

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education Policy Committee met in Regular Session on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 4:00 PM in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Committee members present: Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy (remote), Mr. Mennone (remote), and Mr. Moore

Committee members absent: Mr. Roraback

Board members present: Mrs. Petrella

Administration present: Dr. Schuch, Superintendent of Schools and Mrs. Keane, Director of Student Services and Special Education

Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Approval of Agenda**

*Mrs. Dahlheimer made a motion, seconded by Dr. Darcy, to approve the agenda, as presented.*

*In favor of approving the agenda, as presented: Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. Mennone, and Mr. Moore.*

### **Approval of Minutes - April 17, 2024**

Mr. Moore noted that they never filled in the time of the meeting in the policy on Time and Place of meetings and they would fill that in to begin at 7:00 PM for the second read.

*Mrs. Dahlheimer made a motion, seconded by Dr. Darcy, to approve the minutes of April 17, 2024, as presented.*

*In favor of approving the minutes of April 17, 2024, as presented: Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. Mennone, and Mr. Moore. Motion passed.*

### **Participation in School-Sponsored Activities 6145.3**

Mr. Moore read this policy to the committee and Dr. Schuch explained that a parent who is considering home-schooling reached out to him and asked if their child will have access to curriculum programs, like instrumental band, art, etc. Dr. Schuch went to Shipman and looked for a model policy on this and there isn't one. He checked with state resources and they stated that this is a local decision. Dr. Schuch would want guidance from the attorneys if the committee suggested changing this at all. The CIAC does state that if home-schooled children participate, the school is not eligible. Dr. Schuch has seen this work well in the curricular space if safeguards are in place. He reiterated that this parent is asking if their child

would be able to take part in art or music classes. Dr. Schuch did not believe that they should create a policy for one person, but felt it would be important for the committee to know about the issue.

Mrs. Keane noted that people who choose to home school in Connecticut do not have to answer to the State Department of Education nor do they have to report to the local district. There is no monitoring or oversight of curriculum or progress. Dr. Schuch felt that home-schooled children normally join a consortium and take standardized tests and entrance exams for college. Mrs. Petrella added that, according to the last report, the district has 17 students that are home-schooled.

Mrs. Dahlheimer felt that she would rather the state recommend that they have this kind of policy and Dr. Schuch added that neither he nor Mrs. Keane are recommending it. Mrs. Keane would not want to set a precedent. Dr. Darcy felt that districts are dealing with this on a case-by-case basis. Her fear is that there are so many places for the rules and logistics to falter.

### **Review of 5000 Series Policies (Students)**

Starting with 5131.111 which is CAFE's model policy, Video Surveillance, it was recommended to keep the current policy (5145) in place. Mr. Mennone asked if there was anything about retention of video in the policy. Mrs. Keane explained that there was a retention schedule. Dr. Schuch felt that the current system is that video is retained for 30 days.

Policy 5230 regarding recruiters has already been revised and moved to this series. No changes were recommended to policy 5531, Transportation. Mr. Moore questioned the walking distances noted in the policy and Dr. Schuch felt that was probably a statewide standard.

It was recommended to replace the current suicide prevention policy 5141.6 with the Shipman policy. They will update the regulations as well. Mr. Mennone asked what the guideline is for time of reporting and follow-up as well as for paperwork. Mrs. Keane explained that it is done in real-time with the Columbia Suicide Risk Assessment and reported immediately, if needed. Mr. Mennone stated that they have had issues with this where he works. Mrs. Keane added that the bigger concern they have is when a child says something in passing and gets on the school bus, but a staff member reports it after they leave the building. It was also suggested to include the optional part of Shipman's policy.

Moving to Sudden Cardiac Arrest, this policy was replaced by a model policy and moved to the 4000 series in October. Dr. Schuch explained that there are two 5125 policies, Student Data Privacy Contract and Confidentiality and Access to Education Records. They have recommended that they take Shipman's new contracts and add them to the end of the actual policy 5125. It was generally agreed to remove the contracts from the policy manual. They do recommend using Shipman's policy to replace 5125.2 because it is much more comprehensive and up-to-date. Mrs. Dahlheimer asked if that could become policy 5126 as she would like to see separate policy numbers.

Dr. Schuch asked to delete the Smoking policy from this section as it was moved to the 1000 series. Mr. Mennone asked if that included vaping and Mr. Moore stated that it was included in the other policy. It has been recommended to replace the Pledge of Allegiance policy 5129 with the Shipman policy. Moving to Non-Resident Students 5118, Dr. Schuch did not feel that the current policy is specific enough. He noted that "with or without tuition" is very awkward for him. Shipman does not have a model policy for this, but CAFE's second version resembles the current policy. The district has historically allowed

students to stay in the district if the family moves out mid-year. Mrs. Keane added that the district can accept any tuition-paying student at the per pupil rate. CABE's policy allows a student to finish the marking period, but does not guarantee the whole year. If a senior's family moves out at any time during the year, the student is allowed to stay for the year. Dr. Schuch recommended they discuss this further at the next Policy Committee meeting. He also noted that a lot of schools default to the per pupil cost as the tuition rate, but he has colleagues who charge less than the full cost, on a case-by-case basis. That becomes a marketing tool and can produce revenue.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Adjournment**

*Mrs. Dahlheimer made a motion, seconded by Dr. Darcy, to adjourn the meeting.*

*In favor of adjourning the meeting: Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. Mennone, and Mr. Moore. Motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

Debi Waz  
Alwaz First