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

Also Present:
Dr. Patricia Charles, Superintendent, Kathleen F. Bengtson, Administrative Assistant, Colleen Weiner, MHS Principal, and Mike Pitruzzello, Director of Athletics

2013 Policy Committee Meeting Schedule - This schedule was discussed and approved. Kathy will post it with the Town Clerk and upload it to our website, along with reserving the Board Room for the days scheduled.

The following policies were discussed:

Policy #5113.1 – Attendance/Excuses/Course Credit – This policy had its first reading with the Board on December 11, 2012. An email comment from a principal was discussed and nothing was changed.

Policy #5113.2 – Truancy – This policy had its first reading with the Board on December 11, 2012. An email comment from a principal was discussed and nothing was changed.

Policy #5131.6 – Drugs, Tobacco, Alcohol – Reviewed policy – There were some conflicts concerning controlled substances with our present policy and regulation. At Dr. Charles’ request, the law firm of Shipman & Goodman provided us a sample policy entitled Drug and Alcohol Use by Students. Mike Pitruzzello stated the student athletic handbook includes these policies. When the handbook is signed, it is for the school year. If we have to discipline a student athlete, it is for the school year not just a season. Off school grounds still applies to the enforcement of the policy. Mike Pitruzzello stated a student’s first offense is a three week suspension. The second offense the student is off the team. Mike stated if you are fair, firm and consistent the students know what to expect and usually obey the rules.

#5131.6 Regulation - Drug and Alcohol Use by Students - The Policy Committee looked at our present Regulation felt it needed to be updated to correspond with the new policy. Colleen Weiner will work with Joseph Cassella and other administrators to review and revise our present Regulation for this policy and should have it ready by February 12, 2013, when the above policy is expect to have its second reading. This regulation will be just about consequences and have no definitions as they can be found in the policy.
The Policy Committee recommended this revised Policy #5131.6 Drug and Alcohol Use by Students be presented to the Board of Education at its next meeting and will require two readings. All members agreed.

Policy #5131.61 – Chemical Health Policy for Athletics – This policy, which was also submitted by the Law Firm of Shipman & Goodman, was reviewed. It was decided to add this new policy and give it a new number (#5131.61). It states, “In accordance with CIAC participation rules and the Board’s obligation under state and federal law, the Board prohibits the use, sale, distribution or possession of controlled drugs, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, performance enhancing substances or alcohol during any school sponsored athletic activity, whether occurring on or off school property.”

Mike stated he will put in it the coaches manual. It will be also included in the online student handbooks for the new school year.

The Policy Committee recommended this revised Policy #5131.61 – Chemical Health Policy for Athletics be presented to the Board of Education at its next meeting and will require two readings. All members agreed.

#5131.61 Regulation for Chemical Health Policy for Athletics – The Policy Committee agreed that this policy contains enough specific information and will not require a regulation.

SERIES 1000 – Community Relations

The Committee did not have time to review any of the 1000 Series Policies.

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

Policy #6173 – Homebound Instruction
Bylaw #9131- Community Members on Board Committees
Series 1000 - Review

The next Policy Committee meetings will be scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 2013, at 8:00 A.M. in the Board Room of the Dr. Alfred B. Tychsen Administration Building.

kfb