

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
HEARING PURSUANT TO EDUCATION LAW SECTION 281  
PUBLIC HEARING – TUESDAY, July 2, 2024 – 5:00 P.M.  
Administration Building – 929 York Street – Kernan School

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Steve Falchi, Kimberly Vile, Sara Klimek, Mike Ferraro,  
Rex Gremer, Kathy Hughes

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**Presentations and Public Hearings**

**Utica City School District 2024 – 2025 Public Hearing – Code of Conduct – Steve Falchi, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment**

Mr. Falchi made the following PowerPoint presentation.



**Utica City School District  
Code of Conduct Hearing  
2024-2025**

July 2, 2024

**Utica City School District Code of Conduct**

The review committee :

Jason Cooper  
James Paul  
Andrew Boyd  
Michael Brigano  
Melitta Crowder  
Savannah Leo  
Wilhelmina Davis  
Cheryl Minor  
Steve Falchi  
Elizabeth Gerling  
Rev. Sharon Baugh  
Superintendent Davis  
Pamela Lopez Wiggins  
Ken Szczesniak  
Christine Golden  
Scott Rowgowski  
Trina Falchi

# **Utica City School District Code of Conduct**

Feedback gathered from a variety of sources included:

- District-Wide Representatives
- Hamilton College
- Legal Counsel



# **Utica City School District Code of Conduct**

The following documents to inform the review process:

- New York State Commissioner's Regulations governing school district Codes of Conduct
- Code of Conduct Draft 2023-2024
- Hamilton College research data provided



# **Utica City School District Code of Conduct**

Based on feedback and review of various documents, the committee focused on revising the Code of Conduct to include the importance of a positive school climate along with key characteristics as they relate to an effective Code of Conduct

# **Value and Belief Statement**

*The Utica City School District recognizes that a positive school climate is an important factor in effective student management. A positive school climate helps to foster high levels of personal student growth and academic achievement and is predicated on the principles of safety, trust and effective communication among all stakeholders including parents, students, teachers and the entire school community.*



## **Important Characteristics that Contribute to a Positive School Climate and Effective Code of Conduct**

Stakeholders agreed that a positive school climate and effective Code of Conduct are characterized by the following ideas. These principles were incorporated into the Code of Conduct for 2024-2025:

- Knowledge that all children are safe and being cared for in a welcoming and affirming environment.
- An atmosphere of respect, mutual understanding and trust between and among all members of the school community including the administration, faculty and staff, parents and students.
- An environment of mutually agreed upon norms which encourages everyone in the school community to act out of a sense of personal responsibility.

## **Important Characteristics that Contribute to a Positive School Climate and Effective Code of Conduct**

- A respect and understanding for diversity including the diversity of thought and expression.
- The establishment of high expectations for the entire school community where staff members consistently motivate and help students to be at their best; especially when struggling with socio-emotional or academic issues.
- Students exhibiting a love for learning; students engaged as active learners in each and every classroom.

## **Utica City School District Code of Conduct**

- Knowledge that the Code of Conduct is carried out in a fair and consistent manner that provides an opportunity for learning and promotes personal growth.
- Employing proactive strategies in order to reduce the frequency of Code of Conduct violations with the knowledge that students need to be present and engaged for daily instruction.
- Utilizing restorative practices when appropriate.

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**Public Comment**  
(None)

The Public Hearing on the Code of Conduct adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Respectfully transcribed and submitted:

STEPHANIE LYNESS  
Assistant Board Clerk