

MINUTES



**Addison Central School District
Policy Committee
Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 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 the meeting to order at 4:31 pm

1. Introductions - Board Members, Administrators and Staff

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

B. Public Comment - Agenda Items

No public comment

C. Recommendation to Approve Minutes of 12-10-24 and 12-19-24

Move: Jamie McCallum Second: Ellen Whelan-Wuest Status: Passed

D. Committee Discussion:

1. Policy: D6 Class Size

Jamie asked Wendy to speak about public concerns and comments the Board has received related to impacts of enforcement of D6 class size policy requirements, specifically from Bridport teachers.

Wendy provided background about where these concerns are coming from, related to prior decisions to not make enforcement of D6 as high a priority.

Last year there was more attention paid to class sizes due to very small class sizes, and concerns related to academic impacts, and due to greater awareness of financial feasibility for our district to continue carrying such small class sizes.

As Wendy transitioned into ACSD, class configurations and class sizes were more of a discussion. Heading into budget building this year, that focus continued around the class size policy to help inform the staffing model that would achieve comparability, per policy D4. So, principals and building leaders were asked to use D6 class sizes in assessing how they would configure and staff their classrooms. In the case of some rural schools, including Bridport, meeting this means combining classes or grades, and we know that when this happens there are concerns. Wendy affirmed that the letter from the Bridport teachers did a great job outlining the challenges.

Wendy feels like instructional specialists will be an important factor in this, because the specialist can be working directly to help support teachers in bridging across multiple grades. But the letter nicely outlined how curricular gaps develop in trying to combine requirements for multiple grades in a single classroom, with one teacher.

The letter is an excellent depiction of the challenges that we are going to have to support our teachers through.

Steve offered that 8 years ago we were not in a supervisory district, so each school had to deal with this separately. There couldn't be a class size policy because it fluctuated so much.

Courtney also emphasized that there is a heightened focus on achievement that is somewhat new as well. Wendy pointed out that educators are happy to be challenged if they feel like it's still manageable.

But in these multi contextual delivery models, they are questioning if its doable. In the spending plan for FY25 and in the proposed budget, there are a lot more professional development resources designed to help teachers in this way, to focus on co-planning, co-instructing, and provide more direct help through PD.

2. Policy C30 School Residence

Wendy had to leave, and the committee shifted to discussing how to bring our work and ideas and process proposals on C30. Ellen walked back through the latest version of our presentation and ideas that we had developed,

Steve proposed that at the February 10th meeting, we walk people through what the C30 policy is now. We need to reopen it. Ellen asked if we can or should offer some of the ideas we discussed. Jamie pointed out that there are ramifications of even putting ideas out there because they sound more official.

Ellen asked if we should be asking the Board to charge administration with taking some time (6-8 weeks) and return to the Board in the spring with ideas worthy of consideration. Laura pointed out that we should probably provide the administration with options to start from. Ellen revisited the list of C30 revisions that we considered as a committee. Ellen said she thinks Laura's suggestion is right, but it's possible that the full Board will reopen the discussion about possible options to investigate to the point where it may come to a halt again.

Jamie said he agrees with Laura but that we should use the February 10th meeting to cover the second reading of D6, and review C30 with the board and explain that we will come back at the 2nd meeting in February to present more specific road map ideas to direct administration consideration and analysis.

3. Policy: D4 Title 1 Comparability

E. Public Comment - Any Topic

No public comment

F. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:32pm

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.