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

Also Present:
Dr. Patricia Charles, Superintendent, and Kathleen F. Bengtson, Administrative Assistant

The following policies were discussed:

A parent came to this meeting and spoke regarding her child and why she wanted her child to be enrolled in Kindergarten at age 4. Her child has had two years of PreK and believes we should have something in place for children that are gifted and talented.

Ed McKeon stated because of budget constraints gifted and talented programs were removed a few years ago.

Ava asked what options are available. Pat Charles stated she had spoken to the PreK teachers and they will work with the child to provide more opportunities and make sure she is challenged.

This parent also questioned, if a child is sent to a private school, and then comes back in the middle of the year, would the child be able to go to Kindergarten at that time. The parent is willing to do anything to get her child to the proper level. Pat Charles said she will look into the legal question and get an answer.

Sheila Daniels commended the parent for her dedication.

#5111 – Admission/Placement  After further discussion of the situation, the Policy Committee reviewed the proposed changes to this policy received from the law firm of Shipman and Goodwin. Said law firm had updated the policy to be consistent with the law. This Committee only made a slight change to the first sentence changing District schools to Middletown Public Schools and adding without exception to the end of the sentence. …

Middletown Public Schools District schools shall be open to all children five years of age and over who reach age five on or before the first day of January of any school year, without exception.

The Policy Committee recommended this revised policy be presented to the Board of Education at its next meeting and will require two readings. All members agreed.
The subject of Policy Information Services received from CABE versus Shipman and Goodwin was discussed by the committee.

Dr. Patricia Charles said she spoke to a representative from CABE regarding our concerns.

After comparing the services offered by each vendor, the Policy Committee decided to recommend to the Board of Education the Law Firm of Shipman & Goodwin for this year and to compare services received and review at the end of the year.

The Policy Committee recommended this recommendation be presented to the Board of Education at its next meeting for a vote. Ava Hart suggested we call Dr. Gene Nocera to question whether a special meeting for this vote should be called.

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

1. #4119 – Inappropriate Behavior
2. #4152.6 – Family and Medical Leave Act
3. Series 1000 - Review

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

kfb