MIDDLETOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 6, 2010
Dr. Alfred B. Tychsen Administration Building
9:15 a.m.

Board of Education Members Present
Sally Boske, Chair and Sheila Daniels

Also Present
Kathleen F. Bengtson, Administrative Assistant

Kathy Bengtson gave Sally Boske a list of persons, who submitted their names on the MPS website, volunteering to serve on the BOE committees. Ms. Boske said she would check with Theodore V. Raczka, Chair of the BOE, concerning the appointment of any community members to the BOE committees.

A proposed calendar was presented to the committee members for their review. The calendar was approved with the change of no meetings for July and August. Kathy will post the calendar with the Town Clerk, send it to the BOE members, and post it on the MPS website, along with reserving the appropriate room for the meetings.

Sally Boske requested the number of the bylaw that refers to “If state statute necessitates a new or revised policy, only one meeting of the Board of Education is required to adopt or amend said policy.” The number is #9311 – Adoption and Amendment of Policies.

The following policies were discussed.

#4112.5 Security Check/Fingerprinting – The committee reviewed this policy which was recently updated by the Legislature and now adds school nurses, nurse practitioners and student teachers, to the list of individuals who are required to undergo the same criminal background checks already required for school employees.

*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.*

#5112 Ages of Attendance – The committee reviewed this policy which was recently updated by the Legislature and as of July 1, 2011 changes the allowable age of a child withdrawal from school from sixteen to seventeen (with the consent of the parent or person having control of a child). The withdrawal form shall now include an attestation from a guidance counselor or school administrator of the school that the this district has provided the parent or person with information on the educational options available in the school system and in the community. The
The present forms will be changed and form (b) & (c) will be incorporated to one form.

*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.*

#5114 Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process – Kathy Bengtson brought to the attention of the committee that this policy will need to be changed to address the new laws which say effective July 1, 2010 suspensions shall be in-school suspensions unless the administration determines that the student being suspended poses such a danger to persons or property or such a disruption of the education process that the student shall be excluded from school during the period of suspension.

Sally Boske requested we check with Superintendent Frechette and if he approves, we will address this at the next policy meeting and that Barbara Senges, Associate Superintendent, Bob Fontaine, Principal of MHS, and Ralph D’Amato, Guidance Counselor, be asked to attend the meeting. (Kathy checked with Dr. Frechette and he agreed.)

#7551 Naming School Facilities – The committee discussed the Board’s assignment to come up with a policy on a plaque for retired teachers. Kathy Bengtson researched the CABE website for an applicable policy, along with contacting CABE directly and was unable to find a policy directly addressing this issue. She also researched our present policies and found policy #7551 which might be relevant although it only refers to facilities.

The committee reviewed our present Naming School Facilities policy and believes this issue could be covered within this policy and the Board should form an ad hoc committee to look at this subject. Some of the questions the ad hoc committee should address are as follows:

1. Location of the proposed plaque – which facility (school and/or central office) and whether is should be located inside or outside of the facility.
2. Cost of the project which would depend upon the decision to go inside or outside.
3. Why the Board decided to start in the year 1985. what about teachers starting before that date.

Sally Boske said she would present this to the Board at its next regular meeting.

The Policy Committee Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2010 at 9:15 a.m. in the Board Room of the Dr. Alfred B. Tychsen Administration Building

kfb