

The Regional District 13 Board of Education Policy Committee met in regular session on Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Policy Committee Members Present: Mrs. Cowan (arrived at 4:10 p.m.), Mr. Moore, and Mr. Viens

Board of Education Members Present: Mrs. Petrella

Policy Committee Members absent: Mr. Konstantino, Mr. Simmons, and Mr. DelVecchio

Administration Present: Dr. Leggett, Superintendent of Schools

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

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Review Regulations

A. Health Assessments Screenings and Oral Health Assessments 5141

The committee reviewed the proposed Health Assessment Screenings and Oral Health Assessment regulations that are being updated to reflect new legislative requirements. Starting July 1, 2027, students in grades 9–12 must have an annual athletics health assessment on the state form before participating in interscholastic sports. Towns must cover the cost for eligible students whose families cannot afford it. The updates also allow annual vision screenings for preschool and grade 2 students, and permit school nurses to reject health-assessment forms that aren't on the official state form.

Additionally, students diagnosed with asthma will now need an up-to-date asthma action plan on file in their school nurse's office. The district is notifying parents and nurses will follow up with families who still need to submit a plan. Eligible students may self-carry and use their medication based on criteria such as age, severity, and training.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Cowan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Viens, to approve the agenda as presented.

*All in favor of approving the agenda as presented: Mrs. Cowan, Mr. Moore, and Mr. Viens.
Motion passed.*

Approval of Minutes – September 30, 2026

Mrs. Cowan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Viens, to approve the September 30, 2026 Meeting Minutes.

All in favor of approving the September 30, 2026 Meeting Minutes as presented: Mrs. Cowan, Mr. Moore, and Mr. Viens. Motion passed.

Review Regulations**B. Immunizations 5141.1**

The committee reviewed the proposed Immunizations Regulations which will align the district's requirements with Connecticut law, including requirements for preschool students. Religious exemptions are generally no longer allowed, but students with a documented exemption on file before April 28, 2021 may be grandfathered in.

Review Policies**A. Student Discipline 5114**

Dr. Leggett presented to the committee the proposed Student Discipline 5114 policy which has incorporated three years of legal changes, with numbering and legal references to be revised later. The proposed updates align the policy with the revised school climate framework and restorative practices; add definitions for challenging behavior and computer-generated images that appear to depict identifiable people; and update definitions related to bullying, protected-class harassment, in-school suspension, and suspension. The discussion also considered how to name AI tools in the policy while recognizing that district-approved Google Workspace access offers protections that may not apply to tools used through an ordinary web browser.

The policy revisions also clarify that off-campus conduct may warrant school discipline when it disrupts learning or affects students at school; add offenses involving the sharing of obscene or nude images, including synthetic images, protected-class harassment, and the threatening use of weapons or facsimiles; and establish a specific offense for staging or recording violent or sexual situations. The changes also revise suspension and expulsion procedures, including limits on suspension length, due-process and parent-notification requirements, and additional supports for students experiencing homelessness. Suspended students must receive developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed services consistent with any IEP or 504 plan, and schools have continuing educational responsibilities for some students who are expelled. The discussion highlighted that serious physical harm is a high threshold under the revised rules and raised questions about how in-school suspension days count toward special-education requirements. Dr. Leggett will make revisions and prepare the draft for the Board.

B. Homeless Children and Youth 5118.1

The committee reviewed the proposed update to the homeless children and youth policy which would reflect the expanded age definition, up to age 22, and include youth in juvenile detention centers. Dr. Leggett clarified that the age change may already be covered by the regulation's legal references, so the age may not need to be repeated in the regulation's text. Dr. Leggett also noted that McKinney-Vento's definition is broader than literal homelessness: it can include families who are doubled up, living in cars or motels, migrant workers, or temporarily staying in campgrounds or shelters. Schools work with counselors and families to identify students who may qualify, while recognizing that families may be hesitant to disclose their circumstances.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Mrs. Cowan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Viens, to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor of adjourning the meeting: Mrs. Cowan, Mr. Moore, and Mr. Viens. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Meghan Shortell-Fratantonio