CHESHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD VIRTUALLY VIA YOUTUBE LIVE STREAM

SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

Committee Members Present: Adam Grippo, Chair; Samantha Rosenberg, Tim White

Committee Members Absent: None

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

Public access made available through live streaming via Cheshire Public Schools YouTube Channel Public comments were accepted at CheshireBOEcontact@cheshire.k12.ct.us.

1. **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.

1. **Public Comment.**

None.

1. **Review Policies**

Policy & Regulation 3543 School Activity Fund

Dr. Solan noted there is only a small change to the policy itself, updating the title from Director of Management and Personnel to Chief Operating Officer (COO).

Regarding the Regulation, he reviewed that this regulation was introduced previously in June and reminded the Committee that regulations do not require Board approval. Changes were incorporated with the support of the auditing firm and recommendations for payment accounts.

Mr. White recommended changing all titles to “the Superintendent or his designee” to avoid policy revisions for title changes only. Dr. Solan said he will consult with our attorneys to see if there is a reason we should not do that.

Policy 4112.8 Nepotism

Mr. Grippo asked to review this policy. During a union hearing, our attorney stated that it is not nepotism for an employee to work in the same department as his related foreman. Dr. Solan said he will invite our attorney look at our policy and report back to the Committee. Dr. Solan said the State of Connecticut determines nepotism to exists when there is a supervisory relationship.

Policy 5145.44/4000.1 Title IX

Although this Policy was adopted in 2021, our attorney who handles Title IX cases suggested revising it with a more succinct policy and regulation. Dr. Solan noted that per the Office of Civil Rights, additional revisions are expected due to changes in the laws, within the next year. The Committee agreed to continue their review of this policy at a future meeting.

Bylaw 9321.2 Electronic Board of Education Meetings

This policy outlines the requirements according to the Freedom of Information Act. Mr. Grippo asked if we have a way of allowing citizens to comment during our meetings. Dr. Solan responded that the public can email our CheshireBOEcontact@cheshire.k12.ct.us email address before or during the meeting. In addition, the policy states that if a member of the public requests to participate in the meeting 24 hours in advance, we are required to set up an area with technology to allow participation. Mr. Grippo noted that the committee would also be amenable to meet in person if a member of the public wished to attend.

**MOTION** by Mr. Grippo and seconded by Mr. White.

**MOVED** that the Policy Committee recommends Policy 3543 School Activity Fund and Bylaw 9321.2 Electronic Board of Education Meetings for a first reading.

**VOTE**: The Motion passed unanimously 3-0.

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

Policy 3542.43 Food Service Charging Policy

This policy is being reviewed due to a change in the law. The main revision states, “*In order to sustain the District's food services program, the District cannot permit the excessive charging of student meals. Therefore, if a student’s account reaches a balance equal to 30 days of a student charging negative, the balance and student information will be referred to the homeless liaison.*” The liaison will reach out to the family to be sure there is not an underlying concern.

**MOTION** by Mr. Grippo and seconded by Mr. White.

**MOVED** that the Policy Committee recommend Policy #3542.43 Food Service Charging Policy to the full Board of Education for a second reading.

**VOTE**: The Motion passed unanimously 3-0.

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

Dr. Solan noted that there have been no changes to these policies since the second reading. These policies are being updated or implemented due to changes in legislation.

Policy 1140 Distribution of Materials to and by Students

This policy provides guidance on the distribution of flyers to parents. It also prohibits, during the course of the normal school hours, the use of students in activities that are not part of the normal educational and planned curriculum process. While the policies are similar, the Committee agreed to add the following language to our current policy:

***Advertising in the Schools****No advertising of materials used for commercial purposes shall be permitted in the school buildings or on the grounds of the District without prior approval of the Superintendent. Advertising in student publications shall be regulated by rules and regulations developed by the Superintendent. Ads concerning drug paraphernalia and any controlled substance are prohibited in any school-sponsored publication.*

Policy 6141.51 – Instruction – Advanced Courses or Programs, Eligibility Criteria for Enrollment

Superintendent Solan explained that legislation passed requires each local and regional board of education to adopt a policy concerning the eligibility criteria for student enrollment in an advanced course or program. This policy refers to enrollment criteria for advanced courses or programs offered by a school district in grades nine through twelve.

The policy states that the Board believes in the basic principle that academic rigor and the opportunity to accelerate learning are powerful motivators for students to meet intellectual challenges and excel in the academic environment. The Board supports advanced courses and programs that provide academic acceleration. All students at the high school level will have an opportunity to participate in a rigorous and academically challenging curriculum.

Policy 6141.52 – Instruction – Challenging Curriculum Policy (Criteria for Identification of Eligible Grade 8 and 9 Students

The legislation requires each Board of Education to adopt a challenging curriculum policy by July 1, 2022, that aligns with State Department of Education (SDE) guidance. The policy states that the Board of Education (Board) believes academically advanced courses and/or programs are designed to motivate students to understand rigorous content. The Board recognizes its responsibility to identify these students in grades 8 and 9, in compliance with Section 5 of P.A. 21-199, and to provide them with appropriate instructional adaptions and services.

The challenging curriculum policy shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

1. Criteria for the identification of students in grades eight and nine who may be eligible to take or enroll in an advanced course or program; and
2. The requirement that these students have an academic plan.

Policy 6172.1 – Instruction – Gifted and Talented Students Program

Local and regional boards of education are required to develop a policy, not later than July 1, 2022, for the equitable identification of gifted and talented students. The legislation indicates that such policy shall require the use of multiple methods of identification of gifted and talented students that are in compliance with guidance provided by the State Department of Education (SDE).

The policy states, “The Cheshire Public Schools are committed to recognizing and promoting the individual strengths, gifts, and talents of all children. The Cheshire Public Schools, in conjunction with State of Connecticut regulations and requirements, will identify students demonstrating extraordinary ability academically, creatively, and artistically.” Dr. Solan noted that we currently have a process to identify students and already follow the procedures that are outlined in the policy.

**MOTION** by Mr. Grippo, and seconded by Ms. Rosenberg.

**MOVED** to bring Policies #1140, #6141.51, 6141.52 and 6172.1 to the full Board of Education for a third reading and Board approval.

**VOTE:** The Motion passed unanimously 3-0.

Dr. Solan noted that there will not be a Policy Committee meeting in October. The Committee will

1. **Adjournment.**

On a motion by Mr. Grippo, and seconded by Mr. White, it was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Grippo, Policy Committee Chair

Attest:

 Carol Jesensky, Board Clerk

Filed with the Cheshire Town Clerk’s Office on October 18, 2022.