

CHESHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING - REVISED
Humiston Board Room
December 11, 2019 – 6:30 PM

Committee Members Present: Adam Grippo, Chair; Kathryn Hallen (arr. 6:42), Tim White
Other Board Members Present: Anthony Perugini
Administrators Present: Jeffrey Solan, Superintendent of Schools

CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 P.M.

Mr. Grippo called the meeting to order and led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

The Committee voted unanimously to add AUDIENCE to the Agenda.

AUDIENCE:

Krista Hayes, 372 Hayledge Court. Ms. Hayes addressed the Committee as the President of Cheshire Travel Basketball. She stated her two concerns are lack of gym space for team practice and custodian costs. She noted that the league consists of 90 students who all reside in Cheshire. Ms. Hayes reviewed for the Committee some issues that she has been speaking about to our Administrators and the Town throughout the last year. She said her group is competing for gym space with all of the other school teams and clubs and is constantly bumped. In addition, she said her organization has to pay custodian fees at time and a half for weekend coverage. She said she would like to work together with the Board of Education to see if they can come up with a solution. She also noted that the process to book the gym space is antiquated.

Mr. Solan noted that administrators and members of the Board have met with Ms. Hayes and other groups regarding this issue. Unfortunately, the 1.5 rate for custodian fees is due to union contracts. Ms. Hallen did also state that the Planning Committee has reviewed this issue. Mr. Grippo said he will review which policies may be applicable to this concern.

Jami Ferguson, 105 Copper Beach Drive. Ms. Ferguson urged the Committee to work with Ms. Hayes and the other groups during this budget process. Mr. Solan explained that we do not charge for building rental; we only charge for the amount that we actually pay the custodian.

I. Review for Discussion/First Reading.

Policy #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 with the federal law. This policy will be moved forward for a first reading.

Policy 5131.911 - Students - Hazing – Bullying.

Chairman Grippo said this policy is on the agenda to introduce it to new Board member, Mr. White. Legislation has been passed, but it does not go into effect until next year. In addition, a Committee to review the legislation has been formed at the state level and they have only met once. Superintendent Solan reviewed the information that is available on our website for parents who have bullying and school climate concerns and questions.

Mr. Grippo and Mr. Perugini said they are asking for the review of certain Bylaws to be sure the Board is following them and also to update the bylaws with current practice if needed.

Bylaw 9130 - Committees. The Superintendent has offered to compose draft outlines of Committee descriptions to share with the Committee at the next meeting.

Bylaw 9321 - Time, Place, Notification, Type of Meetings. The Committee read through this bylaw and will continue their review at the next meeting.

Bylaw 9325.2 - Order of Business. The Committee discussed a number of changes to this bylaw such as moving Public Comment to the beginning of the Agenda replacing “Old Business” with “Unfinished Business.” It was also agreed that New Business items should be listed on the Agenda, such as upcoming meetings and announcements. The Superintendent will prepare a draft proposed agenda for the Committee’s review.

Bylaw 9326 – Minutes. Superintendent Solan recommended amending this Bylaw to read that the *Board of Education Recorder/Clerk shall keep the minutes*, not the Secretary of the Board. In addition, language from a newer CABE version of this bylaw was included regarding FOIA requirements for posting of minutes.

Bylaw 9326.1 - Recording of Board Minutes. It is recommended that this outdated bylaw be rescinded. The Superintendent will check with CABE so that the proper procedure is followed.

Bylaw 9325 - Bylaw - Public Participation. Superintendent Solan recommended changes to this bylaw regarding public charges or complaints against employees. The Superintendent will consult with legal counsel regarding the proposed changes to language and report back at the next meeting.

Regulation #6153 – Instruction – Field Trips. Superintendent Solan explained recommended changes to this regulation. The changes allow a decrease in the number of chaperones required under certain circumstances, and only with the permission of the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent explained that changes to regulations do not need Board approval, only notification.

MOTION by Ms. Hallen, seconded by Mr. White.

MOVED to bring forward to the full Board of Education policy 5112 Students-Ages of Attendance, Bylaw 9325 Public Attendance, Bylaw 9325.2 Order of Business, and Bylaw 9326 Minutes for a first reading.

VOTE: 3-0 the motion passed unanimously

(Mr. White left at 8:35)

II. Review Policies for a Second and Third Reading.

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

MOVED to table agenda items under Review for a Second Reading and Review for a Third Reading until the next policy committee meeting scheduled for January 6, 2020.

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously, 2-0.

III. Adjournment.

There being no further business, it was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Grippo, Policy Committee Chair

Attest: _____
Carol Jesensky, Executive Assistant

Filed: ~~12/19/2019~~. Revised 1/3/2020.