Board of Education Policy Committee Members Present:

Sheila Daniels, Chair

Also Present:

Dr. Patricia Charles, Superintendent, Kathleen F. Bengtson, Administrative Assistant, Ann Perzan, Director of Pupil Services, Liz Caffrey, Teacher at Farm Hill School, and Ann Littlefield, Attorney (came in at the end of the meeting)

The following policies and bylaws were discussed.

# 5132 – Dress and Grooming – Dr. Charles handed out a sample of a questionnaire concerning a survey on the question of instituting a policy requiring student uniforms. There will be many meetings and forums to discuss this matter, the first taking place at WWMS on Monday, October 27th. The MPS website will have a webpage containing meeting dates and other information. A electronic survey is also planned.

Dr. Charles asked Sheila Daniels if there was anything else she thought should be done to investigate and fully address this situation. Ms. Daniels thought we were cover all aspects necessary.

Dr. Charles also plans a PowerPoint presentation on this matter for Board of Education at its next meeting.

Liz Caffrey expressed her concerns that the school uniforms might require flexibility of material especially for the elementary level because of a medical need, allergies, etc.

Dr. Charles also brought up a concern regarding the wearing of headphones, etc. during school, stating there can be a safety issue. The committee reviewed the present #5132 regulation for Dress and Grooming and decided to change the wording of item #12 to “The wearing or carrying of any non-medically prescribed or non-court ordered electronic device. This includes, but is not limited to ipods, headphones, earbuds, etc. Exceptions are outlined in Policy #5131.81 & Policy #5131.82.” As this is a regulation, it will go into effect immediately.

The committee agreed to revisit this policy again after many of the meetings and forums.
#6173 – Homebound Instruction –– New Policy – Ann Perzan, Director of Pupil Services, brought forth a request for a new policy concerning Homebound instruction. She state the laws were changed back in August of 2013.

This policy will be about medical reasons why students are staying home. We must make sure we perform our due diligence. The Special Education Department checks the timesheets of tutors, not the schools.

In the past, we would have one or two kids on homebound, now the Department receives requests many times a week. There are many additional steps we now must take. The nurses have had these new procedures for a year. We must request an end date from the doctors. Now the nurses have to follow up on this. It is challenging to get homebound students back into school.

In the New Form A, a physician is required to do many procedures, not previously required: In the first check box a physician must verify that he/she has consulted with school health supervisory personnel and have determined that the child’s attendance at school with reasonable accommodations is not feasible. Therefore, there must be direct communication between the physician and the school system—This is new. There must also be supporting information supplied by the physician, such as i.e. a broken leg would require information on x-rays performed, etc.

The new forms B & C are the District’s progress reports.

Home instruction shall also be provided to special education students who are not attending school per their IEP. We are mandated to provide instruction from date of referral.

As Attorney Ann Littlefield was in the building for another meeting, Dr. Charles asked her to join the Policy Committee meeting and give her thoughts on the changes in law on homebound regulations. The new law requires students placed on Homebound Instruction due to illness or injury be counted as “in attendance” if they are receiving instruction (tutoring) from an appropriately certified teacher for an amount of time the school deems adequate to ensure that the student is able to successfully return to the regular classroom setting. However, if the student is not provided instruction by an appropriately certified teacher, the student should be counted as “not in attendance.” Home instruction of five hours a week shall be provided to elementary students and ten hours a week to secondary students.

We are only required to tutor in district and for state graduation requirements.

The Policy from CABE has not been updated to encompass the new laws. Kathy has requested CABE to look at the policy and it will be reviewed at the next Policy Committee meeting.

Kathy will look at it with the secretaries to see how they are recording attendance. Do forms and will revisit this policy.
Sheila Daniels requested the Policy Committee review Policy #4138 Non-School Employment which was deleted at the last board meeting. She felt we should have kept it in our policies in light of the present situations concerning other jobs held by employees.

**To be addressed at the next Policy Committee meeting will be:**

- #4138 Non-School Employment
- #5141.21 Administration of Student Medications in Schools
- #5131.6 Drug and Alcohol Use by Students
- #4131 Staff Development
- #4118.234 Personnel - Psychotropic Drug Use
- #5141.23 Students - Psychotropic Drug Use

The next Policy Committee meetings will be scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, 2014, at 8:00 A.M. in the Board Room of the Dr. Alfred B. Tychsen Administration Building.

kfb