

**CHESHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE HUMISTON BOARD ROOM ON MAY 16, 2023**

Committee Members Present: Adam Grippo, Chair; Tim White, Samantha Rosenberg
Others Present: Luther Miller, Transportation Coordinator
Administrators Present: Jeffrey F. Solan, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools; Vincent Masciana, Chief Operating Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 P.M.

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

2. Public Comment.

Ms. Sharon Hauck, 424 Cardinal Lane.

Ms. Hauck said she was here this evening to hear about the policies regarding Surveys and Equity and Diversity.

3. Policies for Discussion

- 3541 Transportation – Mr. Miller and Mr. Masciana were in attendance to begin discussions around revisions to the policy they would suggest regarding increasing walking distances. They discussed the lack of sidewalks. Mr. White suggested Mr. Miller make a list of where there are gaps in sidewalks and present it to the Public Works Department. It was agreed that the Committee will continue their review of this policy next school year.
- #0523 Equity and Diversity. The Committee began discussions. Ms. Rosenberg said she would like to see a more extensive policy that mirrors the CABE policy. She said this is a step in the right direction. Dr. Solan agreed to share CABE’s policy with the Committee. The Committee will continue discussions at a future meeting.
- Civility Policy. While law does not require this policy, it is strongly suggested by CABE that Boards adopt such a policy. Dr. Solan said it is more of a statement of decorum and expectations. Board members feel that some of the language limits freedom of speech. Dr. Solan will reach out to CABE to learn why they suggest this policy.
- International Travel. Mr. White suggested that a policy be developed for staff traveling internationally for professional development. He would like those trips to first go through the Curriculum Committee and then require Board approval. Dr. Solan agreed to put together a policy for their review at a future meeting.

4. **Review Policies for a First Reading**

6159.1 Instructional Arrangements-Teacher Aides

The Committee discussed the many different positions that are considered teacher aides and noted that there could be confusion when reading the policy. The Committee will continue their review of this policy before moving it forward for a first reading.

6162.51 Surveys of Students (Student Privacy)

Our original policy was adopted in 1997. The Committee began their review of this proposed revised policy. Prior to administering a survey, the Board of Education must approve all those, that are received by the Superintendent, that include reference to any of the protected subjects listed below. In addition, no student may, without parental consent, take part in a survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning these protected subjects:

- political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
- mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
- sex behavior or attitudes;
- illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating and demeaning behavior;
- critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family
- legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program); or
- religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian.

Parents/guardians shall have the right to inspect, upon their request, a survey created by a third party before the survey is administered or distributed by a school to a student. Such requests shall be made in writing with a response provided at least two weeks in advance of any survey to be given.

For surveys, not funded in any part by the federal government, parents/guardians need not give written consent, but must instead be given prior notice of the survey with the opportunity to opt their child out of participation if the survey elicits information concerning any of the eight protected subjects listed above.

Parents would have the option to review the survey prior to deciding whether to opt-their student out.

Regarding the School Climate survey, the Superintendent said that in addition to the annual notice they will send out a notice a few weeks before the survey administration. Dr. Solan agreed to add language stating the School Climate Survey will be reviewed by the Curriculum Committee.

An Annual Notice of Rights Under PPRA (Protection of Pupil Rights Amendments) will be sent to parents.

MOTION by Mr. Grippo and seconded by Mr. White

MOVED that the Policy Committee forward Policy 6162.51 Surveys of Students (Student Privacy) to the full Board for a first reading.

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously by those present.

5. Review Policies for a Second Reading

There were not changes to these policies since the First Reading

4222 Teacher Aides/Paraprofessionals

This is a new policy driven by Title I. If a person is a Title I Paraprofessional, they will have to meet certain credentialing requirements, which our personnel already meet.

6172.3 Educational Instruction under Parental Direction (Home Schooling)

Dr. Solan is recommending that we revise our current policy to state that homeschooled students cannot to attend school classes on part-time basis and are not allowed to participate in after-school activities. Dr. Solan said we do not allow either, and for clarity purposes, the policy should follow our practice.

MOTION by Mr. Grippo and seconded by Mr. White

MOVED that the Policy Committee forward Policies #4222 Teacher Aides/Paraprofessionals and #6172.3 Educational Instruction under Parental Direction (Home Schooling) to the full Board for a second reading.

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously by those present.

6. Review Policies for a Third Reading

There have been no changes to these policies since the first reading.

#6140 Curriculum

Superintendent Solan reviewed that the revisions include statutory requirements to teach Native American Studies effective in the 2023-2024 school year. The revised policy also includes required subject matter that is already in our curriculum, but not currently listed in our policy.

#6145 Basic Instruction

This policy is being revised to include subject matter required by law. Additional language to be included, *“Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) studies and African-American and black studies; Puerto Rican and Latino studies beginning with the school year commencing July 1, 2021; Native American Studies beginning with the school year commencing July 1, 2023; computer science, including, but not limited to, computer programming instruction, and in addition, on at least the secondary level, one or more world languages; vocational education; and the black and Latino studies high school course in accordance with P.A. 19-12.”*

MOTION by Mr. Grippo and seconded by Mr. White

MOVED that the Policy Committee forward Policies #6140 Curriculum and #6145 Basic Instruction to the full Board for a third reading and approval.

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously by those present

7. **Other:**

Mr. Masciana noted they just had completed an audit of the Child Nutrition program. He said they did very well, however the State stated, as one of their findings, that there has to be a declaration of the right for any child to obtain a meal. He said we will have to add Policy #3541 to a future policy committee meeting to add the language.

8. **Adjournment.**

The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Grippo, Policy Committee Chair

Attest: _____
Carol Jesensky, Board Clerk

Filed with the Cheshire Town Clerk's Office on 6/7/2023.