

## 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*

#### **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 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

#### \*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.