

**CHESHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE
HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, 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

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 Policies for a First Reading

4.

1312.4/ 6161.13 Library Collection Development & Maintenance

Dr. Solan introduced this policy which is mandated by law. The policy reflects the importance of inquiry, dissemination of ideas, and free expression, emphasizing the role of professionally trained library media specialists. Dr. Solan explained the established protocol for challenging materials—beginning at the staff level and progressing through administration to a committee if needed—remains unchanged.

1312.5/6161.14 Library Display and Program Policy

This mandated policy outlines criteria for selecting materials and the process for challenging displays. The policy emphasizes collaboration and a clear protocol for addressing concerns about library materials.

5141.5 Suicide Prevention and Intervention

An updated suicide prevention and intervention policy was presented, replacing a version last revised in 1996. The policy reflects current practice, emphasizes staff responsibility to refer students for support, requires communication with families, and outlines procedures for assessing risk and connecting students with appropriate community and emergency resources.

9040 Board Related Responsibilities

The revisions to Board bylaws address Board responsibilities. The bylaw clarifies the Board's role, emphasizes collaboration and impact, establish a biennial self-evaluation strongly recommended to be facilitated by an external organization, and incorporate use of CABE recognition guidance as part of ongoing Board reflection.

9400 Monitoring Products and Processes

Revisions to this Bylaw update the Board's Self-Evaluation process. The bylaw clarifies the Board's role, emphasizes collaboration and impact, establish a biennial self-evaluation strongly recommended to be facilitated by an external organization, and incorporate use of CABE Board Recognition guidance as part of ongoing Board reflection.

5. Review Policies for a Second Reading

Dr. Solan reviewed the policies being revised due to changes in legislation. There were no changes since the first reading.

5114 Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

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 consequents 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. The policy protects due process for providing supports for students in juvenile detention.

6171 Special Education

The significant change is around the evaluation of the special education program. On or after June first, but prior to September thirtieth annually, the superintendent shall provide, at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education, an annual report concerning the special education programs of the school district. 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)

Changes to this policy are not significantly different to what we currently practice. With an initial evaluation, the school district currently has a 45-day timeline that begins after the referral is received 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 and there is emphasis that the districts provide support for students with more significant needs, up to the age of 22, starting in sixth grade.

5118.1 Educational Opportunities for Military Children

This policy outlines requirements that districts have to expediently enroll military children. 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.

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 second reading.

VOTE: The Motion passed 3-0.

6. Adjournment.

On a Motion by Mr. Grippo and seconded by Dr. Harrigan, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Ecke, Policy Committee Chair

Attest: _____
Carol Jesensky, Board Clerk

Filed with the Cheshire Town Clerk's Office on 1/13/2026.