

**CHESHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Humiston Board Room  
October 7, 2019 – 6:00 PM

---

Committee Members Present: Neeta Vatti, Chair; Adam Grippo, Marléna Soble

Other Board Members Present: Kathryn Hallen, Rich Gusenburg

Administrators Present: Jeffrey Solan, Superintendent of Schools

---

**CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 P.M.**

Ms. Vatti called the meeting to order.

**I. Review Policies for a Third Reading.**

*6146 Graduation Requirements*

Revisions to the policy are pursuant to changes in state law. Commencing with the graduating class of 2023 (beginning with the incoming class of 2019-2020) and for each graduating class thereafter, in order to graduate and be granted a diploma, students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of twenty-five (25) credits, including not fewer than:

- Nine (9) credits in the humanities, including civics and the arts;
- Nine (9) credits in science, technology, engineering and mathematics;
- One (1) credit in physical education and wellness;
- One (1) credit in health and safety education;
- One (1) credit in world languages and
- One (1) credit mastery-based diploma assessment/senior experience
- Three (3) Electives

**MOTION** by Ms. Soble, seconded by Mr. Grippo.

**MOVED** to bring forward Policy # 6146 to the full Board for a third reading and approval.

**VOTE:** 3-0

**II. Review Policies for a First Reading.**

The Committee voted to bring the following policies forward for a first reading:

*5144.4 Students – Discipline.*

P.A. 19-173 expressly allows boards of education to offer an additional amount of time for undirected play in public elementary schools beyond current law’s required minimum of 20 minutes of daily physical exercise. The following language is added to the policy, “*The Board requires that each student in elementary school shall have not less than twenty minutes daily in total devoted to physical exercise, except that a Planning and Placement Team may alter such schedule for a child requiring special education and related services. Further, the Board permits, in its elementary schools, including an additional amount of*

*time, beyond the required twenty minutes for physical exercise, devoted to undirected play during the regular school day, subject to the approval of the building administration.” It also requires boards of education to adopt a policy, by October 1, 2019, to address any school employee who prevents an elementary school student from participating in the period of undirected play as a form of discipline during the regular school day.*

4112.2 Personnel – Certified - Certification

This policy is being updated to conform to current state statute. Language is added to address lapse in certification and the “Distinguished Educator Designation”.

4131 Personnel – Certified – Staff Development

This policy language will now state that the professional development program shall include: *“training in culturally responsive pedagogy and practice.”*

6142 Basic Instruction

*The Committee will continue their review of this policy.*

6159 – Individualized Education Program

Districts are now required by law to have a Board policy regarding IEP’s. Any child, whether a student of the school district, of pre-school age, or between the ages of three and 21 years of age, inclusive, but not attending district schools, who is identified as being in need of a special program shall be referred to a “special education planning and placement team” (PPT) which shall make an evaluative study to determine whether the child is a child with a disability as defined in state and federal statutes and if special education is required and to establish the scope of the special education program.

**MOTION** by Mr. Grippo, seconded by Ms. Soble.

**MOVED** to bring forward to the full Board of Education policies #5144.4; 4112.2; 4131; and 6159 for a first reading.

**VOTE:** 2-0

*(Mr. Grippo left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.)*

**III. Review Policies for a Second Reading.**

The Committee continued their review of the following policies. No substantive changes were made since the first reading.

1331 Community Relations Smoke Free Environment.

This policy is being updated per state statute. Current policy states there is no smoking in all facilities and revised language will include “all school property both inside and outside”. In addition, the definition for “Electric cigarette liquid” has been included.

4112.51/4212.51 Personnel-Certified/Non-Certified Employment Reference Checks

Due to numerous changes to law (P.A. 19-91) covering criminal history checks for school personnel, the recommendation is to replace the current policy with the updated CABA policy.

4118.51/4218.51 Personnel-Certified-Non-Certified – Social Networking.

This policy is intended to provide guidance for staff regarding their presence on social media.

5114 Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process.

The following language is added: *“To be expelled, the student’s conduct must be found to be both violative of a Board policy and either seriously disruptive of the educational process or endangering persons or property.”*

**MOTION** by Ms. Soble, seconded by Mr. Grippo.

**MOVED** to bring forward to the full Board of Education policies #1331 Community Relations Smoke Free Environment, #4112.51/4212.51 Personnel Certified/Non-Certified Employment Reference Checks, for a second reading.

**VOTE:** 2-0

**IV. For Discussion/Review**

Regarding Mr. Grippo’s transparency document, the Committee agreed that the next steps are to wait for final legislation to be enacted and then review our current policies to be sure they conform to the statutes.

Mr. Solan explained that there was a question from an in-town organization regarding allowing out-of-town groups to distribute flyers to our students soliciting their programs. The committee discussed this topic and came to the conclusion that we will continue to distribute flyers from any non-profit organization whose programs potentially benefit our students.

**V. Adjournment.**

There being no further business, it was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Neeta Vatti, Policy Committee Chair

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Jesensky, Executive Assistant

Filed: October 15, 2019.