

MINUTES



**Addison Central School District
Policy Committee
Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 21, 2024, 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
ACSD District Office
49 Charles Ave**

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

Jamie called the meeting to order at 4:31 pm

1. Introductions - Board Members, Administrators and Staff

In attendance are: Jamie McCallum, Ellen Whelan-Wuest, Steve Orzech, Laura Harthan and Wendy Baker.

B. Public Comment - Agenda Items

No members of the public were present.

C. Recommendation to Approve Minutes of 6-25-2024

Move: Steve Orzech Second: Laura Harthan Status: Passed

D. Committee Discussion:

Jamie explained that he and Wendy had gone through the policies in need of updates and organized them, with the goal of trying to approve policy updates in batches where possible.

1. Policy A5 - Code of Conduct

Jamie pointed out there is no VSBA mirror of this policy.

Everyone agreed the current version of what we have seems pretty boiler plate.

Wendy pointed out that sometimes there are interactions between board members and building level administrators along the lines of making suggestions about curriculum or teaching approaches.

She suggested we add the word "influence" after the word "authority" in the opening sentence of the fourth paragraph so that it read as "Board members shall not attempt to exercise individual authority or influence over any aspect of the school district."

Steve asked about inquiries board members might make to staff related to committee work,

and whether that would violate what Wendy suggested above. Wendy said not necessarily when it's related to committee work and the staff who are authorized to work with those board committees, but it's also possible that elements of those types of inquiries could end up taking up a lot of staff time if they are not somehow managed or directed.

Wendy suggested adding that "Inquiries or programmatic recommendations related to school operations should be directed to the Superintendent. To the extent that inquiries may require unreasonable effort to fulfill, the Superintendent shall bring the inquiry to the attention of the executive committee."

Laura suggested adding that to the fourth paragraph, before the last sentence which read "Board members' interaction with public, press, or other entities shall recognize the inability of any individual board member to speak for the Board except as explicitly stated in board decisions."

2. Policy A9 - Chair's Role

Not discussed at this meeting

3. Policy A35 - Students on the School Board

Not discussed at this meeting

4. Policy A7 - Governing Style

Not discussed at this meeting

5. Policy E20 - Community Use of School Facilities

E20: Public Use of District Facilities

Jamie pointed out that on the second page of the document, Pietro added language in related to making facilities available on a limited basis and only related to athletic, recreational or training purposes. Wendy pointed out this would limit us from making school facilities available for town meetings in various towns.

The suggestion is to add "governmental operations" to this list.

With that addition, the committee agreed to advance this version of E20 to the board for the 9/9 meeting.

6. Policy F26 - Security Cameras

Not discussed at this meeting.

7. Policy F1 - Travel Reimbursement

F1: Travel Reimbursement

Committee agreed to edit only to show that the district will use a per diem reimbursement. Committee agreed to advance this to 9/9 with the above change.

8. Policy A4 - Policy Development

Laura pointed out that we would need to update language to reflect that the policy applies to ACSD rather than an "SD/SU."

Jamie said he believes this policy, as written, reflects how the policy committee has always operated.

Laura said it seemed odd for the Superintendent to develop the list of policies up for development or review, is that a Superintendent's role/responsibility? Wendy confirmed that it is standard for superintendents to do this.

Jamie pointed out that this draft policy has procedures, and he isn't sure if those are online

currently. Our policy, as presented online, does not currently have procedures.

Wendy offered that procedures for this policy would cover all aspects of the policy, or they would move the board through it. She pointed out that it would be helpful to have procedures for how policies are introduced or developed, and a procedures section for this policy would be helpful. Wendy would like to develop procedures in partnership with the board on how policies are developed and drafted.

Steve pointed out that our current A4 has something on this but it does not fully reflect how policies are developed or initiated within ACSD currently.

Wendy will take the lead on developing a procedures section for this new policy and will bring it back to the committee for further development and agreement.

There was a question about how many readings policies need before they can be considered for action by the full board, and the language in this new VSBA draft indicates it might only need 1 reading.

But for this policy, A4 it needs to be warned for 10 days before it can have its first reading, so best case scenario would be to plan for this batch of adopted policies from today's meeting to go for the September 9th full board meeting.

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For 9/9 we will advance A4, A5, F1 and E20 for a first reading.

The committee agreed to meet the 2nd and 4th Fridays of every month from 4:30-5:30 pm. Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 10th at 4:30 pm.

Steve asked if our committee should start considering developing a policy about how to set criteria for school consolidation. Wendy said she thinks there is work happening at the state level that will provide and set guidance that will play out for us as a board, and we'll have to figure out what to do with that guidance as a board. Wendy would ask that we not develop local policy until that state process is finished. Steve affirmed we need to move forward with the discussion from the spring, and he'll go to the Executive Committee with this request.

E. Public Comment - Any Topic

No public comment

F. Adjournment

Move: Ellen Whelan-Wuest Second: Laura Harthan 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.