MIDDLETOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 17, 2012
Dr. Alfred B. Tychsen Administration Building
8:00 a.m.

Board of Education Policy Committee Members Present:
Sheila Daniels, Chair; Ava Hart, and Ed McKeon

Also Present:
Carole Passarelli, Nurse Consultant, Elizabeth Nocera, Director of Grant Services, and Kathleen F. Bengtson, Administrative Assistant.

The following policies were discussed:

#0521 – Nondiscrimination (Mission-Goals-Objectives) – Elizabeth Nocera brought this policy to the attention of the committee as there was a change in the wording as follows: “The Board of Education reaffirms its policy of equal educational opportunity for all students and prohibits discrimination because of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, civil union, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law in district educational programs and activities, including, but not limited to course offerings, athletic programs, guidance and counseling, and tests and procedures.” She said this wording has already been incorporated in our district. The Regulation for this policy needs to be put in place by the administration. The Committee agreed the change should be made. This change was also made on the district’s website wherever the Nondiscrimination reference was posted.

The Policy Committee recommended this revised Policy #0521 – Nondiscrimination (Mission-Goals-Objectives) be presented to the Board of Education at its next meeting and as this is a change in the law it will require only one reading - first and final reading. All members agreed.

#4118.11 – Nondiscrimination (Personnel) – this policy had the same changes as Policy #0521 shown above.

The Policy Committee recommended this revised Policy #4118.11 – Nondiscrimination (Personnel) be presented to the Board of Education at its next meeting and as this is a change in the law it will require only one reading - first and final reading. All members agreed.

#5145.4 – Nondiscrimination (Students) – this policy had the same changes as Policy #0521 shown above.

The Policy Committee recommended this revised #5145.4 – Nondiscrimination (Students) be presented to the Board of Education at its next meeting and as this is a change in the law it will require only one reading - first and final reading. All members agreed.
The Policy Committee agreed that the “Option 4” language as recommended by Attorney Chris Chinni, should be used and put in the second paragraph of the policy, “The Safe School Climate Plan is a comprehensive approach to addressing bullying and cyberbullying. The Middletown Public Schools is committed to working with students, staff, families, law enforcement agencies, and the community to establish the norms, values and expectations that make students and adults feel socially, emotionally, intellectually and physically safe. The goal is the establishment of an environment free of harassment, intimidation and bullying. In consultation with these constituencies, this Plan has been established for preventing and responding to incidents of bullying, cyberbullying, retaliation and discrimination. This commitment is an integral part of the District’s comprehensive efforts to promote learning and to prevent and eliminate all forms of bullying and other harmful and disruptive behavior that can impede the learning process through an overall focus on school climate.”

The Committee further reviewed the policy and determined it was not necessary to itemize the Safe School Climate Plan, instead it would use the shorter version. Note: the Safe School Climate Plan will be posted on the district website.

The Policy Committee recommended this revised #5131.911 –Hazing-Bullying be presented to the Board of Education at its next meeting and as this is a change in the law it will require only one reading - first and final reading. All members agreed. Note: The regulation should be reviewed by the Administration and then brought to the Board at its June meeting.

#5141.4 – Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect - This proposed policy which was reviewed at the last Policy Committee Meeting, at the suggestion of Dr. Larson. was forwarded to Attorney Chinni for her review. Attorney Chinni made three changes to this policy.

After reviewing the changes, the Policy Committee recommended the new Policy #5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect be presented to the Board of Education at its next meeting and will require two readings. All members agreed.

#5141.21 – Administering Medication – – Carole Passarelli spoke concerning this policy and the necessity to have it in place for the new school year. She had checked the Connecticut General Statutes and the information from the Health Department. Sheila Daniels requested she review the CABE policies and then bring a proposed policy to the Committee at its next meeting.

The Policy Committee Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 15, 2012, at 8:00 A.M. in the Board Room of the Dr. Alfred B. Tychsen Administration Building.