Board of Education Members Present
Sally Boske, Chair, and Renee Johnson-Thornton

Also Present
Kendall Jackson, Director of Facilities, Mike Milardo, Transportation Manager, and Kathleen F. Bengtson, Administrative Assistant.

The following policies and bylaws were discussed.

1251 Loitering or Causing Disturbance – Kendall Jackson spoke to this policy. The revision (addition to policy) he proposes “Posting “No Trespassing” signage on isolated areas of school grounds and/or sport fields.” will allow him to post “No Trespassing” signs on the isolated practice fields in front of Keigwin. He has had some complaints from neighbors and the police advised putting up the signs. The Policy Committee recommended this revised policy be brought forward to the Board at its next meeting for its first reading.

3541.3 Non-Instructional Operations – Mike Milardo spoke to this policy. He and Jay Keiser have asked to change Item 3. from 2 miles to 1 ½ miles for Grade 9-12 transportation. The reason for the policy change request is so that the Transportation Manager can automatically plan on this stop each year rather than requiring parents to request a hearing. Because of limited sidewalks on Newfield Street, the policy change would only affect students that live on or near Westfield Street. There are no sidewalks or a limited length of sidewalks on Newfield Street beyond Westfield and the same is true going along Newfield from MHS towards Tuttle Road. An added benefit to this policy change would be a slight reduction in car traffic at MHS. The Policy Committee recommended this revised policy be brought forward to the Board at its next meeting for its first reading.

9010 Limits of Authority – This bylaw was sent back to the Policy Committee by the BOE. The Policy Committee further reviewed this bylaw and decided to recommend the revised bylaw be brought forward to the Board at its next meeting for its first reading.
#9012 Legal Responsibilities of Board of Education – This new bylaw was sent back to the Policy Committee for further review. Jay Keiser had a question on Item 13B. He proposed changing the wording as follows: “(b) the school district shall finance at a reasonable allocate funding at a suitable level for an educational program designed to achieve this end.” The Policy Committee recommended this new bylaw with proposed changes be brought forward to the Board at its next meeting for its first reading.

#9121 Board of Education Officers – This bylaw was previously taken off the Board agenda when Ms. Gill had questions on its wording. On January 21, 2009, the Policy Committee recommended revisions which incorporate certain requested changes, including item #3, “Confer with the Superintendent on crucial matters which may occur between Board meetings and inform board members when appropriate.” and Item #6, “Consult with the Superintendent in the planning of the board’s agendas as provided by the Board bylaws.” It was decided to keep Item #7 as is. At this time, after working on Bylaw #9230, the Committee decided to add a new number “4. The Chairperson shall attend a joint meeting with the Superintendent, other administrative personnel and the new Board Member(s) for the purpose of orientation.” The follow items would be renumbered. This bylaw was scheduled for further review at the Policy Committee’s next meeting. The Committee again reviewed these changes and recommended this revised bylaw be brought forward to the Board at its next meeting for its first reading.

#9130 Committees – This bylaw was sent back to the Policy Committee by the BOE on November 18, 2008, Jay Keiser had a question on the type of standing committees. The Policy Committee is in the process of clarify the different BOE committees and will review this bylaw and the next Policy Committee meeting.

#9150 Board Consultants – On November 18, 2008, the BOE sent this new bylaw back to the Policy Committee. The Committee added the words “and payment.” To Item 6. The Committee again reviewed this new bylaw and recommended it be brought forward to the Board at its next meeting for its first reading.

#9230 Orientation of Board Members – On January 20, 2009, the BOE sent this bylaw back to the Policy Committee when Ms. Gill had questions on its wording. On January 21, 2009, the Policy Committee reviewed it and decided information should be added on paragraph 1 of the bylaw. It was discussed how the Chairperson should be involved in the orientation of the new board member(s) to talk about the Board, its goals, procedures, etc. Barbara Senges spoke to this bylaw and stated her experience with orientation of new board members in the former districts she worked.
The Committee discussed the types of information that should be given to the incoming member(s) and decided it was best to create a secure section of the BOE’s website to post certain nonpublic information. Therefore, the Committee reworked Item #1 as follows: “1. The incoming member(s) shall be given information on the function of the Board of Education and the school district, along with instruction on how to use and access the Board of Education’s secure website. The Board of Education’s secure and non-secure section of the Middletown Public Schools website shall include but not be limited to: Board Policies and Bylaws, contracts for superintendent, teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, and transportation; lists(s) of Board and Committee(s) meetings, list of committees and members, and list of Board members with contact information.” Sally Boske wanted to review this bylaw further and discuss Item 4. “The incoming member(s) may request a Board mentor.” Today, March 11, 2009, this bylaw was again discussed and the Policy Committee recommended this revised bylaw be brought forward to the Board at its next meeting for its first reading.

#9314 Suspension of Policies, Bylaws and Regulations – On November 18, 2008, this proposed bylaw was sent back to the Policy Committee with the recommendation to change the wording of all members to the members. The Policy recommended this revised bylaw be brought forward to the Board at its next meeting for its first reading.

#9325 Meeting Conduct – On January 21, 2009, this bylaw was revisited by the Committee as Corinne Gill requested a change in the third paragraph and the fourth item. It was decided to add a “s” to decision and leave the third paragraph first sentence as follows: “The conduct of the meetings shall enable members of the Board to make the best decisions possible.” It was agreed to delete the letter A) in Item 4.

The Committee had a question on #2, which states: “2. No oral presentation shall include charges or complaints against any employee of the Board of Education, regardless of whether or not the employee is identified in the presentation by name or by another reference which tends to identify an individual. All charges or complaints against employees shall be submitted to the Board of Education under provision of Board of Education policy.” Sally Boske requested Kathy to contact CABE and ask if their attorney could review this matter and let us know whether this paragraph is legal and enforceable.

Today, March 10, 2009, Kathy reported the CABE attorney had advised removing that paragraph from the bylaw. The Committee again reviewed these changes and recommended this revised bylaw be brought forward to the Board at its next meeting for its first reading.
**Order of Business** – The BOE has requested the agenda format be changed to allow District Highlights to be heard before the Public Session. The Policy Committee reviewed this bylaw and made the requested changes. It also proposed taking out the following “and discussion Items” from item XI. *The Policy recommended this revised bylaw be brought forward to the Board at its next meeting for its first reading.*

**Monitoring Products and Processes** – On January 20, 2009, the BOE sent this new bylaw back to the Policy Committee to review further. After further consideration, the Policy Committee decided to add at the end of the second paragraph the following sentence, “Surveys and/or focus groups may be held prior to self evaluation.” The wording, “and funding at a suitable level for an educational program designed to achieve this end,” was also added to the second sentence in the third paragraph. *The Policy recommended this revised bylaw be brought forward to the Board at its next meeting for its first reading.*

The Policy Committee Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2009 at 9:15 a.m. in the Board Room of the Dr. Alfred B. Tychsen Administration Building

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