

**CHESHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE
HELD ON MARCH 4, 2024 HUMISTON BOARD ROOM**

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.

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 Second Reading:**

The Committee reviewed policy #6145.21 - Instruction - Status Level Sports Program. Dr. Solan reviewed the draft new policy and the draft Evaluation Form with revisions as discussed at the previous meeting. Some of the criteria required is having a documented history of sustained participation for three years, committing to a varsity schedule (5 to 6 days per week), following all expectations of other athletic programs at Cheshire High School such as activity fees, C-Rule, etc. Students and Parents would both need to sign an attestation form. Board members recommended adding language stating the Superintendent and Board will make the final determination.

Draft Equity and Diversity Policy. Dr. Solan shared Equity and Diversity policies from CAFE, Canton and Newtown as well as the Cheshire Public Schools draft shared at the previous meeting. He reviewed the pros and cons of each policy. After some discussion, Dr. Solan agreed to draft a new Equity and Diversity policy, using language from different policies and forward it to Board for comments.

4. **Review Policies/Regulations for a third reading:**

Dr. Solan reviewed the following policies for a third reading and approval by the full Board. There were no changes since the first and second readings.

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 "Central Office executive leadership."

Policy #5111 - Students - Admissions/Placement. This policy is being revised 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. Changes 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.

Bylaw #9230 - New Board Member Orientation. Dr. Solan brought this Bylaw to the committee for review, as it has not 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.

5. Other for Discussion

Draft Civility Policy. Dr. Solan shared the Cheshire Public Schools and CABE versions of this policy. The committee discussed whom this policy would pertain to and the message they want to send to the community. Dr. Solan will make some modifications and bring a draft policy back to the committee.

Bylaw 9400 – Monitoring Products and Processes. Mr. Perugini had asked for the Bylaw that calls for a Board self-evaluation to be reviewed. Dr. Solan said the closest we have to that now is the CABE Board Award process. Dr. Solan will bring a copy of the award criteria to re-share with the Board.

MOTION by Dr. Harrigan, seconded by Mr. Grippo.

MOVED that the Policy Committee bring forward Draft Policy #6145.21 - Instruction - Status Level Sports Program to the full Board for a second reading.

VOTE: The Motion passed 3-0.

MOTION by Mr. Grippo, 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 third reading.

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously 3-0.

6. **Adjournment.**

The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Ecke, Policy Committee Chair

Attest: _____
Carol Jesensky, Board Clerk

Filed with the Cheshire Town Clerk's Office on 3/13/2024.