

MINUTES



**Addison Central School District
Policy Committee
Committee Meeting
Monday, February 26, 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 5:12 PM

1. Introductions - Board Members, Administrators and Staff

Lindsey Hescock, Jamie McCallum, Suzanne Buck, Joanna Doria, and Dr. Laura Nugent, Director of Special Ed.

B. Public Comment - Agenda Items

No Public Comment

C. Recommendation to Approve Minutes from 1/22/2024

Move: Jamie McCallum Second: Lindsey Hescock Status: Passed

D. Committee Discussion

1. C9 Wellness Proposed

Dr. Nugent starts the conversation off by clarifying that the Policy Committee should not be looking at the new model from AOE, as we had initially thought, but instead revisiting ACSD's current (2019) Comprehensive Wellness Policy and making potential amendments based on that language. We have a choice to change language or not. There were some clarifying questions and some expressed frustration about the pivot. Jamie asks if there was anything in the AOE model that we would consider adding to our current policy, namely outside time. Dr. Nugent remembers from last month's meeting that the committee had two priorities: outside unstructured time and PE credit for athletics. She goes on to explain that we cannot offer students the ability to "opt out" of PE, as that would go against State statute. If there was any space for that paradigm, it would live in procedure not policy. Lindsey points out the MUMS practice of the combination of Wellness and PE and that during Wellness, there is no physical activity which signifies a loss in physical activity time. We all agree that the Administrative Responsibility section of the AOE policy should be incorporated/carried over. Joanna jumps in to highlight her priorities: students not losing recess time as punishment, a

minimum requirement of unstructured outdoor time, and screentime/use of devices. Suzanne thinks there is a new VSBA required policy that deals with screen time. We also remember that food as a reward isn't reflected in the current policy. Dr. Nugent feels that food should be housed in procedure not policy. We have a discussion about the value of unstructured outdoor time, something Joanna feels strongly about. There is some disagreement and a lengthy exchange that considers unintended consequences and questions about implementation/operationalizing, like staffing. Dr. Nugent wonders if she should be tasked to research how our schools currently build in outdoor time/recess. Jamie wonders if there should be more alignment in the quantity of outdoor time across the schools and reflect PK-8, leaving the High School out of that part. We agree that Dr. Nugent should gather information (spreadsheet for principals to populate) for us to process next month. Dr. Nugent also warns us about the sensitivity around the new High School schedule. She doubts a mandate to add more outdoor time to an already packed/complicated schedule will be welcome. Lindsey has a lot of knowledge about how this might play out at MUMS and brings up points about the length of other specials like band and chorus. She wants to be sure we don't overdo the outdoor time and take away from the academic time. We all agree that we need to hear from the teachers. We return to the concept of separating elementary and high school. Should elementary-aged students get more outdoor time during the school day? As we wrap up, Joanna notes that she doesn't want to dismiss the technology piece just yet; we are not sure on the timing of the new VSBA model policy and it's important to address something as significant as screentime/device use in a wellness policy.

2. A20 - Board Meetings, Agenda Preparation & Distribution

There was confusion all around about how to approach this discussion, but we were eventually able to identify the differences between the two drafts. They are: three board members having the power to add agenda items and the responsibility of preparing of board agendas. One draft says it is the Superintendent's responsibility to prepare the agenda versus the other draft says the Board Chair and Executive Committee sets the agenda. We question why Dr. William's would change the language and draft a second A20 in addition to Jamie. The other difference between the two drafts is the calling of emergency meetings. Suzanne explicitly says the only person any board member is legally allowed to communicate with is the Superintendent. This comment sends some reverberations throughout the committee, as, in practice, frequent communication with the Executive Assistant happens. Suzanne will ask VSBA why their model policy language says the Chair can call an emergency, as she disagrees with it. We should also ask Dr. Williams why he added that part.

Joanna reminds Suzanne that she is unable to make next month's meeting if we have to keep it at the same time. Next month would be the reorg meeting.

3. E20 Community Use of Schools

We were unable to address this, as we ran out of time.

E. Public Comment - Any Topic

Isabel (Izzy) Gogarty introduces herself as the MUMS Heath teacher. She wants to share her appreciation for the committee's work on the Local Wellness Policy, as Dr. Nugent has kept her in the loop throughout this process. She is grateful for the time spent focused on PE and Health. She notes that students really love PE and Health. In the four years of her working in the district, there has been a loss of time for PE and Heath for other subjects. She highlight's Lindsey's previous point about the loss of physical activity due to the combination of Health and PE. She urges us to keep time for physical activity during the school day.

F. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 6:24 PM

Respectfully submitted by Joanna Doria

Move: Jamie McCallum Second: Lindsey Hescock 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.