

CHESHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Humiston Board Room
September 3, 2019 – 6:30 PM

Committee Members Present: Neeta Vatti, Chair; Adam Grippo, Marléna Soble

Other Board Members Present: Kathryn Hallen, Rich Gusenburg

Administrators Present: Jeffrey Solan, Superintendent of Schools

CALL TO ORDER – 6:35 P.M.

Ms. Vatti called the meeting to order.

I. Review Policies for a First Reading.

The Committee began their review of the following policies:

1331 Community Relations Smoke Free Environment.

This policy is being updated per state statute. Our current policy states there is no smoking in all facilities and revised language will include “all school property both inside and outside”. In addition, the definition for “Electric cigarette liquid” has been included.

4112.51/4212.51 Personnel-Certified/Non-Certified Employment Reference Checks

Due to numerous changes to law (P.A. 19-91) covering criminal history checks for school personnel, the Superintendent has recommended replacing our current policy with the current CABA policy.

5114 Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process.

This policy is being revised to add the following language: “*To be expelled, the student’s conduct must be found to be both violative of a Board policy and either seriously disruptive of the educational process or endangering persons or property.*”

5144.4 Students – Discipline.

The Superintendent explained that P.A. 19-173 expressly allows boards of education to offer an additional amount of time for undirected play in public elementary schools beyond current law’s required minimum of 20 minutes of daily physical exercise. It also requires boards of education to adopt a policy, by October 1, 2019, to address any school employee who prevents an elementary school student from participating in the period of undirected play as a form of discipline during the regular school day. The committee requested some language clarification.

6146 Graduation Requirements

It was noted that this policy was incorrectly listed on the agenda as a first reading although it previously had two readings on 12/6/2018 and 1/17/2019 and was then put on hold until this month. The Superintendent will check with CABA to see if the policy can be brought forward for a third reading.

Revisions to the policy are pursuant to changes in state law. Commencing with the graduating class of 2023 (beginning with the incoming class of 2019-2020) and for each graduating class thereafter, in order to graduate and be granted a diploma, students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of twenty-five (25) credits, including not fewer than:

- Nine (9) credits in the humanities, including civics and the arts;
- Nine (9) credits in science, technology, engineering and mathematics;
- One (1) credit in physical education and wellness;
- One (1) credit in health and safety education;
- One (1) credit in world languages and
- One (1) credit mastery-based diploma assessment/senior experience
- Three (3) Electives

It is also noted that almost all students currently graduate with 25 credits. The Committee asked for some language clarification before moving the policy for a first reading.

MOTION by Mr. Grippo, seconded by Ms. Soble.

MOVED to bring forward to the full Board of Education policies #1331 Community Relations Smoke Free Environment, #4112.51/4212.51 Personnel Certified/Non-Certified Employment Reference Checks, #5114 Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process for a first reading.

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

II. Review Policies for a Second Reading.

4118.51/4218.51 Personnel-Certified-Non-Certified – Social Networking.

The Committee will continue their review of this policy.

III. Review Policies for a Third Reading.

5156 Research Involving Students

Superintendent Solan introduced his recommended changes to this policy. A few times per year he receives requests from college students to conduct research. In an effort to streamline the approval process, he is recommending that the parent and Superintendent approve the request with Board notification instead of Board approval.

MOTION by Mr. Grippo, seconded by Ms. Soble.

MOVED to bring forward to the full Board of Education Policy #5156 Research Involving Students the following policies for a Third Reading and Approval.

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

IV. For Discussion/Review

The Committee continued their discussion of Bylaw #9327.1 Bylaws of the Board – Board Member Use of Internet Social Networks. They will continue discussions at their next committee meeting.

V. Adjournment.

There being no further business, it was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Neeta Vatti, Policy Committee Chair

Attest: _____
Carol Jesensky, Executive Assistant

Filed: Sept. 17, 2019.