

**CHESHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE
HELD ON APRIL 7, 2025 IN THE HUMISTON BOARD ROOM**

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

Administrators Present: Dr. Jeffrey F. Solan, Superintendent of Schools

A video of this meeting is available on the Cheshire Public School's YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/cheshirepublicschools.

1. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 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 Regulation

1330 Community Relations – Use of School Facilities

Dr. Solan introduced Assistant COO, Emily Taylor who explained the proposed changes to this regulation. Cheshire Public Schools Community Relations Policy 1330 outlines building use policies and the schedule of fees. The policy was last revised on July 2, 2019 and its accompanying regulation was revised on March 26, 2013. Over the last 12 years, there have been substantial increases to the daily operating costs of the buildings and wages related to supervision of building use and rentals, necessitating an increase in building use fees. The current schedule of rental charges ranges from \$6 - \$60 an hour, non-inclusive of wages for staff to supervise building rentals. The current supervision fees associated with building rentals is \$50/hour Monday - Saturday and \$65/hour on Holidays & Sundays. The recommendation is to update the Regulation associated with the Policy; no adjustment to Policy 1330 shall be made. In comparison with ten other districts across the state (including five in DRG B), Cheshire has the lowest average cost per rental- \$42.95/hour compared to the group wide average of \$181.30. The Town of Cheshire also provides rental opportunities to the community-all of which are exterior locations (including pavilions, courts, and fields).

It is recommended that the Building Use Fees be updated to reflect the increased costs, school blueprint post-modernization, and account for current rental practices. Specific changes include:

- The cost of the building spaces will increase for each space from \$6-\$60/hour to \$20 - \$500/hour for Groups III & IV. The Board of Education will not charge building use fees for Groups I & II, which include education/recreational activities directly related to the benefit of school children.
- Duration of rental will be amended from five to three hours to reflect current practice.

- Rental categories will shift from Elementary, Middle, and High → K-8, High, Gymnasium, and Exterior to reflect school modernization and equitable rental practices
 - Current building fee schedule do not have exterior rentals (stadiums, turf, fields) and proposed schedule will incorporate outdoor rental space

In regards to wages,

- Custodial fees will increase as follows, which represents a modest increase to cover costs.
 - Day: \$50 - \$55
 - Evening/Saturday: \$65 - \$75
 - Sunday/Holiday: \$65 → \$100
- Food Service Worker fees will be added to the Building Use Fees and the cost of the Kitchen Rental will be lowered to \$0. Food Service Workers are required for all kitchen rentals.

Ms. Taylor presented documentation outlining extensive information on Cost and Revenue Implications (on file).

Committee members discussed and agreed with the recommendation.

4. Review Policies for a First Reading

5131.81 Electronic Devices

Dr. Solan reviewed this proposed Policy. In grades K-8, cell phones are not allowed. He said teachers have the authority to allow student to use the phones if needed. At the high school level, cell phones are not allowed in the classrooms and students are not allowed to bring their cellphones into the bathroom. One change that was made since the first reading was adding language regarding the restriction of AI-powered glasses and “deep-fake” material. The Committee discussed this changes. Dr. Solan shared a concerning video with the Committee regarding AI Glasses.

5131.911 School Climate Policy

Dr. Solan recommended putting this policy on hold as it is currently being reviewed by legislators and he expects more revisions.

5111.3 Undocumented Students

Dr. Solan said that the State required including this guidance in our emergency response protocols. Therefore, there is no need to implement this policy.

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

MOVED that the Policy Committee bring forward Policies #5131.81 Electronic Devices to the full Board for a second reading.

VOTE: The Motion passed 3-0.

5. Adjournment.

On a Motion by Mr. Grippo and seconded by Dr. Harrigan, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Ecke, Policy Committee Chair

Attest: _____
Carol Jesensky, Board Clerk

Filed with the Cheshire Town Clerk's Office on 5/1/2025.