

**CHESHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE
HELD ON JANUARY 23, 2024 AT DODD MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Committee Members Present: Mark Ecke, Chair; Adam Grippo; Anne Harrigan

Administrators Present: Jeffrey F. Solan, Ed.D.; Superintendent of Schools; Vincent Masciana, Chief Operating Officer

Public access made available through live streaming the Cheshire Public School's YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/cheshirepublicschools. Public comments were accepted at BOEContact@cheshire.k12.ct.us.

1. CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 P.M.

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

2. Audience.

None.

3. Review Policies for a first reading:

Policy #6145.21 - Instruction - Status Level Sports Program. Dr. Solan explained that this policy is grounded in conversations regarding fencing where a group of parents and students advocated making this club a varsity sport. He said we did not have a policy or procedure in place to transition a club to a varsity sport. Dr. Solan said he worked with Mr. Perosino to draft a policy for the Committee's review. He read the draft policy to the Committee. The Policy outlines the requirement to pursue varsity status. Full adoption of a sport would be contingent upon the completion of a three-year probationary period and reviewed by the high school administration and central office administration. Mr. Grippo asked if the Committee could see a draft application for the second reading.

There was discussion regarding the fencing team and other varsity teams, equipment, coaches and budgets.

4. Review Policies/Regulations for a second reading:

Dr. Solan reviewed the following policies for a second reading. There were no changes since the first reading.

Policy # 2132 Administration - Assist. Superintendent for Instructional Services. The recommended revision to this policy is to change the title to Assistant Superintendent, removing "For Instructional Services". In addition, about the Superintendent's hiring recommendation to the Board, language is changed from Assistant Superintendent to "executive level central office executive leadership."

Policy #5111 - Students - Admissions/Placement. Dr. Solan explained the recommended revision to this policy is due to the recent change in State legislation. The law now states that a child must be five by September 1 in order to enroll in kindergarten. Previously, children who were five by January 1 could enroll.

Policy #5112 - Students - Ages of Attendance. This policy is being updated to reflect that students who are five years old by September 1 of the school year and under age twenty-two may attend school. The previous age of attendance was five years old by July 1 through age twenty-one.

Policy #6130 - Instruction - Organization of Instruction. Dr. Solan said that he check to see if this was a required policy and it is not. He told the Committee that it could be rescinded if desired. Committee members chose to continue reviewing this at a future meeting.

Bylaw #9230 - New Board Member Orientation. Dr. Solan explained that new board member orientation is part of law now. He brought this Bylaw to the committee for review as it hasn't been updated since 1996. He is recommending that instead of paper copies, links to materials are provided. The paragraph that states that orientation will begin during a new member's candidacy is being removed. In addition, changes are made to update that new board members will receive orientation materials electronically instead of paper copies.

Policy #6130 - Instruction - Organization of Instruction. Dr. Solan said that he checked to see if this was a required policy and it is not. He told the Committee that it could be rescinded if desired. After discussion, committee members decided to continue reviewing this policy and adding alternative language at a future meeting.

5. **Other/Discussion**

Superintendent Solan shared policies for future discussion:

DRAFT Civility Policy, Equity & Diversity, 3541 Transportation, Monitoring Products & Services, and out of state district Professional Development.

MOTION by Mr. Ecke and seconded by Mr. Grippo

MOVED that the Policy Committee forward Policy #6145.21 - Instruction - Status Level Sports Program to the full Board of Education for a first reading.

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously by those present.

MOTION by Mr. Grippo and seconded by Dr. Harrigan

MOVED that the Policy Committee forward Policies #2132 Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, #5111 Admission/Placement, #5112 Ages of Attendance, and Bylaw #9230 New Board Member Orientation to the full Board of Education for a second reading.

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously by those present.

6. Adjournment.

The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Ecke, Policy Committee Chair

Attest: _____
Carol Jesensky, Board Clerk

Filed with the Cheshire Town Clerk's Office on 2/6/2024.