

MINUTES



**Addison Central School District
Executive Committee
Committee Meeting
Monday, June 17, 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; Mary Heather Noble; Suzanne Buck

Remote Attendance

Wendy Baker

Not In Attendance

Darcie Arensmeyer

A. Call to Order Upon Reaching A Quorum

Meeting called to order at 4:11 p.m.

1. Introductions – Board members, Administrators and Staff

Dr. Wendy Baker participated remotely.

B. Public Comments on Agenda Items

No public comment.

C. Recommendation to Approve Minutes from 6/10/2024

Motion to approve minutes to June 10, 2024.

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

D. Committee Discussion

1. Board voicemail

Mary Heather Noble reported that she checked the Board voicemails that afternoon, and that there have not been any new voicemails.

2. June 24th Board agenda creation

The Executive Committee worked on creating an agenda for the June 24, 2024 Board meeting from the draft that Barb Wilson had shared.

Barb Wilson removed the Student Rep report from the agenda, since student reps would likely not be attending over the summer.

Dr. Baker mentioned four items that she would like to include in the Superintendent's report:

- 1) Establishing a process for ACSD to continue hiring during the Board's July recess;
- 2) Regular personnel approvals (hires & resignations)
- 3) An update on the Yield Bill, which VT legislators recently passed by overriding Governor Scott's veto.
- 4) A presentation from Courtney Krahn per Policy D6 Class Size Implementation. Dr. Baker noted that class sizes in the smaller schools are fluctuating and requiring creative solutions in Salisbury and Ripton (e.g., Ripton has a very small cohort of K & 1st graders, and will likely have a K/1/2 blended classroom; Salisbury only has 6 5th graders). There is some unrest about the proposed solution, and Jamie McCallum has mentioned that the issue pushes up against Policy C-30. Dr. Baker would like the Board to see the reasoning behind the proposed solutions. The concern is sustainability.

Mary Heather Noble asked if Dr. Baker and the leadership team has considered the possibility of blending grades from different schools as a potential solution to the class size policy. She expressed concern about the equity issues that could emerge from having a K/1/2 classroom, not only from a student perspective but also a teaching perspective. Dr. Baker did not interpret her authority as including this possibility, though mentioned the possibility of offering school choice to some families.

The group then discussed the merits of school choice and the history of the District's consideration of this solution. There is concern about erosion of school communities if this is offered, but there is also concern about doing nothing. The full Board will need time for discussion on this issue. Dr. Baker suggested having the policy committee look into this matter; Mary Heather noted that this is more than a policy matter that requires the full Board's consideration -- student population and school/class configuration has been a long-standing concern that needs to be addressed.

The Report of the Chair portion of the Agenda will include an update on the VSBA's proposed rubrics for the new OAE board governance rules. Suzanne Buck reported that the rubrics are not yet complete, so are not yet ready to share widely. There was some discussion about the complexity of the rubrics, and whether the group feels it will be challenging for the Board to demonstrate proficiency in its selected focus areas. The general consensus was to focus on the Budget rule (budgeting should align with the Board's stated goals) and equity-based budgeting -- which will also require work toward proficiency in other areas, including communication and public engagement, etc.

The Report of the Chair will also have an update re: Superintendent Goal Setting and Evaluation Process. Barb, Mary Heather, and Suzanne all agree that having a special Board training for this topic will be helpful. There was some discussion about whether it would be necessary to establish a separate committee to conduct this work -- the main point is transparency and to make sure that anyone who reports to Dr. Baker has an opportunity to participate and provide feedback in the evaluation process. Dr. Baker emphasized the trust-building aspect of this effort, and noted that there are lots of ways to do this even if the Board does not establish a larger committee for this work.

The Report of the Board Section will include updates from all the Committees and a policy review for Policy A20. Barb mentioned that Jamie McCallum had asked about adding another policy as well, but she would check with him on that. Dr. Baker also asked about the process the Board has followed to make sure ACSD bills are also paid during the Board's July recess.

Dr. Baker also suggested having some printed copies of the agenda at the next Board meeting for any attendees who wish to follow along.

3. Work plan

Finally, the group discussed the draft work plan and making sure to align Dr. Baker's policy-required reporting with the work plan's timeline and suggested deliverables. Suzanne Buck also shared a reconfigured version of the work plan to show a chronologic outline of the Board's work and deliverables over the year. The Executive Committee will plan to meeting in July to finalize this so that everything is ready when the Board reconvenes in August.

E. Other

Mary Heather Noble asked about making sure that the Board receives a summary of personnel exit interviews in August. Dr. Baker agreed, and noted that she is also checking in with new employees to see how their first year experiences have been, and will be reporting this to the Board as well.

F. Public Comment – Any Topic

No public comment.

G. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Moiton 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.