MIDDLETOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE
Minutes
Tuesday, May 19, 2015
Dr. Alfred B. Tychsen Administration Building
7:30 A.M.

Board of Education Policy Committee Members Present:

Sheila Daniels, Chair and Ava Hart

Also Present:

Dr. Patricia Charles, Superintendent, Ann Perzan, Director of Pupil Services, Pat Krin, Nurse Consultant, and Kathleen F. Bengtson, Administrative Assistant

The following policies and bylaws were discussed.

#5141.4 – Reporting of Child Abuse/Neglect – Pat Krin, our nurse consultant, reviewed the policy, regulation and check list, along with the new state regulations and presented a revised policy stating she preferred this shortened version of the policy, thereby leaving the administration details to be placed in the regulations. There have been many legislative changes over the last few years and she expects that to continue in the future. With the shortened version of the policy, only the regulations will need to be changed when administration procedures are enacted. The Committee reviewed her proposed policy, regulation and checklist. Pat Krin explained that she inserted provisions in this policy to address adults with intellectual disability.

The Committee discussed the matter and recommended this revised policy be brought forward to the Board at its next meeting for its first reading. The regulation and checklist, will also be given to the Board for informational purposes only.

#5145.511 – Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program

Recently CABE sent us a new policy concerning the newly mandated law P.A.14-196 An Act Concerning a State-Wide Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness Program commonly known as Erin’s Law. This Public Act requires, by July 1, 2015, the Department of Children and Families, together with the Department of Education and Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc., or a similar organization, to identify or develop a statewide sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program for use by local boards of education. The school boards must implement the program by October 1, 2015. Kathy said the State has not yet determined what the curriculum will be for this program. Dr. Charles stated we should have a policy in place which will state the mandated law. After we have received the recommended curriculum from the State, a regulation will be prepared.

Pat Krin distributed the policy Woodstock Academy had recently adopted to address this issue.
The Committee compared it to the recommended CABE policy and found the wording to be quite similar. A few changes were also made to include intellectually disabled adults in the policy.

**The Committee discussed this new policy and recommended it be brought forward to the Board at its next meeting for its first and final reading as it is a mandated policy.**

**#5145.12 – Search and Seizure** – This policy was referred back to the Policy Committee for a second time at the last Board of Education meeting. The Board requested the policy be edited to include language that, “Board approval be required prior to a search being conducted at any of our schools. Dr. Nocera said that way the Board could hold a Special meeting to authorize the search of particular school when there is a suspicion.”

The Policy Committee discussed the matter. Considering the concern among some Board members, a prominent member of the school community and the lack of vetting from the Juvenile Justice Review Board and other committees around juvenile issues, the Policy Committee recommended tabling this proposed policy. They asked Superintendent Charles to bring this to the J.J. Board and any other pertinent groups for their review and at a future meeting the committee will revisit this policy.

**The Policy Committee decided to table this policy until it receives more research and data.**

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

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 2015, at 8:00 A.M. in the Board Room of the Dr. Alfred B. Tychsen Administration Building.

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