Ms. Boske read an email from Nancy Schinas, Policy Community Member, in which Nancy stated because of job constraints she would need to resign from the Policy Committee, effective immediately. She will be missed.

Kathy brought to the attention of the Policy Committee the following policies/bylaws that have been tabled to be addressed at the Board Workshops:

#9230 Orientation of Board Members
#9400 Monitoring Products and Processes – Self-Evaluation

Ms. Boske said they would be addressed at the next Board Workshop. The last workshop, Board Member Renee Johnson-Thornton was ill and didn’t attend. (She was scheduled to present the Orientation of Board Members section of the workshop.)

The following policies and bylaws were discussed.

#4118.4 Electronic Mail – Originally, Robert Polselli asked Kathy to bring this new policy before the Committee. Equally important is our notification to staff regarding confidential information sent by email and the fact that email is not private as it is the property of the Middletown Public Schools. This policy will take the place of our present policy #4118.4 which is entitled Electronic Mail/Telecommunication. This policy was sent back to the Policy Committee by the Board with its concern that electronic mail sent or received by the Board may be considered a public record subject to public disclosure or inspection. The Board requested a legal opinion on this issue. On September 10, 2009 Attorney Chinni produced an opinion, which was distributed to the Board, concurring that electronic mail sent or received by the Board may be considered a public record subject to public disclosure or inspection.

Bob Polselli requested Kathy notify the Policy Committee that it is his strong recommendation that we implement this policy immediate.

*The Policy Committee recommended this revised policy be brought forward to the Board at its next meeting for its first and final reading. As this is a mandated policy, it will require only one reading.*
#5145.15 Directory Information  – Bob Polselli had reviewed this policy along with CABE recommendations and made changes which update the policy concerning Social Security and military recruiters. It also addresses a conflict of statements concerning the releasing of information. The first sentence of the policy has been deleted and the sentence, “The District may disclose any of the items listed as “Directory Information” without prior written consent, unless notified in writing to the contrary.” inserted.  

The Policy Committee recommended this revised bylaw be brought forward to the Board at its next meeting for its first reading.

#6145.231 Transgender Athletic Policy  – In the May 6, 2009, Policy Committee meeting, Mike Pitruzzello stated that the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) recommended that all state Boards of Education adopt a policy concerning transgender participation in athletics. This policy was proposed for the following BOE meeting, but was dropped from the Agenda as there were too many policies for consideration at that time.  Today the Policy Committee again recommended this new policy be brought forward to the Board at its next meeting for its first reading.

#9000 Role of the Board and Member (Powers, Purposes, Duties) – The Policy Committee decided to add the following paragraph to this Bylaw “Electronic mail, including personal, sent or received by Board Members may be considered a public record subject to public disclosure or inspection. (See Policy #4118.4)” This will alert all Board Members of their responsibilities concerning email.  The Policy Committee recommended this revised bylaw be brought forward to the Board at its next meeting for its first reading.

#9012 Legal Responsibilities of Board of Education – This bylaws was again discussed. This proposed new bylaw was sent back to the Policy Committee by the Board on May 12, 2009. The Board would like Item #4 changed to eliminate the wording, “prepared by the Superintendent of Schools.” The Policy Committee requested Item #11 be changed to add in the beginning, “to establish a Curriculum Committee that reviews, develops and approves curriculum.” Kathy will contact CABE to find out what are the new changes in the law that will become effective on July 1, 2009. The Board has to develop a Curriculum Committee and give it a task as designated by the law. This bylaw will be brought back to the Policy Committee at its next meeting for further review. The foregoing reflected the previous Policy Committee actions on this bylaw. Kathy Bengtson contacted CABE concerning this bylaw. She was told CABE has decided to not use this bylaw anymore as it changes continuously. It is not featured in their online manual. Sheila decided to table this bylaw until the next Policy Committee meeting. At this Policy Committee, Ms. Daniels and Ms. Boske decided not to bring the policy back to the Board per CABE’s recommendation.
Meeting Conduct – On September 15, 2009, the Board recommended that number 4 be changed to read “Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes.” This change was made along with a change to number 5 in which it reads, “5. The Chair has the right to adjust the time for limit public discussion on a particular issue in order to allow the board time to conduct its business.”

*The Policy Committee recommended this revised bylaw be brought forward to the Board at its next meeting for its first reading.*

The Policy Committee Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2009 at 9:15 a.m. in the Board Room of the Dr. Alfred B. Tychsen Administration Building

kfb