MIDDLETOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE
Minutes
Tuesday, March 3, 2015
Dr. Alfred B. Tychsen Administration Building
8:00 A.M.

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

The following policies and bylaws were discussed.

Dr. Charles stated she had been approached by Elisha De Jesus, Director of Athletics/Student Activities, concerning a proposed new cycling club as an extra-curricular activity at Middletown High School. Dr. Charles stated in full disclosure that her son is promoting cycling clubs in high schools across Connecticut.

The cycling club must have the official support of the Middletown Board of Education. It is expensive trying to get a club going and clubs must be self-sufficient. The question arose if a sponsor can advertise on the cycling jerseys. After review of the policy, it appears that the Superintendent can recommend and the Board may approve limited advertising. Dr. Charles will ask Elisha De Jesus, Athletic Director, to bring a mockup of the cycling shirt to the next Board Meeting to share with the Board members. Sheila Daniels suggested Dr. Charles ask Elisha if other districts have cycling clubs and did they have any issues with advertising on the jersey, and to request sample policies if they had policy that addressed this issue.

Numerous policies were reviewed concerning this situation, including:

#1313 – Gifts to School Personnel
#1324 – Soliciting of funds and Gifts, Grants and Bequests
#1325 – Advertising & Promotion

The above matter will be brought to the Board at its next meeting.

#3313 – Relations with Vendors – This policy addresses Relations with Vendors, Conflicts of Interest and Endorsements, and Affirmative Action. This policy had not been updated since June 22, 2004, and pertains to a situation that has arisen concerning purchasing of miscellaneous items from individuals. This policy was reviewed against numerous CABE policies, and the Committee decided to keep the first paragraph from our present policy and then incorporate the rest of a CABE policy, which states a purchase must follow the formal purchasing procedures. Dr. Charles asked Kathy to contact CABE to verify the legal reference is up-to-date.
The Committee discussed the matter and recommended this revised policy be brought forward to the Board at its next meeting for its first reading.

#5145.12 – Search and Seizure – Dr. Charles stated the Middletown Police Department now has exceptional drug sniffing dogs and offered its services to our District. She requests we have a policy addressing this subject in place, before any action is taken on the Police Department offer. As our current policy was adopted on June 7, 2005, it was decided we should update the entire policy. The Committee review numerous CABE policies and regulations and decided to have the subject of Use of Dogs to Search School Property combined into the Search and Seizure policy instead of having two separate policies. It was noted that the dogs are not allowed to sniff within close proximity of any students. Also added to the policy is the use of alcohol detection devices. The language in the policy will read: “Use of drug-detection dogs, alcohol detection devices and metal detectors, or similar detective devices may be used only on the express verbal and written authorization of the Superintendent.”

A regulation and the forms for this policy will be reviewed by Dr. Charles against the CABE policies and regulations and will be ready for posting when this policy is adopted.

The Committee discussed the matter and recommended this revised policy be brought forward to the Board at its next meeting for its first reading.

There was not enough time to review the following policy:

#4131 – Staff Development

The policies to be addressed at the next Policy Committee meeting will be determined at a later date.

The next Policy Committee meetings will be scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2015, at 8:00 A.M. in the Board Room of the Dr. Alfred B. Tychsen Administration Building.

/kfb