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

Also Present
Robert Fontaine, Principal Middletown High School, Mike Pitruzzello, Director of Athletics/Student Activities, Ralph D’Amato, Guidance Coordinator, Kathleen F. Bengtson, Administrative Assistant.

Robert Fontaine told the Police Committee he wanted to add a required course on Personal Finances for the high school students. Sally Boske said he did not need a special policy to have a course required.

The following policies were discussed.

#4120.1 Volunteer Coaches – Michael Pitruzzello distributed a copy of the Fall Reference Manual for Athletic Coaches/Activity/Club Advisors Physical Education/ Health Teachers, which was revised in August 2009. He spoke regarding the section 3.10 Volunteer Coaches & Student Teachers – “3. Provides on going and direct supervision to any volunteer coach, practicum students or student teacher under his/her control.” We are not in violation of this regulation. Some coaches have not followed this regulation. Mike stated he had inherited this policy. He said there is a situation concerning ultimate frisbee. Mike met with Attorney Chris Chinni on Monday or Tuesday of this week. She recommended that if we change the description of the volunteer coach it should reflect that a volunteer coach must be under the direct supervision of the paid coach unless he/she is employed by the Middletown BOE and holds a Teaching Certificate or Administrative Certificate and a five-year coaching permit.

Sally Boske thought all certified teachers must be paid and believes it is in the teachers’ contract. Sally recommends Mike Pitruzzello get in touch with Barbara Senges and Nancy Haynes and make sure there will be no cause for a grievance if we institute the regulation that teachers can volunteer.

Mike Pitruzzello said he would email the members with Barbara and Nancy’s decision.

The Policy Committee decided not to institute a formal policy for this subject. It will be up to Mike Pitruzzello to meet with Nancy and Barbara to see if he can change the description of the volunteer coach in the coaching manual.
Summer School – Ralph D’Amato and Robert Fontaine spoke to the committee regarding Summer School. They both believe that as health and physical education (wellness) is a required subject for graduation, it should be offered in Summers School.

Ralph D’Amato looked into the enrollment in past summer schools and failures. Twenty-eight enrolled the last two years, of those students, 5 of 28 did not pass the next year. No one took summer school for PE again.

Sally Boske can see where this should be included in the subjects offered in Summer School. Health and PE, which is now called Wellness, consists of many more components than it did in the past, including first aide, CPR, food choices, etc.

The program is also good for the sending schools that are looking for PE. As Summer School is a self-sustaining program, this helps with revenue.

The Policy Committee agreed that wellness should be included in the school offerings for summer school.

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

Graduation Requirements – Ralph D’Amato and Robert Fontaine spoke to the committee about including community service in graduation requirements.

Robert Fontaine did a CASS survey on community service and found most urban schools include community service as a requirement for graduation, which also gives back to the community. Dan Sullivan, Principal of New London High School, said they have a community service requirement and it has been successful.

Ralph D’Amato will research what will qualify for community service, which is based on merit. He passed out a packet with information and forms concerning this proposed requirement. A community service form is filled out and given to the Advisor or Guidance Counselor who will keep track of it as a part of the graduation requirement.

Ralph stated many students are now involved in community service. We now need to get all students to participate. Sally Boske likes this requirement. She hopes it will help students become more involved in their community.

A discussion ensued about the amount of time to require for the community service. Mike Pitruzello said the school system he previously worked for had a community service requirement for 30 hours. Robert Fontaine suggested we start with a requirement of 20 hours beginning with the graduating class of 2015.
The Policy Committee agreed that a community service requirement should be included in the requirements for graduation and that requirement will be for 20 hours beginning with the graduating class of 2015.

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

Kathy spoke to the Policy Committee about the necessity of reviewing the Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process policy next month. The policy concerning Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect also needs to be reviewed. The Committee agreed. She will email the proposed policies from CABE for their review, so they can discuss it at the next meeting.

*The Policy Committee Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.*

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2010 at 9:15 a.m. in the Board Room of the Dr. Alfred B. Tychsen Administration Building

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