

CHESHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Humiston Board Room
November 6, 2019 – 6:30 PM

Committee Members Present: Neeta Vatti, Chair; Adam Grippo, Marléna Soble
Other Board Members Present: Kathryn Hallen
Administrators Present: Jeffrey Solan, Superintendent of Schools

CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 P.M.

Ms. Vatti called the meeting to order.

I. Review Policies for a First Reading.

The Superintendent brought forward the following policies for a first reading:

4118.5/4218.5 Responsible Use Policy – Computers, Network, Accounts, and Related Technology

This policy was reviewed and is recommended by the district's Technology Committee. It is recommended regarding employee use of the district's computer systems and electronic communications.

5112 Ages of Attendance

Changes to this policy are a result of changes to Public Act 19-179 concerning homeless students. Regarding proof of residency, if the student claims that he or she is homeless, then the party claiming ineligibility has the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the student denied schooling is not homeless in accordance the federal law. The Committee will continue their review of this policy at the next meeting.

5118.2 Homeless Students

Changes to this policy are also a result of changes to Public Act 19-179 concerning homeless students. Language states that any homeless child or youth denied school accommodations shall continue in attendance or be immediately enrolled in the school selected by the child in the school district. The district must provide a written explanation of the reason for the denial along with information regarding the right to appeal.

6142 Instruction - Basic Instruction

The Committee continued their review of this policy. Changes to this policy include adding computer science to the program of instruction.

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

MOVED to bring forward to the full Board of Education policies #4118.5/4218.5Staff Responsible Use; 5118.2 Instruction - Homeless Students; and 6142 Basic Instruction for a first reading.

VOTE: 3-0

II. Review Policies for a Second Reading.

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

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.*”

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.

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 twenty-one 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 #4112.2 *Personnel – Certified – Certification*; 4131 *Personnel – Certified – Staff Development*; 5144.4 *Students – Discipline*; 6159 – *Individualized Education Program* for a second reading.

VOTE: 3-0

III. Review Policies for a Third Reading and Approval.

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

4112.5/4212.5 Personnel-Certified-Non Certified Security Check/Fingerprinting

Changes to this policy are required due to changes in state legislation regarding Criminal Justice Information. In comparing our current policy to CABE’s most recent policy, the recommendation is to replace our current policy with CABE’s updated policy and to adopt their regulation.

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 CABE policy.

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

This policy is intended to provide guidance for all staff members 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, #4112.5/4212.5 Personnel-Certified-Non-Certified Security Check/Fingerprinting; 4112.51/4212.51 Personnel Certified/Non-Certified Employment Reference Checks, and 4118.51/4218.51 Personnel-Certified-Non-Certified-Social Networking; and 5114 Students – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process for a third reading.

VOTE: 3-0

IV. Other

The Superintendent brought forward Regulation #6153 – Field Trips for discussion. He noted that at times when there is a grade level trip at the high school, such as the senior picnic, the chaperone ratio as outlined in the regulation would require one adult chaperone for every 15 students. In these instances there are both onsite facility chaperones as well as

district chaperones. Committee members asked the Superintendent to recommend a revision to this Regulation.

The Committee also discussed the fees that parents are charged to watch their students participate in sports. The Superintendent said there is no policy on admissions to sporting events. He will poll other districts to investigate their practices.

V. Adjournment.

There being no further business, it was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Neeta Vatti, Policy Committee Chair

Attest: _____
Carol Jesensky, Executive Assistant

Filed: 11/18/19