

AGENDA

**Addison Central School District
 ACSD Board
 Board Meeting
 Monday, February 12, 2024, 6:30 pm - 8:45 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.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

Link to join Webinar

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83507770375>

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A. Call to Order Upon Reaching A Quorum | |
| 1. Introductions - Board Members, Administrators and Staff | Barb Wilson 5 min |
| 2. Public Comment on Agenda Items | Barb Wilson 10 min |
| B. Recommendation to Approve Minutes of 1/22/24 and 1/25/24 | Barb Wilson 5 min |
| C. Approve ACSD Bills | James Malcolm 5 min |
| D. Report of the Student Representatives | Sophia Lawton 5 min
Eddie Fallis |
| E. Report of the Superintendent | Tim Williams |
| 1. Proposed MUHS Schedule Change Presentation | 20 min |
| 2. Impact of Pending Act 127 Changes | Matthew Corrente 30 min |
| 3. Facilities Update | Matthew Corrente 15 min |
| 4. Action: Approve Faculty/Staff Appointments/Resignations | 5 min |
| a. Appoint Olivia Atwood as a Custodian, 1.0 FTE, Step 4 | |
| b. Appoint James Sestokas as a Grounds Technician, 1.0 FTE, Step 25 | |
| c. Appoint Kathrine Smith as a Paraprofessional, .50 FTE, Step 1 | |
| d. Accept Retirement of Tracy Longchamp, Classroom Teacher, 1.00 effective 6/30/2024 | |
| e. Accept Retirement of Janelle Perry-Askew, Science Teacher, 1.00 effective 6/30/2024 | |

f. Accept Resignation of Michael Sassin, Special Educator, 1.00 effective 6/30/2024

F. Report of the Chair Barb Wilson 10 min

1. Annual Meeting Protocols

G. Report of the Board 20 min

1. Committee Updates

a. Communications & Engagement

b. Negotiations

c. Facilities

d. Finance

e. Policy

f. Addison Central SEPAC

g. Middlebury Community Television

h. Parks and Recreation

i. Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center

H. Public Comment - Any Topic Barb Wilson 10 min

I. Adjournment

Total Meeting Time: 2h 20m

*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.

MINUTES



**Addison Central School District
ACSD Board
Board Meeting
Monday, January 22, 2024, 6:30 pm - 8:30 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.

In-Person Attendance

Barbara Wilson; Brian Bauer; Ellen Whelan-Wuest, Ellie Romp, James Malcolm; Jamie McCallum; Jason Chance; Joann Doran, Mary Heather Noble; Steve Orzech; Suzanne Buck; Tricia Allen

Remote Attendance

Lindsey Hescock

A. Call to Order Upon Reaching Agenda Item

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm.

- 1. Introductions - Board Members, Administrators and Staff 5 min

ACSD Staff present: Tim Williams, Interim Superintendent; Nicole Carter, Assistant Superintendent and Director of Equity & Student Services (remote); Matt Corrente, Director of Finance & Operations; Bruce Macintyre, Director of Facilities; Will Hatch, Director of Technology

Note: Board member Lindsey Hescock first participated remotely and then joined in person.

- 2. Public Comment on Agenda Items 10 min
No public comment.

B. Recommendation to Approve Minutes of 1/8/2024 5 min

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024 meeting.

Move: Jason Chance Second: Suzanne Buck Status: Passed

C. Approve ACSD Bills James Malcolm 5 min

James Malcolm presented the ACSD Bills that were read by himself and Jason Chance on January 15, 2024.

General Fund: \$1,197,084.64 (Note: ~\$530K of this is healthcare and dental; ~\$170K is for teacher retirement payments; and \$150K is for student transportation).

Payroll: \$941,130.63

Motion to approve payment of the ACSD Bills as presented.

Move: James Malcolm Second: Jason Chance Status: Passed

- D. Report of the Student Representative Eddie Fallis 5 min
Sophia Lawton

Neither Eddie Fallis nor Sophia Lawton were present, so this agenda item was skipped.

- E. Report of the Superintendent Tim Williams

Tim Williams noted the latest Superintendent Update in the meeting materials, and introduced Bruce Macintyre to present the bids for the Mary Hogan HVAC upgrade project.

Steve Orzech did ask Tim Williams about the Free & Reduced Lunch figures presented in the Superintendent's Report, specifically about the threshold required for a school to qualify for school-wide Title I funding. The threshold for a school to receive Title I designation is for 40% or more of its enrolled students to qualify for free & reduced lunch. Tim noted that they have sought a waiver for those schools that have recently qualified as Title I in the past but may have just barely met the requirements for FY25 (Bridport and Salisbury). Nicole Carter reported that Shoreham and MUMS received targeted funding due to the average number of students living in poverty.

There was some discussion & concern about the State's use of self-reported free & reduced lunch data for Title I funding designation, especially since families are no longer incentivized to complete the forms for their children. There was also concern about that some families with multiple children in different ACSD schools may not be completing the forms for all of their children, resulting in inaccurate counts. Matt Corrente said that the State is aware of this problem and is investigating other ways to collect surrogate data to estimate children living in poverty.

1. Action to approve Mary Hogan Contractor Bid Board Memo 5 min

Bruce Macintyre reminded the Board about the pre-approved contractors for the bidding process. ACSD received two bids: from Bread Loaf Corporation and Farrington Construction. He opened the bids and presented the numbers as follows:

Farrington Construction: Base Bid of \$1,270,832.00 and \$77,862.00 for alternate flooring project. Total bid at \$1,348,694.00.

Bread Loaf Corporation: Base Bid of \$1,119,000.00 and \$108,000.00 for alternate flooring project. Total bid at \$1,227,000.00.

Bruce noted Bread Loaf Corporation as the lowest bidder to receive the project.

Matt Corrente explained that the project straddles FY24 and FY25 -- \$800,000 ESSER money earmarked for the project will be spent by September 2024; half of the difference is in FY24 budget, the other half in the FY25 budget.

Motion to award the Mary Hogan Elementary School ESSER capital improvement project to the apparent low bidder, Breadloaf Corporation, based on the alternates chosen contingent upon final review of all the bids and authorize Superintendent Williams to execute a contract with the low bidder associated with this work.

Move: Steve Orzech Second: James Malcolm Status: Passed

2. Action: Approve Faculty/Staff Appointments/Resignations 5 min

Dr. Williams presented the list of ACSD Staff appointments, resignations, and requests for leave.

The positions are existing vacancies to be filled and the request for leave is an unpaid leave. There will be a substitute nurse to cover the resignation from the nurse position.

Motion to approve the following appointments and resignations as presented in the meeting materials:

- a. Appoint Matthew Alford as a Paraprofessional, 1.0 FTE, Step 1
- b. Appoint Stacey Thomann as Payroll Coordinator, 1.00 FTE, Non-Union no step placement
- c. Approve Resignation of Arlene Mathewson, MUHS Nurse, effective 1/16/2024
- d. Approve Resignation of Kate Wolff, ELL teacher, effective 6/30/2024

Move: Suzanne Buck Second: Steve Orzech Status: Passed

- a. Appoint Matthew Alford as a Paraprofessional, 1.0 FTE, Step 1
- b. Appoint Stacey Thomann as Payroll Coordinator, 1.00 FTE, Non-Union no step placement
- c. Approve Resignation of Arlene Mathewson, MUHS Nurse, effective 1/16/2024
- d. Approve Resignation of Kate Wolff, ELL teacher, effective 6/30/2024
- e. Approve leave of absence request for Ben Long for the 2024-25 SY

3. Presentation: ACSD FY25 Budget Matthew Corrente 60 min

Matt Corrente provided the most recent FY25 budget figures in his final budget presentation, which begins at 27 minutes into the meeting recording (available at <https://www.acsdvt.org/school-board/board-meetings>).

Recap/Major points:

- Act 127 is the biggest driver for the increased budget. The new student weighting formula significantly decreases the amount of funding we get from the State with our enrollment, which diminishes the tax capacity. Bottom line: The same spending rate will still increase our district's taxes. Or put another way, it would take \$4.5 million in cuts to maintain our current tax rate.

- The Finance Committee recommends a 9.9% increase in spending to maintain the staffing and programs to deliver the same level of education product while remaining before the 10% increase in spending threshold imposed by Act 127.

- The roadmap for the budget to Town Meeting day:

- 1/26 is the deadline for warning the ACSD Annual Meeting
- 2/2 is the deadline to warn the budget for Town Meeting Day

- 2/27 ACSD Annual Meeting and budget presentation
- 3/5 Town Meeting Day

- The proposed FY25 budget is a bridge to continue providing ACSD students with post-pandemic support, provide stability in staffing and services for a smooth transitions to a new superintendent, and avoid the enormous tax rate impact of Act 127 (ie. takes advantage of the 5-year phase-in opportunity to ease the transition to the new tax rate caused by Act 127).

Matt Corrente continued through the presentation in two parts: 1) General Financial Section with year-to-year summary and tax rates; and 2) Detailed Financial Section with cost center analysis and enrollment.

Board Comments and Questions:

- Jamie McCallum asked about the education grants, and whether there are any other additional grant funding sources that ACSD should be seeking. Matt explained the distinction between project-based competitive grants and data-based qualifying grants (such as Title I, block grants, etc.).

- Joanna Doria asked about the merger grant. Matt explained that ACSD continues to receive \$350,000 for the merger grant since it doesn't qualify for the small school weight.

- Suzanne Buck asked about the risk of exceeding a 10% increase in spending, given the incomplete negotiations with teacher and staff unions, and still-to-be-determined salary increases. Matt acknowledged this as a possibility, but also noted that having an approved budget does also put a limitation on what the board can negotiate based on what the taxpayers support. If the associations demand more, it could turn into an unfunded mandate. Given the impact of Act 127 on the tax rate, the District will need to calibrate its spending over the next 5 years and not continue to increase.

- Steve Orzech noted the discussion in the Finance Committee about the 3 choices the Board faces: if the Board exceeds 10% spending increase, it risks losing the 5% tax rate cap and costing the taxpayer an unacceptable rise in property taxes. If the Board stays just below the 10% spending increase, it's creating a ~5% cliff five years from now. If the Board starts making cuts to this FY25 budget, it would be in better shape for easing into the impact from Act 127. But that would be very challenging to do because those kind of cuts are really hard.

- Ellen Whelan-Wuest acknowledged the difficult choices and noted that there was not 100% agreement on the Finance Committee about it. But this FY25 is the hardest year because of the loss of ESSER funds on top of the impacts of Act 127. Many on the committee felt it would be best to keep spending just enough below the threshold to allow for stability and continuity of recovery efforts while still qualifying for the 5% tax cap. Then next year the difficult conversations around real budget cuts can begin.

- Joanna Doria asked about the recent letter from the Legislature's Ways and Means Committee and its expressed intent to basically audit school districts for their spending decisions. Is there anything in our FY25 budget that we should be really nervous about? Matt explained that the FY25 budget preserves most of the ESSER funded positions because the data demonstrates the need. This includes preserving interventionists and some additional classroom teachers, now to be funded by the general fund. The ESSER positions we allowed to sunset include the MUMS behavioral position, the Dean of Climate and Culture, and the HHB Coordinator. The ELL coordinator is also being reconfigured into a contracted position. Joanna asked about the process of deciding which ESSER positions to keep.

Tim Williams answered that they are keeping the ones with the closest student contact and most direct impact on students. He also noted that the State is concerned about Districts padding their budgets up to 10% increases with one-time construction projects (which doesn't meet the intent of the law) to take advantage of the 5% tax cap. ACSD is not squeezing extra expenses into the budget during this grace period, and should withstand scrutiny.

- Mary Heather Noble asked about the loss of 1.0 FTE teacher from Shoreham, even though it has a higher or equal enrollment to other rural schools that are not losing staff. Matt brought up the table of student enrollment at each school and where blended classrooms will be used – Shoreham will be blending a classroom due to lower numbers in consecutive grades.

- Steve Orzech again pointed out the disproportionate amount of money being spent in the rural schools verses Mary Hogan, especially when taking into account that student services are not included in the cost center summaries. He implied the inequality is worse when student service costs are factored in. Matt explained the reasoning behind separating those figures. Cost center expenses should be grounded in enrollment. Student service costs are grounded in additional need beyond EQS.

- Lindsey Hescocock also inquired about the disproportionate amount of spending per pupil between several schools, even comparing between different rural schools. Matt and Ellen explained that some of that is due to the different building expenses, different enrollment numbers at each of these schools, as well as the differences in health care plans for many of the staff members at the different places. One staff person needing a family plan can have a significant impact on the cost/pupil at a small school. Lindsay noted the challenges with these figures and warned that many people will focus on them when considering the budget.

- Mary Heather expressed appreciation for Lindsey's question about the distribution of resources across the district, but she acknowledged that this is a bridge budget year to transition to preserve stability for a new leader. This is not the year to pull apart the configuration, but moving forward the focus should be on structuring a budget to deliver equitable instruction, resources, and opportunities to all students, and not just focusing on dollars spent/student. She stated that the value system illustrated in the current budget is that ACSD values location/geography over all else. But budget development in FY26 and beyond should to involve a community-wide conversation about this, and whether it is fair/sustainable.

- Barb Wilson noted the importance of focusing on the FTE's at each location (as opposed to \$ spent), and whether the proportion of FTE's is reasonable for the enrollment at each location. She said that other District budget books do not break things down to a school-by-school basis because it's not necessarily accurate when you consider the shared costs of shared services. Suzanne Buck agreed that it is very difficult to accurately portray a per-school cost for this very reason. There was some discussion about how to present the information that both provides an accurate and transparent picture of what being is spent where. Matt agreed that it would be good for the Board to set its expectations for the level of detail in future budget books. Joanna Doria emphasized the importance of reviewing each cost center to fully understand the larger picture.

4. Action: Approve the transfer of \$2,033,842 from FY23 General Fund to the Capital Reserves 5 min

Matt Corrente presented a memo with the recommendation to transfer FY23 general fund balance of \$2,033,842 to the capital reserve fund so the money is available to address one-time emergent needs and/or be used for investment in facilities improvement projects.

Motion to approve the transfer of \$2,033,842 from the FY23 General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund.

Move: Suzanne Buck Second: James Malcolm Status: Passed

5. Review: District Warnings

5 min

Matt Corrente presented the draft ballot warnings for the Annual Meeting and the Australian Ballot for Town Meeting Day. The Board should review and notify him of any corrections ASAP. This will be voted on at the Special Board Meeting on January 25, 2024.

James Malcom noted that the budget number in this year's warning is the TOTAL educational budget, and not just the general fund (which is what was warned last year). The group discussed the difference between the two years -- in FY24, many districts only warned the general fund because they felt the ESSER money made the budgets look large (and could confuse voters about how much money needed to be locally supported). The usual accepted practice is to warn the total budget, so ACSD and other districts are returning to that. It is just important for Board members to understand in case anyone questions the difference between what was warned in FY24 and FY25.

F. Report of the Chair

Barb Wilson 5 min

Barb Wilson provided a brief update. PAHCC has an at-large position that is designated by the ACSD Board. Nick Causton has been the designee for a long time but has decided to step down from the PAHCC Board. ACSD needs to appoint another at-large community member. Suzanne Buck explained that the ACSD Board needs to announce the vacancy and ask interested people to submit a letter of interest for the Board's review. The Board will then interview interested candidates and appoint one person.

Barb Wilson also mentioned Dr. Wendy Baker's upcoming visit on Tuesday, January 23rd. They will be visiting Ripton, Salisbury, and MHS. Erin Whelan-Wuest, Joanna Doria, and Steve Orzech are all helping.

G. Report of the Board

10 min

1. Communication & Engagement

Mary Heather Noble

Mary Heather Noble provided a brief overview of the C&E Committee's recent work: The focus is on voter education materials and outreach for FY25 budget. She noted the draft Board Update that has already been circulated to Board members -- that will go out soon. They are working to create a FY25 Budget page on the District website, where all the budget information will reside. The committee is creating a 1 page fact sheet that can be posted on the page, as well as on Front Porch Forum and in the Addison Independent. The Finance Committee is finalizing content for the FAQs sheet, which will then be designed/formatted by the C&E Committee and posted. The C&E Committee would like to engage MCTV and the Board's student reps to have a few Q&A recordings to post on the website. And finally, they are hoping to do a recorded webinar in mid-Feb to give people an opportunity to ask questions in real time, and then post the recording on the District website.

2. Negotiations

Steve Orzech

No specific update given due to lack of time.

3. Facilities

Jason Chance

Jason Chance reported that the Facilities Committee recently heard Bruce MacIntire's mid-year report on the maintenance of ACSD facilities -- he would like the full Board to hear this and is asking to have this put on a future agenda.

4. Finance

James Malcolm

Finance Committee work already covered with budget presentation.

5. Policy

Suzanne Buck

Suzanne Buck reported that the Policy Committee is working on Policy C9, a required policy which must be in place by the end of the year. Laura Nugent is heading a committee to assist with that work.

The Committee is also working on Policy E20, which addresses community use of school facilities. This has received significant attention, given the recent event hosted at Vergennes High School. There is also a policy related to school budgets that Suzanne wanted to wait to introduce until after the FY25 budget work is done.

6. Addison Central SEPAC Update

Joanna Doria
Suzanne Buck

Suzanne Buck reported that the SEPAC Board met recently and added an education liaison. They plan to meet every 3rd Wednesday of the month, and plan to offer some activities to celebrate neurodiversity week in March.

7. Middlebury Community Television Update

Barb Wilson

MCTV Board has not met -- no update provided.

8. Parks and Recreation Update

Lindsey Hescock

Lindsey Hescock read a letter from Scott Bourne of the Middlebury Parks and Recreation Department. The Board has not yet met but Scott provided some information about recent work in the Department. Parks and Rec is fully staffed and currently busy offering basketball and gymnastics to the community. They have hired a new maintenance person who is catching up on neglected projects. After the winter season, Parks and Rec is planning for summer. They have many vacancies to fill for camp counselors and lifeguards. They also hope to invest in some upgrades for the town pool and pool house.

9. Patricia A. Hannaford Center

Steve Orzech
Tricia Allen

No update provided due to lack of time.

H. Public Comment - Any Topic

10 min

No public comment.

I. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Motion to adjourn.

Move: Suzanne Buck Second: Jamie McCallum Status: Passed

Total Meeting Time: 2h 15m

*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.

MINUTES



**Addison Central School District
ACSD Board
Special Board Meeting
Thursday, January 25, 2024, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
208 Charles Avenue, Middlebury VT**

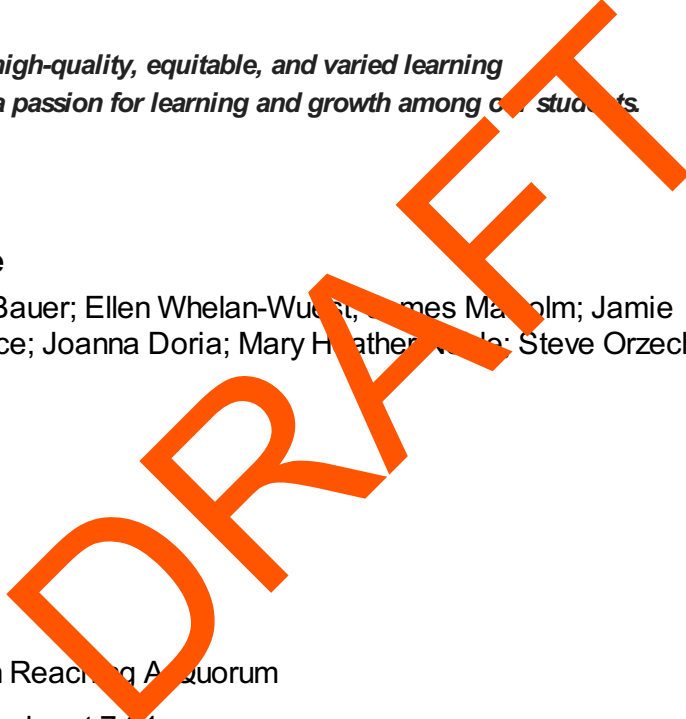
ACSD District Vision and Mission

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.



In-Person Attendance

Barbara Wilson; Brian Bauer; Ellen Whelan-Wuest, James Malcolm; Jamie McCallum; Jason Chance; Joanna Doria; Mary Heather Weller; Steve Orzech; Suzanne Buck

Remote Attendance

Lindsey Hescok

Not In Attendance

Ellie Romp

- A. Call to Order Upon Reaching A Quorum Barb Wilson
Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m.
 - 1. Introductions - Board Members, Administrators, and Staff 5 min
Others present: ACSD Interim Superintendent Tim Williams, ACSD Director of Finance and Operations Matt Corrente, and ACSD Clerk Linda Barrett.
 - 2. Public Comment on Agenda Items 10 min
No public comment
- B. Report of the Superintendent
 - 1. Action: Adopt FY25 ACSD Budget Matthew Corrente 30 min
Matt Corrente opened the discussion. The budget figures from his presentation on Monday, January 22, 2024 have not changed -- they made minor edits to the FY25 budget book, and it is ready for Board action. He invited questions from the Board.

Barb Wilson took a motion to approve the FY25 budget book to allow for Board discussion.

Board comments prior to the vote:

James Malcolm said that he had watched the legislative hearing on the impacts of Act 127 on Vermont school districts. Everyone is upset about the impacts, and nobody knows how to get out from under the changes imposed by its redistributed funding. There is no perfect place to be, but we must try to do what is best for our students and taxpayers. We have stayed under the spending threshold to avoid unbearable tax consequences. We have documented what we've done and the budget should be able to withstand the scrutiny of the state. He supports it.

Suzanne Buck expressed continued discomfort with how close our budget is to the spending increase threshold, but after listening to the legislative hearing, she feels that ACSD is in a better place than many other districts. Everyone's budgets are impacted by the "trough" that has been created by the phasing in of Act 127, but we've done the best we can.

Joanna Doria said that she felt good about the FY25 Budget on Monday's Board meeting, but she did have some specific questions about how the yield influences the final numbers. Matt Current explained that the yield is a variable that doesn't become fixed until all the budgets in the state are approved and set -- because of the 10% tax rate cap, the yield is causing those districts that Act 127 was intended to help to experience tax increases of their own (meaning they take on the burden of funding other districts' spending beyond their tax cap). This is one of the unintended consequences of the method used to phase in the transition. Joanna also had questions about the funding for the Mary Hogan HVAC project -- Matt explained that ESSER funds 2/3 of the project (which must be spent by September 2024), and that the remaining 1/3 cost is divided between already allocated FY24 funds and requested FY25 funds.

Steve Orzech made a statement about his concerns re: the FY25 budget. He has been struggling with the process, trying to ensure that ACS stay below the 10% increase in spending threshold. And even with the tax rate cap, we are still taking on additional expenses that will create a fiscal crunch a few years down the road. He said that he can't believe we are still not talking about consolidation as a solution -- he has tried to convince people that this is a necessary part of the solution. He cannot in good conscience support this budget.

Barb Wilson responded to Steve's comment, stating that her understanding was that the FY25 budget was not intended to impose major changes, because we are welcoming new leadership. Those decisions would very hard to make under an interim superintendent, so the expectation was that we would wait to tackle the issue under Dr. Baker is in place. Barb stated that she does not personally feel she is ignoring any issues, and that the Board will need to work with Dr. Baker on implementing the Strategic Plan and addressing the next budget together.

Mary Heather Noble also responded. She agrees with Steve Orzech in that consolidation is a necessary part of the solution to achieve long term sustainability. The current budget does imply that the Board values town schools above all else. However, she also agrees with Barb Wilson in that this is not the right time to impose those changes -- doing so right before welcoming a new Superintendent does not set them up for success. She supports the FY25 budget because it strikes a balance of maintaining stability and investing in the future leadership, continuing support for interventions and pandemic-relief programming that is still needed, while keeping the opening increases below the threshold imposed by Act 127. She emphasized the Board's need to work on FY26 planning right away, and does not think this budget structure should continue in the future, but feels that FY25 budget sets the District up

for success fun problem-solving in the 2024-25 year.

Suzanne echoed Mary Heather's point about consolidation, noting that some districts testifying in the legislative hearings also requested the state to consider regional schools as a model for educating students.

Joanna Doria expressed her support for FY25 -- it is a responsible budget and maintains many of the ESSER-funded intervention positions. She also cautioned against looking at closing schools as a silver bullet. It is a complicated issue that may introduce other problems.

James Malcolm emphasized the financial pressures facing districts in the future -- the problem is that even maintaining the same educational product costs the community significantly more. He acknowledged the complexity of the issue, noting valid points in both Steve and Joann's statements.

Matt Corrente also mentioned the point that many in the education sector have made about the likelihood that ever-increasing taxes drives families away and contributes to the declining enrollment... which then causes districts to lose more money and increase local taxes to support local schools.

Barb Wilson then called the vote. 11 Ayes, 1 Nay. The Fy25 Budget Book is approved.

Motion to approve the ACSD FY25 Budget Book as presented in the meeting materials, which would set the FY25 budget at \$50,604,000, which represents a 6.5% increase in Total Spending and is the amount the ACSD school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year.

Move: Jason Chance Second: James Malcolm Status: Passed

2. Action: Adopt School District Warnings Tim Williams 5 min

Tim Williams shared the language for the school district warnings. The Annual Meeting warning had a slight change to include the appointment of both a new ACSD Board Clerk and new at-large ACSD-appointed member of the PAHCC Board (since Linda Barrett and Nick Causton will no longer serve those respective roles).

Suzanne Buck made a motion to approve the warning for the February 27, 2024 ACSD Annual Meeting. Jason Chance seconded. There was no Board discussion. Barb Wilson called the vote and all members voted unanimously to approve the warning.

Suzanne Buck made a motion to approve the second warning for the Australian Ballot on March 5, 2024. Ellen Whelan-Wuest seconded. There was no further Board discussion. Barb Wilson called the vote and all members voted unanimously to approve the warning.

C. Report of the Board Barb Wilson

1. Budget Communication Plan Mary Heather Noble 10 min

Mary Heather Noble updated the full Board on the FY25 budget communications plan that the Communication & Engagement Committee has developed:

- Emily Blistein has created a Budget page on the ACSD website, which will hold the budget book and all other voter education resources.

- The Finance and C&E Committees have created a FAQs sheet which will also be posted on the budget page. The C&E Committee will work with MCTV to create a mini-interview to review the FAQs so there is an audio/visual medium for voters to access.

- The Winter Board Update will go out with a link to the budget page, a link to a google form to submit budget questions, information about a virtual Q&A session on Feb 15th, and the information about the Feb 27th Annual Meeting.

- Barb Wilson's Statement from the Chair from the budget book will be slightly modified and sent as an op-ed in the Addison Independent. It will include links to the budget page, and will also be posted on FPF.

- The C&E Committee will host the virtual Q&A session on Feb 15th at 7:00 p.m. with some high-level budget details extracted from Matt's existing presentation and then open it to questions. This will be recorded and posted on the budget page.

- The C&E Committee is also planning to have Board Tables set up at a few existing ACSD school events to provide voter education materials and Board member interaction where families are already scheduled to come. Mary Heath will send a sign-up sheet to Board members to staff the tables. The dates/event:

- Feb 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m., MUHS 8th Grade Information Night for incoming freshman

- Feb 6, 6:00-8:00 p.m., MUMS Mardi Gras Celebration

- Feb 8, 5:45-7:00 p.m., Mary Hogan Literacy Night

- Feb 8, 6:30-8:00 p.m., MUHS DP Music Recital

- Feb 12, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Rural Elementary Band & Choir Concert @ Salisbury School

- Feb 13, time TBA, MUMS Band & Choir Concert @ MUHS Auditorium

There was some discussion about needing to emphasize the difference between the tax rate that the Board is able to influence and the GLA that is not determined by the Board. Steve Orzech suggested mapping out a plan like this for FY26, because this will be important for next year's budget planning efforts as well.

D. Public Comment - Any topics

10 min

No public comment.

E. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Motion to adjourn.

Move: Suzanne Buck Second: Joanna Doria Status: Passed

Total Meeting Time: 1h 10m

*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.

MUHS Daily Schedule

For School Year 2024-2025


ACSD Board Presentation

February 12, 2024





Spring 2023: MUHS needs analysis surfaced the schedule as a barrier to needed change.




September-December 2023: MUHS staff team worked on a schedule redesign for next school year.

Schedule Redesign Goals

- Reduce stress by reducing the number of classes students take at a time.
- Increase access to career center programs and other flexible pathways options.
- Build more structures into the day to support academic success.
- Make the school day work better for students and teachers.

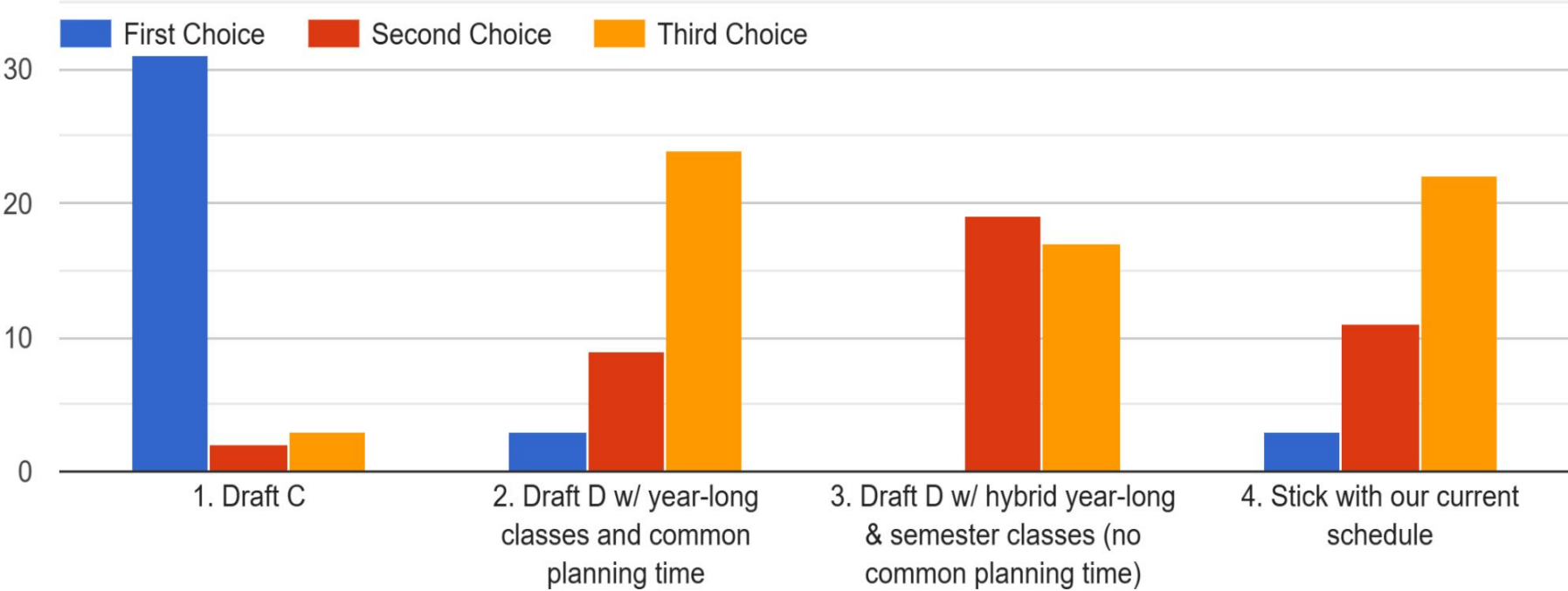




December 2023: Presented full staff with two draft schedules with variations, received feedback through a survey.

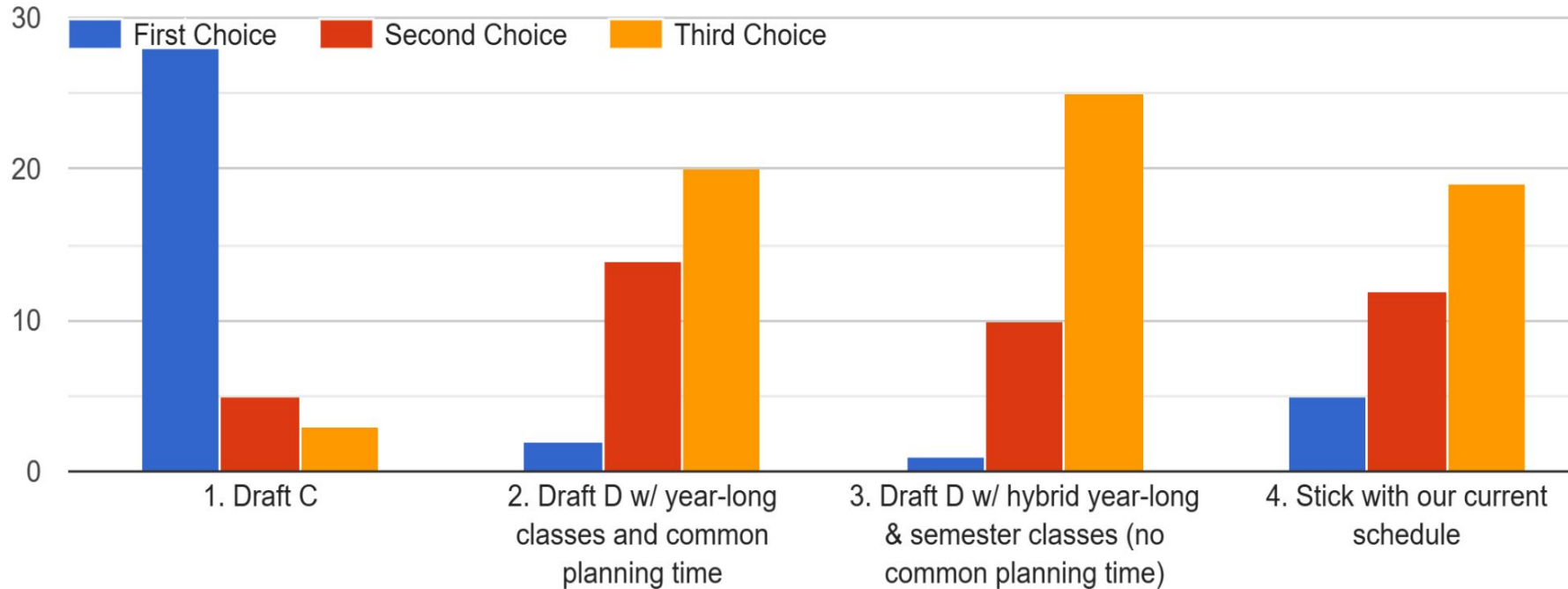
Which schedule option do you think would be best for students?

36 responses total



Which schedule option do you think would be best for staff?

36 responses total





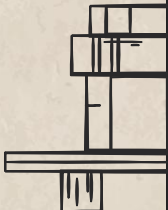
January 2024: Discussed survey results with staff, committed to refining Draft C, began collecting feedback from students.

**Here are the
big ideas.**

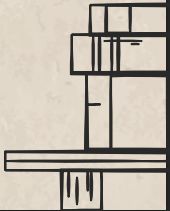


The school day would officially start at around 8:45. But before school, starting at around 8:00,* we would offer a Zero Hour.

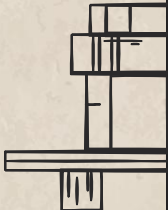
*We're still working out the final timing with the busing company. Bus drop-off time is the start of the Zero Hour.



Why a late start?



Attendance in the Zero Hour would be optional. Students who come to school early would have access to the cafeteria, library, Learning Lab, gym, weight room, counselors, clinicians, nurses, and maybe even clubs and other learning opportunities. We're still working out the details on this.



Advisory would meet only once per day, for about 25 minutes after lunch. It would not compete for time with lunch or Band or Choir.



We expect that one or two days a week this time would be used for focused Advisory activities.

On the other days - because all teachers would be available at the same time - students could flex to other places to make up work or get extra help.



There would be three lunch periods instead of two, and they would no longer be divided by grade level.

Students could participate in Band and/or Choir without missing lunch or Advisory.

Lunch lines would be shorter!



Student feedback on lunches.



**We would still run 4 blocks each day,
but we would use these blocks a bit
more flexibly.**



Many classes would meet every day for a single semester.*

***For example, a 9th grader may take L&L and Math in semester 1 and I&S and Science in semester 2.**

Most (maybe all) DP classes would still meet every other day all year for two years.



That means most students would be enrolled in fewer classes at a time, and teachers would work with fewer students in each semester.

We hope this will reduce stress for everyone.



The MUHS schedule would align better with the PHCC schedule, so students would have less open time between programs and easier access to classes in both buildings.

We hope more students will feel like they can access Career Center programs and graduate on time.



The new schedule would create more opportunities for teachers to support students in study halls, Learning Lab, and at other times of day. It would shorten blocks from 83 minutes to 80 minutes, but it would create more opportunities to work with teachers individually and in small groups.

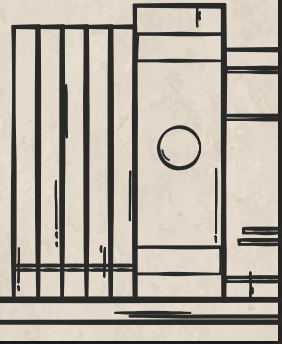


Q&A



Next Steps

- Continued work with Bet-Cha, FinOpps, and Midd. principals
- Collaboration with Association on Zero Hour and 6th Block responsibilities
- Communication with families
- Building student schedules
- Fine tuning for roll out, August 2024





Thanks!

DAILY BELL SCHEDULE

(1 Day, 6 Students)

	MUHS All Day			MUHS/PAHCC		
	Lunch 1	Lunch 2 w/ Band/Choir	Lunch 3	AM Session	PM Session	Culinary
8:00	Zero Hour <i>pass</i>	8:00 Zero Hour <i>pass</i>	8:00 Zero Hour <i>pass</i>	8:00 Zero Hour <i>pass</i>	8:00 Zero Hour <i>pass</i>	8:00 Zero Hour
8:45	1.1 1.2 <i>pass</i>	8:45 1.1 1.2 <i>pass</i>	8:45 1.1 1.2 <i>pass</i>	Morning Session	8:45 1.1 1.2 <i>pass</i>	8:45 Technical Communication
10:10	2.1 2.2 <i>pass</i>	10:10 2.1 2.2 <i>pass</i>	10:10 2.1 2.2 <i>pass</i>		5 minute pass	10:10 2.1 2.2 <i>pass</i>
11:33	Lunch 1 <i>pass</i>	11:33 3.1 <i>pass</i>	11:33 3.1 3.2 <i>pass</i>	11:33 Lunch 1 <i>pass</i>	11:33 Lunch 1 15-minute pass	
12:00	3.2 3.3 <i>pass</i>	12:15 Lunch 2 <i>pass</i>	12:56 Lunch 3 <i>pass</i>	12:00 3.2 3.3 <i>pass</i>	12:10 Afternoon Session	
1:25	Advisory <i>pass</i>	1:25 Advisory <i>pass</i>	1:25 Advisory <i>pass</i>	1:25 Advisory <i>pass</i>	25-minute pass	2:10 25-minute pass
1:55	4.1 4.2	1:55 4.1 4.2	1:55 4.1 4.2	1:55 4.1 4.2	2:35 4.2	2:34 4.2
3:15	dismissal	3:15 dismissal	3:15 dismissal	3:15 dismissal	3:15 dismissal	3:15 dismissal

40 minutes of Zero Hour

80-minute block

25-minute lunch

with short passing periods

2-hour PAHCC Session

25-minute Advisory w/ option to flex on some days

40-minute skinny block



Facilities FY24 Mid-Year R.A.M.P Report

January 2024

Bruce MacIntire , Director of Facilities

Matthew Corrente, Director of Finance and Operations

Summary

FY24 has presented the Facilities Department with several challenging emergency scenarios. These have largely centered around our HVAC and water system infrastructure.

In addition to the Department's routine maintenance and emergency response work, we have also initiated planning work on proposed projects at MUHS, MUMS, and 49 Charles Ave.

HVAC

In nearly every school, we have had numerous repairs to our heating and ventilation systems. This is indicative of the age of the systems and we expect the trend to continue. Due to the extensive integration of these systems into a building's general infrastructure design, it is often difficult to estimate repair/replace costs. Often a project's scope will expand as Sister costs (while one big project is happening, it makes sense to do another) and Grandfather costs (one project triggers a legal/code based requirement to do another project) often accompany this type of system overhaul.

Shoreham

A recent event at the Shoreham school highlighted the deficiencies in that HVAC system. We had boiler ignition problems that led to the building being evacuated. The (relatively new) boilers have since been repaired but the event highlighted a deficient air handling system. While closely monitored air quality because of the event we noticed the air handling system moved less air than required. This project should be addressed in the near future. A rough cost estimate is \$1,000,000, independent of sister and grandfather costs.

Cornwall

This school has the oldest system and requires complete replacement (\$2,000,000)

Weybridge

HVAC has not had an update in more than 25 years. We cannot adjust the system because the old controls are no longer accessible. At a minimum, Weybridge needs the controls updated, which is \$125,000.

Mary Hogan

The school will be getting new HVAC in A-wing this summer using the final ESSER funds. However, C-wing remains unaddressed and has been identified as one of the District's most problematic HVAC systems. This to be on the shortlist, estimated cost is \$2,500,000.

MUMS, MUHS, Ripton, Salisbury, Bridport

All of the other schools still require increased maintenance on the HVAC systems but are meeting the needs of the buildings.

Water

Ripton had a failure with its domestic water controls. It took the facilities department several months to remedy the problem. We now have new controls, and the water system is working well.

MUMS had a coupling on the sprinkler system fail, resulting in a flood that caused extensive damage to the building. The majority of the repairs have been done. We are still waiting for casework for room 202 but plan to have students back in that space by January 24th. As a result of the failure, we are looking at making a change to the dry sprinkler system this summer. Price range is \$20,000 to \$40,000.

MUHS: We have had a few leaks in the domestic water piping. The leaks have been repaired, but the frequency has been steadily increasing. Last month, we had to break into the block wall on the second floor or H-wing to repair the water dripping from the driver education room ceiling.

Miscellaneous

MUHS: We are currently working on renovation plans for the learning lab at MUHS. This was the computer lab adjacent to the library, which is open to the library. Due to a change in function, we plan to separate the spaces and create an office within the space for our 504 coordinator. We should have some firm estimates mid to late February.

MUMS: We have started discussing space utilization and programmatic needs at the Middle School. Through the spring, we will develop some recommendations for needed changes.

Central Office: We have completed exterior, interior wall and ceiling sampling. Air quality assessment is pending. So far we have found that there is significant cracking along the north foundation due to hydrostatic pressure. Exterior deficiencies include rotted sills, siding and and jambs (allowing pests points of entry) as well as improper grading and drainage. Interior sampling revealed no evidence of environmental concerns such as mold or significant signs of water entry. Insufficient insulation was discovered throughout.