

CHESHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Held Virtually via YouTube Live Stream
January 5, 2021 – 6:30 PM

Public access made available through live streaming via Cheshire Public Schools YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/cheshirepublicschools. Public comments were accepted at CPSCovid19@cheshire.k12.ct.us.

Committee Members Present: Adam Grippo, Chair; Kathryn Hallen; Tim White

Administrators Present: Jeffrey Solan, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:35 P.M.

Mr. Grippo called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

II. Public Comment via CPSCovid@cheshire.k12.ct.us.

None.

III. Review Policies for a Second Reading.

4000.1/ Personnel Certified/Non-Certified / - Title IX; 5145.44 Students – Title IX

Mr. Grippo thanked Ms. Hallen for going through this policy and marking her suggested changes. Dr. Solan said that he consulted with CABA to determine how much of this policy was law and how much was CABA's interpretation. CABA informed him that the policy is the law; the items in brackets are for clarification. Dr. Solan said he reviewed the policy and it basically follows the law word-for-word. He told the committee that he will share a summary and the final rule overview of major revisions from the Department of Education. The Superintendent also shared a presentation regarding training for the decision-maker. He said because of the complexity of what school districts are being asked to do, he is inclined to hire a hearing officer as needed.

Mr. White asked how many cases would fall into this realm of sexual harassment. Dr. Solan answered maybe 5 or 6 per year would fall into the realm of sexual harassment, but most of those cases would be remedied. This new law has each case treated as it is a court case; both parties are presenting evidence, etc. This is very different than what has been done in the past.

Mr. Grippo asked if the decision-maker needs to be listed. Dr. Solan said the Title IX Coordinator must be listed. The Committee continued discussing various aspects of these policies. Dr. Solan said there is also a FERPA concern, one of the reasons he would consult with a specialist to be sure we are compliant and following the law. Ms. Hallen said her intention in marking up the policy was to ensure that whatever policy we put into place, it is as crystal clear as possible. She said we don't want to open ourselves up for litigation and this policy is very legalistic and complicated the way it is structured. Committee members said they would like to continue reviewing this policy before it is advanced to another reading. Dr. Solan confirmed that even if the Board has not formally approved this, they still have to follow the law.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Hallen and seconded by Mr. White, the Committee unanimously agreed to table this policy.

IV. Review Policies for a Third Reading.

Bylaw 9325.43 - Attendance at Meetings via Electronic Communications

Mr. White said that the expectation should be that Board Members would attend in person, but indicated that he prefers to have the option for members to attend a meeting electronically if necessary. Ms. Hallen said that she thinks there is a benefit to in-person meetings, but said she agrees with allowing a Board Member to attend electronically if there is a reason, but the expectation should be that the members will attend in person.

Dr. Solan said he did speak with our legal team who said this policy should be the exception and not the rule. Mr. Grippo said he feels this should also be tabled so they can go through it in more detail.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Hallen and seconded by Mr. White, the Committee unanimously agreed to table this policy.

Bylaw 9321.2 - Time, Place, Notification, Type of Meetings-Electronic Board of Education Meetings

The Superintendent's told the Committee that his recommendation is to table this Bylaw as well. His opinion is that it is unnecessary to adopt a temporary policy that is only in effect during the Governor's Executive Order. He said the Board has been following the Executive Order since it was issued without a policy, and he is sure they will continue to do so.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Hallen and seconded by Mr. White, the Committee unanimously agreed to table this policy.

V. Other.

None.

VI. Adjournment.

There being no further business, it was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Grippo, Policy Committee Chair

Attest: _____
Carol Jesensky, Board Clerk

Filed Electronically: 1/20/2021.