

AGENDA



**Addison Central School District
Executive Committee
Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 3, 2024, 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm
49 Charles Avenue
Middlebury VT
05753**

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
 - 1. Introductions: Board Members, Administrators and Staff
- B. Public Comment- Agenda Items
- C. Approve minutes of 3/18/2024 and 3/21/2024
- D. Committee Discussion:
 - 1. Public Comment period(s) per A21
 - 2. Finalize agenda for April 8th Board Meeting
 - 3. Committee assignment adjustment request
 - 4. Board voicemail message mailbox monitoring
- E. Other
- F. Public Comment- Any Topic
- G. Adjournment

***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
Executive Committee
Committee Meeting
Monday, March 18, 2024, 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm
49 Charles Avenue
Middlebury VT
05753**

ACSD District Vision and Mission

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In Attendance

Barbara Wilson; Mary Heather Noble; Suzanne Buck; Tim Williams

A. Call to Order Upon Reaching a Quorum

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. Introductions: Board Members, Administrators and Staff

B. Public Comment - Agenda Items

No public comment.

C. Approve the Minutes from March 4, 2024

Suzanne Buck abstained.

Motion to approve the 3/4/2024 meeting minutes.

Move: Barbara Wilson Second: Mary Heather Noble Status: Passed

D. Committee Discussion:

1. Finalize the Agenda for 3/25/2024 Board Meeting

The Committee worked on finalizing the agenda for the March 25, 2024 Board meeting.

Of note:

- Report of the Superintendent will include a presentation from Nicole Carter about Student

Service needs in the next academic year. This discussion is one of several needed to begin addressing concerns brought up by Mary Hogan School staff at the last Board meeting. Part of the presentation will include a plan to establish another Elementary Wellness and Learning Center -- this one at Ripton Elementary School -- to help provide capacity for students whose behavioral needs cannot be adequately addressed in the regular classroom. The group discussed some of the issues brought up during the last Board meeting.

- Board members need to sign the VSBA Ethics Declaration. Tim heard from members of the Negotiations Committee that some matters discussed during the Executive Session were brought up by Staff representatives during the last negotiations meeting -- they are very concerned about Board members not upholding their legal and moral obligation to keep Executive Session matters confidential. Suzanne Buck and Mary Heather noted that this has been a recent problem during the Superintendent Search process as well, and both feel specific attention needs to be brought to this concern. Leaking Executive Session discussions violates both the Ethic Agreement and Policy A5 Code of Conduct.

- Barb Wilson mentioned the email she forwarded from Elizabeth Burrows at MUMS concerning a student group request to fly the Black Lives Matter flag at MUMS. They have requested time to provide a presentation to the full Board about their request. Suzanne Buck expressed discomfort with the request and suggesting holding until the Flag policy can be reviewed by counsel. She said this was never done. Mary Heather and Barb pushed back, expressing concern about being inconsistent, given the request this fall/winter from a Mary Hogan student. Tim Williams agreed that it should be added to the agenda, and the issues can be introduced/discussed at that time. He said that the VT Solicitor General has advised him that the ACSD flag policy puts the District at risk of a First Amendment challenge. There was some discussion about the wording of the policy and whether it had ever been legally reviewed. The Committee agreed to add to the agenda.

- Barb Wilson also mentioned the request from Mary Slosar to be added to the agenda to highlight the SEPAC's Neurodiversity Week celebration. Mary Heather Noble and Suzanne Buck noted a recent email circulated to SEPAC members about coming to the Board meeting to provide public comment about their experience with neurodiversity in coordination with Mary's request to be added to the agenda. Tim Williams wondered about the role of SEPAC and its relationship to the Board -- the input and expectation around Board action seems excessive. Mary Heather agreed that the email to SEPAC members seemed a bit cart-before-the-horse. The Board has not yet even fully reorganized and completed new committee assignments. There was some discussion around reminding Mary about using the Board reps to provide regular SEPAC updates -- the Board has other important work as well. Either Barb or Mary Heather will reach out to Mary to explain the status, that committee updates won't be on the agenda, and public comments about SEPAC/Neurodiversity Week will likely need to wait until the end of the meeting.

- Barb Wilson introduced the idea of including a regular Board Governance topic to monthly Board agendas to provide ongoing education to Board members. Mary Heather asked if this was something that could be broached with the full Board during the next Board retreat. Barb indicated that incoming Superintendent Wendy Baker has requested that the Board retreat wait until June so she has enough opportunity to work with the leadership team on Strategic Plan implementation before the retreat. All agreed that it would be best to introduce the topic before then. Mary Heather suggested having the Executive Committee examine how routine board governance topics/presentation could be added to the year's work plan and then present to the full board then. The group agreed to discuss at the April 1st Executive Committee meeting.

2. Committee Assignment Review/Discussion

Barb Wilson mentioned the difficulty she's been having with committee assignments, in part because most people have requested serving on the Facilities Committee. She floated the idea of putting the Facilities Committee on hold until the Strategic Plan implementation team got further along with their work. Mary Heather Noble and Suzanne Buck both strongly disagreed, noting the original charge of the Facilities Committee, the pause during the lengthy Superintendent Search process, and the urgency of examining the District's facilities footprint and staffing as both a response to equity concerns and financial pressures. There was some discussion about the idea and the role of the Facilities Committee moving forward. Mary Heather noted that the reason everyone wants to serve on Facilities is because they are all aware of the need to examine consolidation and everyone wants their perspective at the table. Suzanne agreed that it will be very important to balance the committee with varying perspectives. Mary Heather requested that either Suzanne or Chip serve on the committee to provide the historic perspective. Mary Heather said she would serve where needed, but if she does the C&E Committee again, she would prefer someone else chair it. Tim expressed his opinion that the Executive Committee members should not chair other committees. There was continued discussion about committee placement, and preservation of the current Negotiations Committee. Some concern about irregular attendance by one of the committee members. Time ran out, so the Committee agreed to meet again on Thursday March 21st to finalize Committee Assignments (including representatives to SEPAC, Parks & Rec, etc.).

3. Executive Committee Work Plan

Tabled for the April 1st meeting.

E. Other

None.

F. Public Comment - Any Topic

No public comment

G. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Motion to adjourn.

Move: Mary Heather Noble Second: Barbara Wilson Status: Passed

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MINUTES

**Addison Central School District
Executive Committee
Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 21, 2024, 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm
VIRTUAL ONLY**

ACSD District Vision and Mission

OUR VISION

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OUR MISSION

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Remote Attendance

Barbara Wilson; Mary Heather Noble; Suzanne Buck; Tim Williams

A. Call to Order Upon Reaching a Quorum

Meeting called to order at 4:06 p.m.

1. Introductions: Board Members, Administrators and Staff

Introductions: Barb Wilson, Mary Heather Noble, Suzanne Buck, Tim Williams

B. Public Comment - Agenda Items

No public comment.

C. Committee Discussion:

1. Board Committee Assignments

Barb Wilson shared her progress on committee assignments, again noting the challenges around accommodating member interests in serving on the Finance and Facilities Committees. She had a discussion with incoming Superintendent Dr. Wendy Baker, who suggested keeping the committees the same until after the Board retreat. Dr. Baker requested holding off on the retreat until June 2024 so that she has had some time to work with the admin team on Strategic Plan implementation before meeting with the full Board. Barb thought that was a good idea.

Suzanne Buck and Mary Heather Noble pushed back on the proposal to delay committee assignments, noting that the committee work was not contingent on Strategic Plan implementation. There will need to be coordination between the Strategic Plan implementation teams and the Facilities & Finance Committees, but neither saw the benefit of postponing committee assignments until after June. There was also discussion about each committee setting its work plan to be consistent with the Board's work plan and strategic plan goals.

The Committee decided to proceed with committee assignments, striving to balance committee with members from Middlebury and rural towns, as well as having at least 1 experienced Board member on each. Barb Wilson suggested following Tim Williams's recommendation to have Committee's chaired by other members besides Board officers. Suzanne Buck noted that the Committees choose their Chairs, so that will depend on others and their willingness/ability to serve as Chair.

The group completed a committee assignment chart. Barb Wilson will reach out to those members who did not get their preferred assignments, and check in with newer members re: their desire to serve on more than one committee. She will send a board-wide email with assignments before the weekend.

D. Other

Barb Wilson reported that the prior request from Elizabeth Burrows to be added to the agenda to present a proposal regarding flying the BLM flag at MUMS has been postponed. Elizabeth notified Barb that the students are not yet ready, so will circle back with an updated request when they are ready.

Barb also mentioned emails she has been receiving from Board members about other committees they would like to see, including Transportation (Brian Bauer requested), Curriculum (Jamie McCallum and Ellen Whelan-Wuest requested), and a Strategic Plan Oversight Committee (requested by Ellen Whelan-Wuest). The group discussed the proposed committee ideas, noting that the topic/work for many of them are operational matters beyond the scope of the Board. The group did agree that having 2 Board members serve as liaisons to the administration's Strategic Plan Implementation team seemed like a valuable concept. Susan Buck noted her willingness to serve as a liaison if she was not needed on the Communications & Engagement Committee.

Finally, Barb shared her conversation with Mary Slosar re: her request to add SEPAC/Neurodiversity Week to the agenda for the 3/25 Board Meeting. She explained that this also did not fall under the Board's purview -- and that Board members have already been sufficiently informed about the activities. Barb and Mary agreed to disagree. The committee members all agreed that additional work on governance is needed to make sure board members understand the limitations of the Board's role.

E. Public Comment - Any Topics?

No public comment.

F. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Heather Noble
Board Secretary/Clerk

Motion to adjourn.

Move: Mary Heather Noble Second: Suzanne Buck Status: Passed

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DRAFT