

CHESHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Humiston Board Room
January 27, 2020 – 6:30 PM

Committee Members Present: Adam Grippo, Chair; Kathryn Hallen, Tim White (arr. 6:35)
Administrators Present: Marlene Silano, Assistant 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.

I. Review for Second Reading.

The Committee reviewed the following policies for a second reading with no substantive changes since the first reading:

4118.5/4218.5 Personnel - Responsible Use Policy – Computers, Network, Accounts, and Related Technology. This policy was reviewed and is recommended by the district's Technology Committee regarding employee use of the district's computer systems and electronic communications.

5112 Students - 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 Students - 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. Hallen, seconded by Mr. White.

MOVED to bring forward to the full Board of Education policy #4118.5/4218.5 *Responsible Use Policy – Computers, Network, Accounts, and Related Technology*; #5112 *Ages of Attendance*; #5118.2 *Homeless Students* and #6142 *Instruction - Basic Instruction* for a second reading.

VOTE: The Motion was approved unanimously 3-0

II. Review for Third Reading.

The Committee continued their review of the following policies. There were no substantive changes since the first and second readings.

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 Instruction - 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 Ms. Hallen, seconded by Mr. White.

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 third reading.

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

III. Review Policies for Discussion/First Reading.

The Committee began their review of the following policies and bylaws.

Bylaw 9130 - Committees. The revised draft policy includes a section entitled “Standing Committees” with descriptions of the various committees. They will continue their review of this policy at their next meeting. Other additions to this policy include adding a “Public Comment” section to each committee agenda, and adding that the committee will make reasonable efforts to provide for video broadcast and/or recording of meetings whenever possible and permissible. Mr. White suggested merging some of the Committee, such having Transportation as part of Personnel.

Bylaw 9321 - Time, Place, Notification, Type of Meetings. The Committee read through this bylaw and will continue their review at the next meeting. The only change to this policy is to note that the Board Secretary shall supervise meeting notifications.

4115.3 Personnel - Certified Evaluation of Coaches. Mr. Grippo asked to review this policy that was adopted on June 16, 2019. He and Mr. White had questions about how the coach evaluation surveys were distributed to students, whether they were anonymous and who tallied the results. In addition there were questions regarding the types and numbers of coaches and the length of their contracts and who evaluates the coaches. Ms. Silano said she did not have all of the answers but would get the information for them. Ms. Hallen stated that she thought their questions were beyond the scope of the Board’s responsibilities and questioned their reason for asking. Mr. Grippo stated he wanted to revisit the policy to be sure that it was being followed according to what the Policy Committee intended. The Committee agreed that it is being followed as stated and there was no need for further review.

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

***MOVED** to bring forward to the full Board of Education Bylaw #9130 Committees, and Bylaw 9321 - Time, Place, Notification, Type of Meetings for a first reading.*

VOTE: The Motion passed 2-0-1 (Mr. White abstained)

IV. Review Policy for Rescindment.

Upon recommendation of administration, Bylaw #9326.1 is recommended for rescindment. This Bylaw is outdated and CAFE does not offer an updated version.

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

MOVED to recommend to the full Board the rescindment of Bylaw #9326.1 Recording of Board Minutes.

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

V. Adjournment.

There being no further business, it was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Grippo, Policy Committee Chair

Attest: _____
Carol Jesensky, Board Clerk

Filed: 2/14/2020.