

**SHERMAN BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT 06784**  
**SPECIAL MEETING - AUGUST 14, 2020**  
**6:00 PM**

A Special Meeting of the Sherman Board of Education was called to order by Mrs. Diotte at 6:00 PM on August 14, 2020.

**1. PRESENT**

For the Board: Dr. Alexander, Mr. Berlandi, Mrs. Diotte, Mr. Laughlin, Mrs. Lenihan,  
Mr. Neunzig (via Zoom) and Mrs. Seeger  
Administration: Dr. Melendez

**2. DISCUSSION**

Dr. Melendez presented the Board with a recommendation to amend Policy 5118: Nonresident Students as follows:

*Nonresident Attendance for Full-Time, Employed, Faculty for 2020-2021*

*Due to the unique circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, for the 2020-2021 school year, nonresident students entering grades K-8 who are the resident children of full-time teachers who are employed by the Sherman School in the 2020-2021 school year may attend the Sherman School following a formal review of academic and disciplinary records, at the discretion of the Board of Education. For the 2020-21 school year, the Board shall not charge these teachers the base tuition. Teachers may be charged for additional costs including but not limited to materials, equipment, field trip fees and special education costs as noted below.*

*Admission of such students for the 2020-2021 school year does not grant the student acceptance any other school year. If a student wishes to continue to attend the Sherman School District in other years, such student would have to request admission and would be subject to tuition requirements and other terms as noted in this policy for years other than 2020-2021.*

*Attendance by a nonresident student of a teacher may be terminated by Board of Education action, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, if the Board deems such termination is in the best interest of the school district. The Board of Education is not obligated under this policy to provide special education programs or services or create unique programs for students. If an enrolled non-resident student is eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA"), the District will not act as the local education agency for such student. Tuition or fee may be charged in those instances where special or additional services are provided for a non-resident student. The tuition or fee shall be based upon the actual costs associated with providing the special or additional services.*

The Board discussed the following with regard to this policy amendment:

- Impact on enrollment across grade levels
  - approximately 15 students across almost all grade levels
  - no additional staff is needed to accommodate enrollment increase
- Potential budget implications

- According to a survey of staff, the majority would not be interested in sending their children to Sherman School on a tuition basis, therefore the revenue impact would be a loss of \$6,500 to the Town, which is the tuition for one student of a faculty member who currently pays tuition.
- Could potentially benefit the BOE budget due to less substitute costs throughout the year.
- Any excess costs above and beyond base tuition would be charged to the staff member whose child is receiving the services/supplies.
- Impact on learning
  - Given the variation across districts in re-opening plans, with many of them adopting hybrid models, it is reasonable to believe that this amendment will allow impacted faculty members greater consistency in the classroom, which provides a greater continuity of learning for Sherman students.
- Impact on Covid exposure
  - The Board felt that any effort to mitigate the exposure of cohorts outside of the school community would be beneficial.

The Board deliberated the above and agreed that the amendment as proposed could have significant positive impacts on the district during this unprecedented time, with very minimal downside. The Board also expressed that they hoped this would alleviate some concern for faculty during this unusually challenging year.

Mrs. Diotte moved and Mr. Berlandi seconded to amend Policy 5118 as proposed by Dr. Melendez, and the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

### **3. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kasey Diotte  
Chair, Sherman Board of Education