

MINUTES



**Addison Central School District
Policy Committee
Committee Meeting
Tuesday, December 10, 2024, 4:30 pm - 5:30 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.

A. Call to Order Upon Reaching a Quorum

Jamie called to order at 4:33 pm

1. Introductions - Board Members, Administrators and Staff

Jamie McCallum, Courtney Krahn, Laura Harthan, Wendy Baker, Steve Orzech, Ellen Whelan-Wuest.

B. Public Comment - Agenda Items

No public comment

C. Recommendation to Approve Minutes of 12-3-2024

Move: Laura Harthan Second: Jamie McCallum Status: Passed

D. Committee Discussion:

1. Policy: C30 School Residence

2. Policy: D6 Class Size

Laura suggested that we finalize the text of the D6 based on feedback from last night's discussion at the full board meeting.

Steve asked if we have concrete guidance or suggestions. Wendy pointed out that there are a couple of issues that were raised last night that we may want to discuss, including how to address what might happen if a family with siblings has a child in one class that is moved to another school, but not both.

Wendy shared that based on her discussion with Ripton families is that it would be very

important for anyone in that situation to have the option to move both of their kids to the same school.

The second issue was if kids are moved to a new school based on the proposed D6 contingencies, would they remain at that new school for the duration of their elementary experience?

Ripton families also asked that the board and administration determine whether or not parents in Ripton want to stay in the Ripton school next year based on current conditions or immediate plans for the school.

Ellen and Wendy pointed out that asking families if they would want to stay in a class that does not have a viable size, without knowledge of whether or not there are enough interested families throughout the district who might want to send their children to that class, which could make it viable.

Committee agreed that families can request that siblings stay together, meaning that if a class of students are relocated to a new school then families can request that their sibling join them. Similarly, if families volunteer to send their children to a new school to help make a class size viable, they can request that siblings also relocate to that school. The superintendent will grant these requests so long as capacity allows and they do not trigger other D6 problems.

The committee talked about ensuring that relocated families are guaranteed transportation to new schools, but volunteer families may access transportation only as it exists or is available on current bus routes. This is an equity concern that makes this something that works in D6 but not C30.

Wendy raised that we should consider how people may try to take advantage of this policy, such as finding ways to volunteer as a group to send their kids to a particular school together. The committee agreed that this may be possible, but is unlikely, which Wendy confirmed.

Steve asked if there is any research to show that combined age groups are academically positive. Wendy said that she can't support that research says one model is better than the other.

With these revisions and clarifications, the Committee supports sending this draft to Wendy to take it through legal review. If that review finds material concerns or need to revise, it will come back to the Committee. If the review does not find material revisions that are necessary, it could move to the Board for consideration.

Jamie asked when we would need this procedure and policy in place for determining classes in Ripton next year. Wendy said if there is not reason to delay it would be nice to move forward, so that the administration can develop the procedure and begin to put it in place.

Jamie will edit the policy with red line revisions, send it to Pietro and Wendy, and aim for a first read before the Board on December 16th.

Ellen posed that this Committee should also consider how we bring our ideas for possible models of reconfiguring our district or assigning people to schools, and propose a way that a process is designed and carried out to engage with these and any other viable models so that there is a report to the Board and recommendations or options for Board consideration in the Fall of 2025.

Wendy suggested that the Board can either direct a specific process, or more efficiently can direct district administration to design and carry out a process for researching these ideas and bring that and all findings and recommendations to the Board.

Ellen asked that if this is the direction we go, that there be Board involvement of some kind- some members be involved to help bridge the gap between the Board and a committee engaging in these ideas and the Board at large. All agreed that Board members should be involved but not deciding over or designing the process.

3. Policy: D4 Title 1 Comparability

E. Public Comment - Any Topic

No public comment

F. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned

*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.