items

no public comment.

C. Recommendation to Approve Minutes of August 28, 2023

Minutes approved

Move: Jamie McCallum Second: Lindsey Hescok Status: Passed

D. New Policies for Consideration

1. F2 Policy On Nondiscriminatory Mascots and School Branding

Lindsey, with a poor virtual connection, asks about the review process; it's not clear what is she responsible for. Suzanne asks her to walk the committee through the policy and if there were concerns. This led to a discussion and some confusion as to why we were looking at this policy. It appears the posted policies on the district website (board page) has posted some policies out of order, so it was unclear that we had already adopted this policy back in Dec, 2022. As the discussion continues, the committee starts to question of if indeed the full board passed this policy. Suzanne is going to review full board minutes and inform us what the status is.

E. Review Current Policies

Joanna, after sending a word document to the committee members and Tim, walks the committee through her changes and concerns and questions. Tim and Suzanne wonder if we want to move our A policies more toward the VSBA's structure and model. Lindsey wants to preserve the history of the ACSB-specific language in our A1-A5 and doesn't want to lose that information. Suzanne brings up the idea of creating a historical repository for retired policies. Lindsey asks about a virtual location. Tim agrees that suggestion is feasible. Jamie generally likes the idea of adopting the VSBA's model policies but he wonders about how much editing is necessary if we are being asked merge language. Tim says he is willing to weave the necessary/desired language into the VSBA policies to reflect the committee's desires. Lindsey wants to make sure the full board is clear on the changes we make and be mindful of how we present them; the process should be clear and honest. Joanna recognizes the historical value of the writing process of these policies and wonders about how they serve us now and will into the future. She supports moving toward the VSBA's model structure. Suzanne asks the committee to look over A1-A5 and highlight what should be kept and rolled into the new A structure from VSBA. Joanna asks about the numbering and is VSBA is assuming we have some of these district-specific policies in place? Tim suggests we post DRAFT policies to our next committee meeting agenda and clarify first read for the board (Nov meeting). Jamie needs clarification on the process on what we are being asked of. The task: The committee member that is assigned to the policy for today's meeting is responsible for sending *just* Tim the language desired to be kept and the corresponding VSBA policy. Tim will work on the draft wording. We will then take action at our Nov meeting and be prepared to present to the full board for a first reading.

A2 Key Responsibilities of Board Members Jamie McCallum

A3 Relationship to Roles of the Board and the Superintendent Suzanne Buck

A4 Policy Development Suzanne Buck

A5 Code of Conduct 5 Lindsey Hescok

A6 Conflict of Interest of Board Members Joanna Doria - Joanna notes there is significant structural change to the new VSBA model policy but the intention and meaning is pretty much the same. She suggests simply adopting the VSBA version as it's simplified and clearer.

1. A1 Governance commitment
2. A2 Key Responsibilities of Board Members
3. A3 Relationship to Roles of the Board and the Superintendent
4. A4 Policy Development
5. A5 Code of Conduct
6. A6 Conflict of Interest of Board Members

F. Public Comment - Any Topic

Sam Ostrow- He comments that he is here at this committee meeting to mostly to learn about what the policy committee does. He would like to see stronger anti-racism policies prioritized. It is important to recognize that racism is institutionalized and it's critical to have policies with strong intentional language to dismantle racist systems.

G. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 6:22 PM

Move: Jamie McCallum Second: Joanna Doria 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.