

MINUTES



**Addison Central School District
Executive Committee
Committee Meeting
Monday, May 20, 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-Person Attendance

Barbara Wilson; Suzanne Buck; Tim Williams

Remote Attendance

Mary Heather Noble

A. Call to Order Upon Reaching A Quorum

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

1. Introductions – Board Members, Administrators and Staff
2. Motion to Adopt Agenda

Motion to adopt agenda.

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

B. Public Comments on Agenda Items

No public comment.

C. Recommendation to Approve Minutes for 5/6/2024 and 5/9/2024

Motion to approve minutes of May 6, 2024 and May 9, 2024.

Move: Suzanne Buck Second: Barbara Wilson Status: Passed

D. Committee Discussion

1. Board Voicemails

Mary Heather Noble reported that she has continued to check Board voicemails and that there have been no voicemails since she last reported.

2. May 28th Board Agenda Creation

The committee worked on setting the agenda for the May 28, 2024 Board meeting.

Student rep report will remain on the agenda since students reps may be in attendance.

There was some discussion on where to put Kharam Hussein's anti-bias training. Suzanne Buck suggested including it as part of the Superintendent Report, since he has been working with ACSD staff on anti-bias training. He can describe the work he has already doing to support the District's anti-bias efforts and then walk the Board through some of the exercises. Barb Wilson and Mary Heather Noble agreed that this makes sense as a component of the Strategic Plan work.

The Board Chair's report will include an update on the Board retreat planning, including a discussion about how the Board would like to select which governance rules to work toward. The group suggested offering a few ways to choose an approach, including:

- low-hanging fruit (choosing the easiest ones)
- focusing on the rules that everyone is in agreement about needing attention (the ones we are least in compliance with)
- taking a vote based on the rules of most importance to board members, or
- choosing the ones that already align with the Board's already-chosen strategic plan goals.

Barb indicated that she just wanted the Board to have a say in how the task is chosen. She can create another survey if needed. Suzanne Buck noted that the VSBA is currently working on rubrics and won't have them completed until mid-June. Mary Heather Noble noted that she does not want the Board to descend into arguments about which rules are most important -- she is hoping the Board can come together to accomplish some of this work.

3. S.55 Legislation Requirements for School Boards Effective July 1st

Barb Wilson also mentioned that she plans to report on the current S.55 legislative requirements with respect to complying with Open Meeting Law. The rules are confusing, so Suzanne Buck has reached out to VSBA for clarification. She will be forwarding the email to the group. In short, the ACSD Board will not have to run hybrid in-person and remote for every board and committee meeting. This requirement only applies to state-level board and committees. Local Boards do not need to follow these new rules.

4. Development of a Proposed Board Education Plan/Topics for FY25

Barb Wilson asked for suggestions around Board Education topics to incorporate into the Work Plan.

Suzanne Buck suggested training around Open Meeting Law and ethical Board member behavior -- specifically use of e-mail, etc. Tim Williams suggested covering matters around the use of cell phones during board meetings. Suzanne also noted issues around taking notes during executive session. Mary Heather agreed, and reported that staff members have told her they have observed board members texting with a member of the public during board meetings.

Mary Heather also mentioned the possibility of having additional follow-up training around budgeting and equity-based budgeting/decision-making.

Barb Wilson also suggested additional anti-bias training as needed. Suzanne Buck suggested soliciting additional Board training ideas from Board members during the June 1st retreat.

5. Schedule Meeting to Update on Work Plan

Barb Wilson asked for additional feedback on the draft work plan. All agreed that it may be modified to incorporate tasks that come out of the Board retreat. Mary Heather suggested sharing the draft plan (as is) with the Board at the next meeting to make sure Committee chairs are aligning their efforts with the timelines for ongoing Board responsibilities. We can tell members that the final work plan will incorporate some of the larger projects that are decided at the Board retreat.

E. Other

Suzanne and Barb asked Dr. Williams if it would be ok to do a small acknowledgement at the May 28th Board meeting to thank him for his work for ACSD this year. Dr. Williams reluctantly agreed, noting his discomfort with being the center of attention.

Suzanne Buck also mentioned the SEPAC's desire to get on a future agenda to give a presentation. There was some discussion about how/when to incorporate a presentation into the agenda, possibly in June? Barb said that she would reach out to Mary Slosar to get a sense of what they wish to cover, and would also talk to Dr. Wendy Baker about it. Mary Heather and Suzanne both suggested that we tentatively put them on an agenda and let them know that it may be moved if more urgent matters arise.

F. Public Comment – Any Topic

No public comment.

G. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Motion to adjourn.

Move: Mary Heather Noble Second: Suzanne Buck 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.