MIDDLETOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 20, 2012
Dr. Alfred B. Tychsen Administration Building
8:00 a.m.

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

Also Present:
Dr. Patricia Charles, Superintendent, Kathleen F. Bengtson, Administrative Assistant, Colleen Weiner, MHS Principal

The following policies were discussed:

Policy #5113 – Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal – This is a new mandated policy which addresses changes recently made by the State Legislature. The Committee reviewed the recommended policy from CABE and found them acceptable.

The Policy Committee recommended this new Policy #5113 Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal be presented to the Board of Education at its next meeting and will require two readings. All members agreed.

Policy #5113.1 – Attendance/Excuses/Course Credit this present policy was reviewed and compared to the above mandated policy #5113. It was determined this policy would lend itself better as a regulation with the paragraphs addressing Absences, excused absences, and unexcused absences removed. Dr. Charles will email this proposed regulation to the administrators for their input. After this policy/regulation is ready with its changes, it should be brought to the Board for the authorization to change it from a policy to a regulation.

Policy #5113.2 – Truancy - This is also a mandated policy which addresses changes recently made by the State Legislature. The Policy Committee reviewed this policy with Dr. Charles and Colleen Weiner.

The Policy Committee recommended this revised Policy #5113.2 Truancy be presented to the Board of Education at its next meeting and will require two readings. All members agreed.

The Policy Committee recommended this revised Policy #5113 Truancy be presented to the Board of Education at its next meeting and will require two readings. All members agreed.

Regulation #5113.2 – Truancy – The Committee reviewed this regulation as it pertained to the above mentioned policies. Colleen Weiner stated that the high school student is different from the elementary and middle school students in that they have course credits. The truancy issue in the high school usually pertains to the student not attending class, whereas, in elementary and
middle school it usually is the parent that allows the student to stay out of school. This regulation should be reviewed carefully. Colleen stated the credit withdrawal hearing is held at the end of the year. There is a confidential meeting with parents, and the Committee makes determination on what credits should be withheld.

Dr. Charles will email this proposed regulation to the administrators for their input. It should be ready to be uploaded when the policy is revised by the Board of Education.

#5113.2 Truancy - Form 1 & Form 2. These two forms will replace the forms that are presently on our website.

#5113.2 Form 1, Dr. Charles asked Kathy to insert into all of the student handbooks on the web, the first sentence in the second paragraph and then the first paragraph, which will read, “Regular student attendance is essential to the educational process. Connecticut law requires that the Middletown Public Schools provide you with this written notice of your obligations under Connecticut General Statute 10-184. This law provides that each parent or other person having control of a child five years of age and older and under eighteen years of age is obligated to cause the child to attend school regularly during the hours and terms school is in session, unless such parent or other person shows that the child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction, or that the child has graduated from high school or that the child ages sixteen or seventeen has withdrawn from school with the written permission of the parent or person having control of such child. Connecticut General Statute 10-185 provides that each day’s failure to comply with these requirements is a separate offense, punishable by a $25.00 fine.”

5113.2 Form 2 – The Committee reviewed this form and made a change on the first paragraph in the last line to read “he/she may be subject to retention at the same grade.”

The Policy Committee suggested the next policies to review would be:

Bylaw #9131- Community Members on Board Committees
Bylaw #9271 – Conflict of Interest Code of Ethics – delete??

Series 1000 - Review

The next Policy Committee meetings will be scheduled for Tuesday, December 18, 2012, at 8:00 A.M. in the Board Room of the Dr. Alfred B. Tychsen Administration Building.

kfb