

CHESHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON OCTOBER 6, 2025 IN THE HUMISTON BOARD ROOM
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Committee Members Present: Mark Ecke, Chair; Dr. Anne Harrigan, Adam Grippo
Administrators Present: Dr. Jeffrey F. Solan, Superintendent of Schools

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 9000 Series for Alignment with CABE Best Practices**

Mr. Jody Goeler, Senior Policy Associate at CABE joined the committee via Google Meet per Dr. Solan's invitation. Dr. Solan said that at the Board retreat in July, Nick Caruso from CABE attended and worked with the entire Board on their goals. They looked at elements such as where we stand relative to CABE'S best practices, and after few hours in that meeting, it was decided that the Policy Committee will take a look at our Bylaws as they relate to CABE best practices. Dr. Solan said he invited Mr. Goeler to review our Bylaws as they relate to the Board's practice. Mr. Goeler said he would recommend regular self-evaluations every two to three years with annual check-ins. Mr. Goeler made recommendations to add language that is more definitive and reflective of the process. In particular, he focused on Bylaws 9040 and 9400. Dr. Solan will add the language suggestions to draft bylaws for review at the next committee meeting.

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

Dr. Solan noted that all of these policy revisions are due to changes in legislation.

5114 Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process - Revised Policy

This policy has been revised to account for new requirements regarding expulsion and suspension hearings as well as out-of-district placements due to challenging behavior. Dr. Solan explained the changes outline the age and consequences for students in PreK through Grade 2, which would be very limited for us. Behavior intervention meetings are required and protections for children who are homeless are put in place. We would have to ensure if a person is suspended or expelled it is not a function of their homelessness. PreK to Grade 2 expulsion is limited to 5 days and only for violent or harmful behavior. Much of the information in this legislation either rarely impacts us or is something that we already do. The policy protects due process for providing supports for students in juvenile detention.

6171 Special Education - Revised Replacement Policy

The significant change is around the section around the evaluation of special education program. This is new and the vast majority of districts haven't completed this yet. Dr. Solan said they just met with Shipman Goodman last week who provided a lot of direction around

a report that the superintendent is supposed to provide to the Board of Education. He said he will update the Board next month. He said there are three elements in this report. The first is the number and names of all community-based organizations with whom the board of education has executed a formal memorandum of understanding, memorandum of agreement, or contract to provide support services to students in the school district, disaggregated by school and type of support service provided. The second is the workforce development programs offered by the board of education to students in which the board has partnered with an outside entity, including, but not limited to, cooperatives, internships, in-school job training programs provided by businesses, and in-school workforce board presentations, and lastly, attrition data for certified and noncertified staff, disaggregated by school and subject, not including in-district transfers.

6159 Individualized Education Program (IEP) - Revised Policy and Sample Regulation

Dr. Solan said changes to this policy are not significant to what we currently practice. He reviewed some of the changes. With an initial evaluation, the school district currently has a 45-day timeline that begins after we receive the referral and it is now increased to 60 calendar days for completion. It states we have to provide parents with Connecticut State Department of Education information resources as soon as the child is identified as needing special education which we already do. For PPT meetings, we must offer a meeting with the parents prior to the initial PPT to review the process and the concerns. The policy outlines responsibilities for the District Transition Coordinator, which we've had for years. There is emphasis that the districts provide support for students with more significant needs, up to the age of 22, starting in sixth grade. It also provides a lot of provisions for things like when kids leave the school system, either to go to a tech school, or students receiving IEPs.

5118.1 Educational Opportunities for Military Children

Dr. Solan noted that when we get students, whether their families in the military or not, we are very expedient about, facilitating records and facilitating placement in the school. And this policy outlines requirements that districts have. We have to honor the placement of students in all courses from the sending school. If the student was in honors or the AP, we have to bring them into AP in our school too.

The last item discussed was menstrual products in schools. Dr. Solan said he has been working with Mr. Masciana and Mr. Clavet to begin putting dispensers in all of the schools. He noted there was price gouging when the law first was passed. Currently the products are only available in the nurse's office.

Mr. Grippo noted that they did also discuss the lack of open women's bathrooms in the school. He said that he receives calls about this frequently.

MOTION by Mr. Grippo, seconded Dr. Harrigan.

MOVED that the Policy Committee bring forward Policies 5114
Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process, 6171 Special Education, 6159

Individualized Education Program (IEP), and 5118.1 Educational Opportunities for Military Children to the full Board for a first reading.

VOTE: The Motion passed 3-0.

5. Discuss State Legislation regarding Menstrual Products in Schools

Dr. Harrigan asked for this item to be added to the agenda to be sure we were complying with state legislation. Dr. Solan said that when the legislation was passed, the cost to buy the feminine products equipment was excessive so they put it on hold until prices evened out. Unfortunately, they never went back to revisit. They are currently in the process of getting prices for equipment to be installed. He noted that although there are not feminine products in all of the bathrooms, they are available in the nurses' offices.

Mr. Grippo noted that there is a lack of open women's bathrooms in the school. He said that he receives calls about this frequently. Dr. Solan said he is aware of this.

6. Adjournment.

On a Motion by Mr. Grippo and seconded by Dr. Harrigan, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Ecke, Policy Committee Chair

Attest: _____
Carol Jesensky, Board Clerk

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