MIDDLETOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE
Minutes
Tuesday, January 19, 2016
Location – Middletown High School
7:45 A.M.

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

Also Present:
Dr. Patricia Charles, Superintendent, Dr. Enza Macri, Associate Superintendent, Colleen Weiner, Principal of MHS, Mike Skott, Director of Technology, and Kathleen F. Bengtson, Administrative Assistant

The following policies and bylaws were discussed.

#0200 – Goals for Student Accomplishment—Sheila Daniels had questioned the goals we have in our policy and whether they were consistent with our present mission statement.

Dr. Charles questioned whether Policy #0200 –Goals for Student Accomplishment and #0000 Mission/Philosophy were mandatory.

Kathy Bengtson will research this and these policies will be brought forward at the next Policy Committee Meeting. If one is mandatory, she will incorporate the information from our mission tree to the policy and the Committee will revisit the policy at a future meeting.

#5145.14 – On-Campus Recruitment – The Policy Committee reviewed our present policy with the recommended policies from CABE. After careful consideration, it was decided to replace our policy with CABE’s second recommended policy.

Colleen Weiner requested we add to our present emergency card the disclosure requirement of this policy, “notify parents of secondary school students of their right to object to the disclosure of the student’s name, address and telephone number to military recruiters or to an institution of higher education.”

Dr. Charles requested we add the Form #5145.14 for Parents/Guardians to sign if they do not want their child’s name released. She also questioned whether we wanted to have a regulation regarding this policy. Colleen Weiner felt it was not necessary.

The Committee discussed the matter and recommended this revised/replacement policy be brought forward to the Board at its next meeting for its first reading.
#6146 – Graduation Requirements – Colleen had requested this policy be brought forward because there have been legal changes. She said some of the math classes will be taken off the table. She provided a chart delineating the changes (25 total credits) for the Class of 2021.

Fine arts will include photography, drawing, and painting. Pat asked is it will require another teacher, Colleen Weiner didn’t think so.

Question on life skills elective: Colleen said she can’t see it preventing student from taking 4 years of band, or orchestra. This does tighten some things up for students. If a student is not motivated, he/she might not see the reason why they should stay in the program if it doesn’t count for graduation.

Sheila struggled with students taking Algebra 2, asking if we are we setting kids up for failure.

Dr. Charles asked Colleen how she feels if kids go to Middlesex in the summer or attend a different institution of higher learning. Colleen said she had no problem with that. This statement will be added to the policy: “The Board of Education may grant students high school credit for successful completion of coursework earned from an accredited institution of higher learning taken either during the school year or summer months.”

For the 2021 graduating class, the STEM classes will need to be considered. There will be different programs. We will need to make sure there is enough access for everyone. Will they allow a STEM class to count as a math class? The student will need 8 STEM classes (4 math, 3 science & 1 elective STEM)

We have to include in our policy what the law states. Need to itemize and reflect on the revised policy the new credit requirements for the class of 2021.

Dr. Macri felt the Spanish class needs to be more rigorous at the middle school level. Sheila noted students are not fully immersed in Middle School like they are at MHS.

Students are required to take classes for wellness. Colleen Weiner said if student is medically unable, their 504 will take effect.

Colleen Weiner will create the regulations. She will included the following statement, “A student shall be excused from the physical education requirement upon presentation of a certificate from a physician or advanced practice registered nurse indicating that participation in physical education is medically contraindicated because of the student’s physical condition. The credit for physical education may be fulfilled by an elective.”

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

Upon review, after the Policy Committee meeting, Colleen Weiner requested the policy be pulled for further discussion and possible revising at the committee level. This item will be added to the February Policy Committee agenda.
#9321 – Time, Place and Notification of Meetings – Electronic participation – Sheila Daniels had requested this bylaw be added to the agenda in case any Board Members wanted to discuss the policy in light of it being tabled at the recent Board meeting. Since she was the only board member attending, no discussion ensued.

This bylaw was tabled at the last Board Meeting and will again be brought forward to the Board at its next meeting for its first reading.

School based health policy - There were questions concerning the new FLASH curriculum for health. Dr. Macri stated this matter will be addressed at the Curriculum Committee Meeting which follows this meeting at 9:45 a.m.

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled tentatively for Tuesday, February 23, 2016, at 8:00 A.M. in the Board Room of the Dr. Alfred B. Tychsen Administration Building.

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