MIDDLETOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 8, 2010
Dr. Alfred B. Tychsen Administration Building
9:15 a.m.

Board of Education Members Present
Sally Boske, Chair, Sheila Daniels, Bill Grady

Also Present
Barbara Senges, Associate Superintendent, Robert Fontaine MHS Principal, Kathleen F. Bengtson, Administrative Assistant.

The following policies were discussed:

#1110.1 Parent Involvement
Barbara Senges spoke to this policy and how the Commissioner of Education said at a recent meeting that the district needs to follow through with strengthening relationships with parents.

Part of the issue in communication with the parents is our student data management system is not the best one. If we could get something like PowerSchool, we could do a lot more in keeping parents informed, etc. At some point, we ought to think about buying a new student management system instead of trying to build it ourselves. Would probably initially cost $200,000, but it would replace some other programs, such as Rediker and GradeQwick.

The Committee also looked over the proposed CABE Regulations and agreed they should be used upon acceptance of the policy.

Bill Grady had questions about guardians of children in the district. How much participation does the Department of Children and Families take over their wards in the district? He noted he never saw them at PTA meetings. Sally Boske said some families and/or guardians feel it is their role to be involved in their children’s education and others don’t participate. In expulsion hearings some guardian show up and some don’t. Bill said if a guardian is being compensated to take care of a child, it should be part of their job to be involved with the child’s education. He believes this condition should be part of the specific orders of court to guardians. Sally said that is something Bill will have to deal with in his other committees. Barbara said should there be rules that guardians must agree to abide by. Education is the way out for students. Bob Fontaine stated there is a significant amount of student’s with guardians in the high school.

The CABE proposed policy was reviewed against our present policy and certain changes were incorporated into our policy. There is also an update to the legal reference.
The Committee decided to forward this policy to the Board of Education at its next meeting for discussion and recommended this revised policy for its first reading.

#5114 Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process – The changes to this policy include modifications to the definitions of in-school and out-of-school suspensions, which may now also consider a student’s previous disciplinary problems when deciding whether an out-of-school suspension is warranted, as long as the school previously attempted to address the problems by means other than an out-of-school suspension or an expulsion. There is also an update to the legal reference.

The Committee decided to forward this policy to the Board of Education for discussion and recommended this revised policy have a first and final reading. As this is a mandated policy, it will require only one reading.

#6146 Graduation Requirements – Bob Fontaine spoke regarding the proposed changes to the graduation requirements from CABE and the State which would take place in the year 2012 and 2018. He stated he would like to wait and see if any other changes come through from the State before we again change our policy.

Sally spoke to the Policy Update Summary from CABE and the policies it recommended for review.

Policy #4115 – Evaluations Barbara Senges stated we need to look at this policy, but questions whether we should wait until 2013 to see what guidelines the State Department of Education Guidelines has developed. Clearly the push is to link student performance with teacher performance. We might need to change our teacher contract language. We might want to research and see where we want to go with this. The law says we are required to evaluate staff. Barbara will have to look at teacher contract, etc.

Policy 4111 – Recruitment & Selection Michael Frechette told Kathy he will review this policy and the proposed CABE changes before the Policy Committee addresses it.

A question was asked regarding the status of policy on tazering of a student. Is there any policy regarding security on the role of a resource officer?

Sheila Daniels requested Kathy send the members a copy of her spreadsheet concerning the status of policies.

Sally Boske asked that Barbara Senges review the outstanding regulations. Kathy will send her a spreadsheet on these regulations.
**October Meeting** – Need to review Policy #6153 regarding Field Trips and Community Service. We will need to address this policy concerning chaperones and any payment for services.

& Policy #5141.31 Health Examinations for Interscholastic Athletic Participation. Coach Michael Pitruzzello, Director of Athletics and Student Activities requests that the Policy Committee review this policy with possible changes concerning the dates of physical examinations.

**November Meeting** - Bob Fontaine would again like to address our graduation requirement policy #6146. The present policy is based on portfolios, but doesn’t work and is becoming increasingly cumbersome. He proposes we review this to help alleviate the problem. Barbara said some schools have gone to a remedial class, but we will need the policy to reflect this change.

The Policy Committee Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2010 at 9:15 a.m. in the Board Room of the Dr. Alfred B. Tychesen Administration Building.

kfb