**CHESHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION**
**MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE HELD**
**NOVEMBER 2, 2026**

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| Committee Members Present: | Mark Ecke, Chair; Matthew Colehour, Dr. Anne Harrigan |
| Committee Members Absent: | None |
| Administrators Present: | Dr. Jeffrey F. Solan, Superintendent of Schools (Virtual) |

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**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 5118.2 – Homeless Students (Revised Policy and New Regulation)

Dr. Solan introduced the proposed revisions to Policy 5118.2 and its accompanying regulation, noting that while the district fortunately serves very few students identified as homeless, the updates are required to align with statutory changes in Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) and the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Under the updated language, if the district denies a student's claim of homelessness, written notice must be provided explaining the rationale and detailing the student's right to an appeal and hearing. In any hearing regarding residency where homelessness is claimed, the Board bears the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the student does not qualify as homeless under federal law.

The accompanying regulation, which is new to the district's policy manual, outlines specific procedures and definitions regarding temporary living situations (e.g., sharing housing, staying in transitional shelters or hotels) and designated administrative responsibilities overseen by Director of Pupil Personnel Services Christina Sherwood.

**MOTION** by Dr. Harrigan, seconded by Mr. Colehour.

**MOVED** *that the Policy Committee bring forward Policy 5118.2-Homeless Students to the full Board of Education for a first reading.*

**VOTE**: The Motion passed unanimously 3-0.

## 4. Review Policies for a Second Reading.

Policy 3542.43 – Charging Policy (Revised Policy and New Regulation)
Dr. Solan presented the updated draft of the Food Service Charging Policy. He noted that a comprehensive review was conducted by Chief Operating Officer Emily Taylor and Food Service Director Maureen Nuzzo against current district operations. The policy reinforces compliance with federal USDA regulations prohibiting federal funds from subsidizing adult meals and outlines guidelines surrounding meal account debt.

Mr. Colehour raised operational questions regarding Section 2 of the regulation concerning cash payments at the point of sale. Dr. Solan agreed to review the language with Ms. Taylor and Ms. Nuzzo to clarify whether the specific cash handling language is statutorily required or can be streamlined. Dr. Solan further clarified that families experiencing financial hardship are assisted in completing free and reduced-price meal applications, and private gifts or donations received to cover unpaid meal debt are applied directly to overall district debt totals rather than individual accounts.

Policy 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion (Revised Policy and Revised Regulation)
Dr. Solan reviewed updates to Policy 5114 reflecting recent statutory adjustments. The revisions clarify that out-of-school suspensions for students in preschool through second grade are restricted to instances where student conduct causes serious physical harm. Revisions to expulsion provisions align cumulative suspension thresholds (10 days in a school year) with statutory requirements governing alternative educational opportunities and special education Planning and Placement Team (PPT) manifestation determinations. Dr. Solan emphasized that expulsions are rare in Cheshire Public Schools and are primarily limited to mandatory statutory circumstances (e.g., firearm or drug offenses).

**MOTION** by Dr. Harrigan, seconded by Mr. Colehour.

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

**VOTE**: The Motion passed unanimously 3-0.

## 5. Discussion – Policy Manual Review

The Superintendent provided an update on options for conducting a comprehensive review and modernizing the district's policy manual. As discussed at previous meetings, streamlining policy manuals to eliminate outdated or non-statutory policies that can create administrative burden or legal risk is recommended. He presented a proposal from Attorney Thomas Mooney of Shipman & Goodwin LLP, a prominent Connecticut school law firm. Shipman & Goodwin offers a specialized policy subscription service providing districts access to a fully legal-compliant policy manual portal, regular legislative and judicial updates, and ongoing legal guidance. The cost for full access is $4,500 for the

initial subscription year and $2,000 annually thereafter for retention and updates. Dr. Solan noted that district staff would cross-reference Shipman & Goodwin's core policies with Cheshire's existing manual to identify redundant or unnecessary policies. The Committee expressed support for subscribing to the service and utilizing the manual for upcoming policy reviews.

**6. Adjournment.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Mark Ecke, Policy Committee Chair

Attest: _____
Carol Jesensky, Board Clerk

Filed with the Cheshire Town Clerk's Office on 11/10/2026 .