Policy Subcommittee Meeting

Wednesday, November 18, 2026 7:00 PM
Meeting Access: Policy Subcommittee (11/18/26 at 7 p.m.)
Web: https://zoom.us/j/96720649957 Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 967 2064 9957

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

II.A. October 28, 2026 - Regular

III. **INFORMATION / ACTION ITEMS**

III.A. Board Policy Manual Revision Process Discussion

III.B. Policy 5112 Ages of Attendance / Admission / Placement

IV. **OTHER**

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT
Policy Subcommittee Meeting

Name of Subcommittee: Policy Meeting type: Regular
Date of Meeting: 10/28/26 Place of Meeting: Zoom
Members present: Kathy Baker, Samantha Mannion, Amy Johnson
Members absent: Kim LaTourette,
Other attendees: Ken Craw
Minutes submitted by: Michelle Delcourt
Meeting Access: **Policy Subcommittee (10/28/26 at 7 p.m.)**
Web: https://zoom.us/j/91632246584
Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 916 3224 6584

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 23, 2026 - Regular

Motion: To approve the minutes of September 23, 2026, as presented
Made by: Kathy Baker Seconded by: Samantha Mannion
Recording of Vote: All in favor

III. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS

A. New Business

1. **5000 Series Policy review & update process-** Dr. Craw shared two potential options for updating the boards policies starting with the 5000 Series.

Option 1- To update existing Connecticut Association of Boards Education (CABE) Policies older than 10 years on a policy-by-policy basis. Currently there are approximately 30 policies requiring review and the process would span several years.

Option 2- Adopt Shipman and Goodwin Policies: Adopt the complete up-to-date policy compendium provided by legal counsel; Shipman & Goodwin in a single transition. This approach focuses primarily on legal liability and compliance, resulting in few policies overall

The committee discussed implications of both options including: retaining CABE policies that are critical for the district, technical hosting requirements and integration and transition costs, annual fee structures and staff implementation.

Committee determined that further information was needed before proceeding with individual 5000 series policy reviews.

Motion: to table the review of the following polices pending a meeting with a representative from Shipman & Goodwin and further discussion regarding the policy manual transition:

Policy 5000 (series overview/general)
Policy 5111.1: Foreign Exchange Students
Policy 5121: Examination/ grading / Rating
Policy 5131.11: Video Cameras on School Buses
Policy 5131.61: Co-Curricular Policy Concerning Drugs and Alcohol Use by Students
Policy 5131. 62: Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco, and Steroid Use

Made by: Samantha Mannion Seconded by: Kathleen Baker
Recording of Vote: All in favor

B. Old Business

1. Policy 5114- Suspension and Expulsion (K-2 Out-of-School Suspension Language)- Dr. Craw presented an updated state-mandated language for Policy 5114, which establishes that out-of-school suspensions for K-2 students are restricted to cases involving "serious physical harm."
   Key points of discussion include lack of specific statutory definition for the term "serious". Committee has concerns regarding ambiguous enforcement, subjective definitions, and intent vs. result in student behavior. Administrative flexibility to utilize in-school suspensions up to five days when out of school threshold is met. And lastly the low historical rate of K-2 suspensions with the district.

Motion: to move forward policy 5114 (Suspension and Expulsion) to the full Board of Education for consideration**.**
Made by: Samantha Mannion **Seconded by:** Kathleen Baker
Recording of Vote: All in favor

IV. OTHER BUSINESS / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Kindergarten Entry Age / Age of Attendance Policy: Dr. Craw & Kristine Woleck noted that an updated Age of Attendance policy will be brought to the next meeting to align with the statutory changes prior to kindergarten registration.

B. Policy Transition next steps: Dr. Craw will arrange for a Shipman and Goodwin representative to attend an upcoming policy meeting. Provide contact details for another Connecticut school district that successfully transitioned to Shipman and Goodwin Policies and finally research full cost implications: technical hosting/platform options.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Samantha Mannion **Seconded by:** Amy Johnson
Recording of vote: All in favor **Meeting adjourned at:** 7:46p.m.

Students

Ages of Attendance/Admissions/Placement

The New Fairfield Board of Education (the "Board") complies with its legal obligation to cause each child five years of age and over and under eighteen years of age who is not a high school graduate and is residing within the Board's jurisdiction to attend school in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 10-184.

Effective July 1, 2024, the New Fairfield Public Schools (the "District") shall be open to resident children five years of age and over who reach age five on or before the first day of September of any school year. ~~For children who will not reach the age of five on or before the first day of September of the school year, the child's parent or guardian may submit a written request to the principal of the school seeking early admission to the District. Upon receipt of such written request, the principal and an appropriate certified staff member shall assess such child to determine whether admitting the child is developmentally appropriate. For decisions relating to early admission to the District, the decision of the principal and appropriate certified staff shall be final.~~

~~The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for developing administrative regulations in furtherance of this policy. Such regulations shall identify procedures for the receipt and processing of requests for early admission to the District and for assessing whether early admission of a child is developmentally appropriate. The Early Admission Process shall be available only for a child who will reach the age of five on or after September 2 and before January 1 of the school year.~~

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-15c Discrimination by public schools prohibited. School attendance for five-year-olds

10-220 Duties of boards of education

10-221 Board of education to prescribe rules, policies, and procedures

10-184 Duties of parents. School attendance age requirements

Public Act 23-208, "An Act Making Certain Revisions to the Education Statutes."

Policy adopted: March 21, 2002

Policy readopted: June 16, 2005

Policy revised: March 5, 2020

Policy revised: November 4, 2020

Policy revised: December 2, 2021

Policy revised: June 19, 2024

NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

New Fairfield, Connecticut

Students

Ages of Attendance/Admissions/Placement

In accordance with state law, effective July 1, 2024, the New Fairfield Public Schools (the "District") are open to all children five years of age and over who reach age five on or before September 1 of any school year. ~~A child who has not reached the~~

~~age of five on or before September 1 of the school year may be admitted to kindergarten only (1) upon a written request by the parent or guardian of the child to the principal of the school in which the child would be enrolled based on District residency requirements, and (2) following an assessment of the child, conducted by the principal of the school and an appropriate certified staff member of the school, to ensure that admitting the child is developmentally appropriate ("Early Admission Process"). The Early Admission Process shall be available only for a child who will reach the age of five on or after September 2 and before January 1 of the school year.~~

~~I. Assessment~~

~~A. The District will assess a child who does not meet the statutory age requirement if admission of such child is requested in writing by a child's parent or guardian. Such request must be sent by electronic mail to the principal of the school in which the child would be enrolled based on District residency requirements (the "Building Principal") and must be received by the Building Principal no later than January 15.~~

~~B. The Building Principal and an appropriate certified staff member of the school (together, the "Assessment Team") will conduct an assessment of the child to gather information pertaining to the question of whether admitting the child is developmentally appropriate.~~

~~C. The Assessment Team will take a holistic approach to assess a child's developmental level in a variety of developmental domains (e.g. cognitive, social-emotional, physical development and health, etc.). The Assessment Team will use the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) as a guide to assessing a child's developmental level.~~

~~D. The Assessment Team will obtain information from the parent or guardian as part of the assessment.~~

~~E. The Assessment Team will assess children whose parents request early admission at specifically defined times. If the request for early admission is received before January 15, the Early Admission Process will occur in February. If the request for early admission is received on or after January 15, the Early Admission Process will occur in April. All requests for early admission must be submitted by March 1.~~

~~F. The Early Admission Process will be administered universally across all schools in the District that operate kindergarten classrooms.~~

~~II. Children with Disabilities~~

~~A. All parents and guardians, including those of children with disabilities, may request early entry to kindergarten pursuant to the Early Admission Process in Section I.~~

~~B. For a child with an Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), the Early Admission Process will be individualized and in alignment with the documented IEP accommodations/modifications in Section 5 (Supplementary Aids and Services) and Section 11 (District and State Testing).~~

~~C. For a child with a Section 504 plan, the Early Admission Process will be individualized and in alignment with the accommodations documented in the child's 504 plan.~~

~~III. Notification~~

~~The District will strive to notify parents and guardians who have requested their child be granted early admission to kindergarten as soon as possible.~~

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10-184 Duties of parents. School attendance age requirements

Public Act 23-208, "An Act Making Certain Revisions to the Education Statutes."

Connecticut State Department of Education, New Entry Age for Kindergarten: Considerations for Connecticut Schools, October 23, 2023.

Regulation approved: June 19, 2024

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