

**CHESHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE
HELD ON FEBRUARY 5, 2024 HUMISTON BOARD ROOM**

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

Other Board Members Present: Samantha Rosenberg

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.

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:

Draft Civility Policy

Dr. Solan reviewed the policy as written by staff members. He noted that the committee started to review this last year and there was discussion on the Board level and concern that they did not want to do anything to stifle participation. He said that is not the intention. Dr. Solan said implementing this policy helps to qualify the Board for the next level of CABE Board Leadership Awards. He also shared a Civility Policy from CABE that focuses on students and a Community Relations Policy.

Ms. Harrigan and Ms. Rosenberg said they liked the idea of a civility code. Ms. Harrigan said that she would like to see what other districts have adopted. Mr. Grippo said he feels this policy contains both policy and administrative regulations. He said we do not normally have this much detail in a policy. Dr. Solan said in addition to reviewing other district's policies, he will send the district draft policy to CABE for feedback.

Draft Equity and Diversity Policy

Dr. Solan shared our staff's draft policy. Dr. Solan said the Policy Committee could amend this policy or bring it forward for a first reading as is. Mr. Grippo asked if any of this language is enforceable and brought forward his concerns with different elements of this policy. Dr. Solan addressed those points. Dr. Solan said this policy seeks to more broadly define ways that we can support and grow, as a school system, through the value of diversity.

Dr. Solan said he would send copies of both draft policies to the full Board and ask for their comments. Mr. Grippo said he would not be voting for this policy; he does not think it is needed. Dr. Harrigan said she would like the entire Committee in agreement. Mr. Ecke

suggested moving it forward, asking for comments from the full Board and then deciding if it moves forward to a second reading at that point.

MOTION by Dr. Harrigan seconded by Mr. Ecke.

MOVED that the Policy Committee bring forward Draft Policy #0523 Equity and Diversity to the full Board for a first reading.

VOTE: The Motion passed 2-1 (Mr. Grippo opposed.)

4. **Adjournment.**

The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Ecke, Policy Committee Chair

Attest: _____
Carol Jesensky, Board Clerk

Filed with the Cheshire Town Clerk's Office on 2/14/2024.