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

Also Present:
Dr. Patricia Charles, Superintendent, and Kathleen F. Bengtson, Administrative Assistant, and Michael Skott, Director of Technology

The following policies & bylaws were discussed:

#9130 – Committees – At the last Board of Education Meeting, Dr. Nocera said it was brought to his attention that in Bylaw #9130 Facilities Committee is not listed as a standing committee and the Board needs to officially add it in this policy description. With the following MOTION: Move to add a Facilities Committee as a Standing Committee in its description of the Board of Education passed with a motion by Mr. Nocera and a second by Mr. McKeon – unanimous vote.

The Policy Committee added the “Facilities Committee” to this bylaw and recommends it be presented to the Board of Education at its next meeting and will require two readings. All members agreed.

Concerning the Technology Policies, Michael Skott, Directory of Technology discussed the following: Michael Skott told the Committee that he had reviewed the policies that were currently in place, along with the CABE policies and the Shipman and Goodwin policies addressing technology. He recommends using the Shipman and Goodwin policies as he feels they work better with our district. They definitely will pare down the amount of policies we have, but all the important technology issues will be addressed.

#4118.4 – Acceptable Use – Computers, Networks, and E-mail – After discussion and comparison to our present policy, the committee recommended we delete this policy as the subject will be addressed in the REVISED Policy #4118.5 –Employee Use of the District’s computer systems and Electronic Communications.

The Policy Committee recommends this policy be deleted and be presented to the Board of Education at its next meeting and will require two readings. All members agreed.

#4118.5 – Employee Use of the District’s Computer Systems and Electronic Communications -- Mike Skott reviewed the Shipman & Goodman’s policy and believes this
policy and regulation addresses all the issues. He stated the proposed regulation gets into more specific details. Teachers want to start using social media more.

Dr. Charles asked if we should post the electronic monitoring notice on the website. Mike said it was a good idea to serve as just a reminder.

A question was posed whether the policy covers the district telephone systems, Mike said it includes cell phones and all district issued devices.

The Committee wanted to know how the district decides what an individual can check on the internet. Mike said it is filtered based on categories, not specific sites. There are different levels for the filters -- administrators, certified staff, other staff and students. If a person wants a site unblocked he/she can send an email to HELP desk to open the site. The filter gets updated numerous times a day. (This is required for ERate.)

The Policy Committee recommends this policy #4118.5 be presented to the Board of Education at its next meeting and will require two readings. All members agreed.

The Policy Committee recommends this policy #4118.5 be presented to the Board of Education at its next meeting and will require two readings. All members agreed.

#4118.51 – Social Media -- This policy will change its name from our current Social Networking Websites.

Looking at twitter, facebook, etc, we need to protect ourselves as a district. The parents should be able to join any groups or view pages that students can view. Mike has been working with Facebook and Twitter. There is a difference between pages and accounts in Facebook.

Mike talked about not just being “a friend” with students and parents on personal pages. Also addresses if they know them personally. Kids are friending everyone. They don’t think about what can happen.

Mike said teachers should have a disclaimer on personal sites stating it is not the views of their employer.

Mike added to the regulation that permission should be written:
“1. In order for an employee to use social media sites as an educational tool or in relation to extracurricular activities or programs of the school district, the employee must seek and obtain the prior written permission of his/her supervisor.”

The Policy Committee recommends this policy #4118.51 be presented to the Board of Education at its next meeting and will require two readings. All members agreed.

#5131.81 – Student Use of the District’s Computer Systems and Internet Safety (replaces #6141.321 Acceptable Use of the Internet, Other Computer Networks and Internet Safety & the number -Policy #5131.81 Use of Electronic Communication Devices/Cellular Phones)

Mike likes that these policies address any problem as a disciplinary issue, which will go back to another policy, therefore, not making the situation a technology issues, but a disciplinary issue. (If a student opens up a restricted site which he/she shouldn’t be in, it is the same as bringing an inappropriate magazine, etc. to class - the discipline policy would take effect).
The student policy has a lot of information about student issues.

The Policy Committee recommends this policy #5181.81 be presented to the Board of Education at its next meeting and will require two readings. All members agreed.

#5131.82 – Use of Private Technology Devices by Students (New Policy will replace old Policy #5131.81 Use of Electronic Communication Devices/Cellular Phones) Sheila Daniels stated she has heard complaints by teachers that the students are using headphones in the hallways and can’t hear any directions. It is becoming more and more of an issue.

Dr. Charles stated headphones are more of a school specific issue. We do not have anything to say they can’t use them. It was decided to cover under school rule by adding the following bullet to the regulation:

- Use of technology devices and accessories that impair students’ ability to see or hear directions or instructions are prohibited unless approved by administration.

Pat will ask our attorney concerning the regulation and Closed Forum, what it means to established public forum or limited open forum.

The Policy Committee recommends this policy #5181.82 be presented to the Board of Education at its next meeting and will require two readings. All members agreed.

#6141.321 - Acceptable Use of the Internet, Other Computer Networks and Internet Safety
The Policy Committee agreed this policy should be deleted as the subject will now be covered by Policy #5131.81 Student Use of the District’s Computer Systems and Internet Safety.

The Policy Committee recommends this policy #6141.321 be DELETED and be presented to the Board of Education at its next meeting and will require two readings. All members agreed.

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

1. #3160 – Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action
2. #9131 – Community Members on the Board
3. Other

The next Policy Committee meetings will be scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, 2014, at 8:00 A.M. in the Board Room of the Dr. Alfred B. Tychsen Administration Building.

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