

**CHESHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE HELD
OCTOBER 5, 2026**

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

Committee Members Absent: Matthew Colehour

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

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

Policy 3542.43 – Charging Policy (Revised Policy and New Regulation)

Dr. Solan reviewed proposed revisions to the Charging Policy and accompanying regulation, noting that the changes reflect the availability of free breakfast for all students. He explained that the policy is intended to protect the confidentiality and dignity of students while establishing appropriate procedures for communicating with families regarding meal account balances and outstanding charges.

Dr. Solan identified several provisions requiring further review with Chief Operating Officer Emily Taylor and Food Service Director Maureen Nuzzo, including the timing of low-balance notifications, appropriate account thresholds, procedures for communicating with families, and limits on charging additional à la carte items. He emphasized that students would continue to receive meals regardless of outstanding balances; however, reasonable limits may be established for purchasing additional items.

The Committee discussed the possibility of establishing a threshold for referring delinquent accounts to a collection agency. Dr. Harrigan questioned whether the cost of collection would justify pursuing relatively small balances. Mr. Ecke suggested establishing a reasonable limit on additional à la carte purchases when a student has an outstanding balance, while ensuring that regular meals remain available. Dr. Solan agreed to consult with Food Services and the Chief Operating Officer regarding appropriate thresholds and procedures.

Dr. Solan indicated that the proposed policy could move forward for a first reading, with additional details and recommended dollar amounts to be provided at the second reading.

Policy 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion (Revised Policy)

Dr. Solan reviewed two minor revisions to the Suspension and Expulsion Policy required by recent legislative changes. The first addresses out-of-school suspensions for students in preschool through grade two, clarifying the standard involving conduct that causes serious physical harm. Dr. Solan noted that the district has not issued an out-of-school suspension to a student in these grades during his tenure as Superintendent.

The second revision expands the requirement to provide an alternative educational opportunity to certain students experiencing a second expulsion. Dr. Solan explained that expulsions are uncommon in the district and that he was unaware of any student having been expelled twice during his tenure. The remaining policy language was unchanged, aside from updated legislative references.

4. Review Policies for a Third Reading.

The committee reviewed policies for a third reading.

Policy 3451 - Petty Cash Funds.

Dr. Solan briefly reviewed the previously discussed revisions to the Petty Cash Policy, including updating the title of the Chief Operating Officer, revising school names, and increasing petty cash account limits. No additional changes were recommended.

Policy 5141.4 - Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect.

Dr. Solan reviewed the proposed revisions to the Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect Policy and accompanying regulation. The revisions expand mandated reporting provisions to include applicable contractors who have regular contact with students.

He reiterated that the responsibility of school personnel is to determine whether reasonable suspicion of abuse or neglect exists, rather than conducting an independent investigation. Any investigation to substantiate an allegation remains the responsibility of the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

The accompanying regulation also addresses mandated reporter training for applicable contracted personnel, including substitute staff and other service providers. No additional changes were recommended.

Policy 6130 - Organization of Instruction.

Dr. Solan reviewed revisions to the Organization of Instruction Policy reflecting the district's school modernization and redistricting initiatives. The revisions identify the elementary grade configuration as kindergarten through grade six, designate Barnum School as the location of the Early Childhood Center, including Birth-to-Three services, and update the description of the district's alternative high school program. No additional changes were recommended.

5. **Discussion – Policy Manual Review**

Dr. Solan discussed the possibility of a comprehensive review of the district's policy manual. He explained that, as legislative mandates continue to expand, school attorneys have increasingly recommended that districts evaluate policies that are not legally required. Maintaining unnecessary policies can create potential conflicts with current law, increase the burden of keeping policies updated, and expose districts to compliance concerns.

Dr. Solan said he had spoken with Attorney Thomas Mooney of Shipman & Goodwin regarding the firm's policy manual and related services. He explained that the district currently utilizes Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) policy resources, but he would like to explore whether Shipman & Goodwin's materials might provide an additional resource for ensuring our policies remain current and legally compliant. Dr. Solan indicated that he would obtain additional information and bring it back to the Committee for further discussion. The Committee expressed support for exploring the available resources.

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

MOVED *that the Policy Committee bring forward Policies 3451 (Petty Cash Funds), Policy 5141.4 (Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect), and Policy 6130 (Organization of Instruction) to the full Board for a third reading.*

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously 2-0.

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

MOVED *that the Policy Committee bring forward to the full Board of Education Policies 3542.43, Charging Policy, and Policy 5114, Suspension and Expulsion to the Board for a first reading*

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously 2-0.

6. **Adjournment.**

The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Ecke, Policy Committee Chair

Attest: _____
Carol Jesensky, Board Clerk

Filed with the Cheshire Town Clerk's Office on 10/13/2026.