

**CHESHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE  
HELD ON OCTOBER 10, 2024 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

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A video of this meeting is available on the Cheshire Public School's YouTube Channel at  
[www.youtube.com/cheshirepublicschools](http://www.youtube.com/cheshirepublicschools).

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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 Possible First Reading:**

**0521 Nondiscrimination Policy & Notice**

Dr. Solan explained that CABA is recommending replacing our current policy with this newly revised policy to align with the Title IX Regulations to be adopted. This revised policy updates the necessary protected classes identified in the "New Rule" while updating the list of protected classes in Connecticut State statutes. Committee members inquired about APPENDIX A and if it needs to be updated. The Committee will continue their review of this policy at the next Policy Committee meeting before moving it to the full Board.

**4000.1/4200.1/5145.44 Sexual Harassment/Title IX & Regulation**

Dr. Solan introduced this revised policy to the Committee. This is a blanket policy that will apply to certified, non-certified and students and will replace all three policies. This is a completely revised policy and regulation due to the US Department of Education's 2024 amendments to its Title IX Rule. Dr. Solan explained some of the improvements to this policy and noted that administrators received training from our attorneys over the summer. He shared the attorney's presentation that is posted on our website. There is a lot of information, but it is the law and we have to follow it.

**4112.5/4212.5 Security Check/Fingerprinting/Criminal Justice**

Dr. Solan reviewed the changes to this policy. All individuals being hired for a position with a board of education must submit to state and national criminal history records checks within thirty days from when they begin employment. The revised regulation outlines the procedures to follow. Dr. Solan explained our internal procedures. ***(Mr. Ecke questioned Appendix D that was included with the new regulation. It was clarified after the meeting that the Appendix was part of the old Regulation and should have been stricken. It is not included in the new Regulation).***

The Committee will continue their review of this policy at the next Policy Committee meeting before moving it to the full Board.

5114 Suspension & Expulsion Due Process

Dr. Solan shared the revised policy and regulation and noted the statutory changes. The policy contains language that reduces the maximum number of consecutive days for in-school suspensions from preschool to grade two and shortens the maximum out-of-school suspension for these grades from ten to five days. His suggestion is to replace our current policy with CABE's revised policy. Dr. Solan noted the first two pages of the policy are more value-based than legislative based. They began their review of the policy and regulation. Under "Clear Expectations and Communication," Dr. Solan suggested adding "Establish and communicate *clear behavioral expectations available in the student handbook at each school*" and the Committee agreed.

5131.81 Electronic Devices

Dr. Solan shared the current outdated policy and noted that he is providing two sample policies from CABE for the committee to review. He does not suggest moving anything forward tonight but would recommend taking more time to review.

Discussion ensued regarding the use of personal devices in Cheshire Public Schools and the level of protection the district has installed. He suggested having our Technology Integration Specialist, Scott Conway, attend an upcoming meeting. The Committee will continue their review of this policy at the next Policy Committee meeting before moving it to the full Board.

**4. Review Policies for a Third Reading:**

0523 Equity and Diversity Policy.

Dr. Solan said he still has to review some of the questions that the Committee had. The Committee will continue their review of this policy at the next Policy Committee meeting.

3541 Transportation Policy.

There were no changes since the first reading. Dr. Solan reviewed each of the changes that are being recommended including:

- clarifying ages for eligibility for school transportation
- updating walking distance so it is consistent, (one-mile) for all elementary students
- deleting language regarding hazardous walking areas (not clear for parents -too broad)
- updating bus route notification (no longer mail out postcards)
- clarifying Available Use of Seat Positions (a student cannot be assigned to both a bus and a daycare at the same time.)

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

**MOVED** that the Policy Committee bring forward Policies #4000.1/4200.1/5145.44 Sexual Harassment/Title IX; and 5114 Suspension & Expulsion Due Process to the full Board for a first reading.

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

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

**MOVED** that the Policy Committee bring forward Policy #3541 Transportation to the full Board for a third reading and approval.

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

**5. Other for Discussion**

Dr. Solan noted Mr. Ecke had asked about a responsible use policy for staff. In 2021 we enacted policy requires staff to personally acknowledge that they have read the policy and regulation. This is now part of Vector, the districtwide training program, and employees must read the policy and acknowledge. He said there is also a component regarding social media that they are in the process of reviewing and will bring that to the committee after their review is complete.

**6. Adjournment.**

On a Motion by Mr. Grippo and seconded by Dr. Harrigan, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 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 10/18/2024.