

MINUTES



**Addison Central School District
Executive Committee
Committee Meeting
Monday, April 15, 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 4:01 p.m.

1. Introductions: Board Members, Administrators and Staff

B. Public Comment- Agenda Items

No public comment.

C. Approve minutes of April 3, 2024

Motion to approve the minutes of April 3, 2024.

Move: Suzanne Buck Second: Barbara Wilson Status: Passed

D. Committee Discussion:

1. Board Voicemail Messages

Mary Heather Noble reported that there have been no Board voicemail messages since April 3, 2024.

2. MUMS Student's Letter to the Board Discussion

Barb Wilson shared a letter that had been sent to the Board via Central Office. The letter was written by some students at MUMS, and expressed support for increasing pay for teachers. Barb asked the committee for guidance on how to respond, given the ongoing negotiations with the teacher's association. The group agreed that acknowledging the letter was important, as was expressing the Board's appreciation for educators as well. Mary Heather Noble offered to draft a letter to that end, and indicated that it would also briefly explain that

negotiations for teacher contracts is a confidential process.

3. Board's Legislative Efforts/Approach per new Governance Rules Discussion

Barb Wilson brought up the current legislative activity surrounding education funding and school board governance rules. She and Dr. Baker have been discussing and Dr. Baker expressed that it might be a good idea to have a Board Committee formed to specifically monitor this activity and examined the implications for ACSD.

Suzanne Buck expressed reservations about having another Board committee for this work, considering the mechanisms that are already in place (e.g., Vermont Superintendent's Association and Vermont School Board Association).

Barb noted the need for the Board to be able to move swiftly to react to sudden legislative changes (e.g., the last-minute change to budget formulas). She cited the current work that legislators are contemplating around creating a special commission for further education funding rules.

Mary Heather Noble also wondered about the utility of adding a committee to the Board for this work, since doing so would add another layer of meeting warnings and coordination of schedules -- which might prevent swift response when needed. She indicated that the role of the Superintendent and Board Chair already includes this monitoring, and that it would likely be easier for them to work closely to stay informed on legislative activity, and notify the Executive Committee and Board when proposed legislation requires Board input or action.

The group agreed that Barb should notify the Board of current activity, instruct them to pay attention to legislative work involving education rules and be on notice for action if needed. She will provide this update at the next Board meeting during the Update from the Chair.

4. NEASC Visit May 8-10

Courtney Krahn, ACSD Director of Teaching and Learning, was invited into the meeting to provide an update to the Committee regarding the District's work on accreditation. Courtney explained that ACSD is the first district to go through a joint accreditation process between NEASC and IB. She explained that both processes are self-reflective.

Currently, MUHS is the only NEASC accredited school in ACSD, which means that the District's other 8 schools need to go through the process. And while all of our schools are IB certified, it is time for the District's 5-year renewal. She explained that there are 5 foundational standards (learning structure; organizational structure; health, safety & security; finance, facilities & resources; and ethical practice) and that the District principals have recently conducted a self-evaluation of the District based on these standards. They recently completed a report which details how the District is doing in all the indicators for the foundational standards. The findings are reported as follows:

"Evident" -- there is evidence of district achieved/sustained alignment with the indicator for the standard.

"Developing" -- there is evidence of partial alignment with the indicator for the standard.

"Not Sufficiently Evident" -- there is little or no district alignment with the indicator and action is required.

Courtney explained that the principals reflected on the district as a whole, but also provided supplemental reflection for each of their schools. She said that much of this is already

information the Board already knows -- that the District's achievement for most indicators is "Developing." She said the accreditation team (which includes reps from both NEASC and IB) will be doing its foundational standards visit in May. They have requested to meet with the Executive Committee, so Courtney is requesting the committee's time.

The committee schedule the meeting for May 9th at 4:15 p.m. Courtney will make the District's self-reflection report available.

5. Finalize agenda for April 22nd Board Meeting

The Committee completed its work on the agenda for the April 22, 2024 Board meeting. Important additions:

- The committee is adding a motion to approve the agenda. This is consistent with Robert's Rules and Open Meeting Law, and used to be done with ACSU meetings. Other districts also have this in their agendas.
- The committee is adding "Board Education" to the agenda after approval of minutes and bills. The April 22nd meeting will include a presentation from Mark Koenig (VSBA rep) on the VT Governance Rules for School Boards. The committee may regularly include this agenda item to provide for other board education matters in the future.
- The Superintendent's Update will include a brief presentation from Courtney Krahn about the District's accreditation process.
- The Board Chair's Update will include information about current legislative activity, Board retreat plans, and an update on the year's Work Plan.

The Committee then scheduled a meeting to focus on drafting the Work Plan so that it can be shared at the April 22nd Board meeting. The work plan will be developed on Thursday, April 18th at 3:00 p.m.

E. Other

None.

F. Public Comment- Any Topic

No public comment.

G. Executive Session for Personnel - 1 VSA Section 313(a)(3)

Entered Executive Session at 4:57 p.m.

Exited Executive Session and re-entered Open Session at 5:35 p.m.

Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel matter per 1 VSA Section 313 (a) 3.

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

H. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Heather Noble
Board Clerk

Motion to adjourn.

Move: Suzanne Buck Second: Mary Heather Noble 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.