

MINUTES



**Addison Central School District
Policy Committee
Committee Meeting
Monday, January 22, 2024, 5:00 pm - 6:00 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.

A. Call to Order Upon Reaching a Quorum

Meeting called to order at 5:02 PM

1. Introductions - Board Members, Administrators and Staff

Present: Suzanne Buck, Joanna Doria, Lindsey Hescok (virtual), Tim Williams, and Laura Nugent, Director of Special Ed.

B. Public Comment - Agenda Items

No public comment

C. Recommendation to Approve Minutes of 11/27/2023

Move: Lindsey Hescok Second: Suzanne Buck Status: Passed

D. Committee Discussion:

1. Draft Wellness Policy

Dr. Nugent has joined the committee meeting today to update us on her work. (At the previous meeting, the committee decided to take the opportunity to expand on the model AOE policy's section titled: "Other School-Based Activities to Promote Student Wellness." At Dr. William's request, Dr. Nugent formed a small, diverse group of nurses and other people in the community. They reviewed the policy and did some brainstorming to see if there was anything in the policy as written that we didn't want to include. Most of the criteria from AOE was spot-on. The policy addresses student wellness including: nutrition, physical activity, and comprehensive health education. The model policy's goals are somewhat broad and allow

latitude for the district to implement. The group's additions came in the section: "Other School-Based Activities to Promote Student Wellness." The goal was to add recommendations but stay away from anything too prescriptive. The four activities that were added to that section were: art and expression; peer support groups; environmental wellness and initiatives; and mindfulness in the classroom. The policy wraps up with a section about administrative responsibility. Dr. Williams expresses gratitude to Dr. Nugent for leading the team of practitioners and providing the great feedback and additions.

Joanna asks Dr. Nugent if she sees the working group that was formed being the same as the policy's wellness team. (To note, the policy explicitly lays out administrative responsibilities that include forming a wellness team, monitoring of district programs to ensure compliance and an annual report to the board.) Dr. Nugent responds that she thinks some members will continue with this work but it will likely be a more comprehensive collection of stakeholders, as the policy lays out. Joanna expresses being underwhelmed/disappointed by the policy's physical activity guidelines and highlights that the "at least 30 minutes" can be offered "within or outside of the school day." She would like to see language that asks for more unstructured outdoor time offered, especially for the district's Pk/K-5 schools, within the school day.

Options to improve that part of the policy might include balancing structured/unstructured time and increasing the "required" physical activity time. Laura agrees and suggests a procedure could accompany the policy.

Lindsey offers gratitude as well. As we move toward more community involvement in the administrative responsibilities, she wonders about forming one group that could offer feedback

on more than one initiative. Dr. Williams acknowledges that as a way forward but suggests we

leave that process up to the incoming permanent superintendent, Dr. Baker. Lindsey also supports the flexibility of the current language for physical activity: "within or outside of the school day."

Suzanne clarifies our normal process for advancing policies.

Lindsey asks Dr. Nugent if she has questions for the policy committee members. She does not

currently have any but is open to returning to the working group to brainstorm changes.

Suzanne also likes the flexible nature of the "within or outside of the school day" for physical activity. She found the "limit food as a reward" section pertinent to our district's current practice of offering candy as a reward, especially at the middle school. Suzanne also questions

the nutrition guidelines for all other food provided; how far of a reach does this policy have? She gives concessions and athletic travel meals as examples. Dr. Williams clarifies that it's limited to within the school day and includes anything, even the free snacks for celebrations. Suzanne asks if we are okay to move this forward. Joanna reiterates her concern with the physical activity guidelines as not being robust enough. Lindsey is okay with advancing the policy, as is, to the full board with a caveat that we are working on the outdoor piece.

Dr. Nugent, as a teacher, brings up the punitive aspect of losing recess. Joanna completely agrees that should be added; recess is a right not a privilege.

There is some discussion around the amount of recess time/outdoor time the district should

require and the tradeoff.

Suzanne and Dr. Nugent want to leave the details to procedure. Joanna pushes back on the explicit language of recess being taken away as punitive and would like to see that in the policy.

Joanna also brings up her concern and wonderings about digital devices and screentime during

the school day. Does that fit within this policy? There is some agreement that screentime is a big question. Dr. Nugent will ask the team to look at how much time is spent on screens, both structured and unstructured. Does the mandated health education include anything on screen time? Dr. Nugent agrees that it's worth looking into the research and potentially add a section about it to this policy. The district currently does have an acceptable use policy with regard to technology.

Dr. Nugent will go back to the working group and develop a plan based on our conversation and concerns.

2. A20: Board Meetings, Agenda Preparation & Distribution

Due to formatting issues and not being able to access the drafts, we decide to table our discussion of A20.

3. Begin discussion of E20: Community Use of School Facilities

Suzanne begins the discussion by informing the committee that we do have a current policy but VSBA has made a full revision and expansion that we should consider. To start, there appears we have a choice: we can have a policy that lets no one use district facilities. Joanna doesn't support that limitation. Dr. Williams says we can let no one or anyone use our facilities. Lindsey remembers our flag policy and would like to see the alignment with our mission and vision. Dr. Williams wants to be clear about the litigation risks we are taking if we choose to allow community use of our facilities. Joanna and Lindsey agree that we should take the risk.

Due to time constraints, we need to cut the conversation short and table the discussion.

E. Public Comment - Any Topic

no public comment

F. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 6:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Joanna Doria

Move: Lindsey Hescock Second: Joanna Doria 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.