Board of Education Policy Committee Members Present:

Sheila Daniels, Chair; Christopher Drake

Also Present:

Dr. Patricia Charles, Superintendent, and Meg Susi, Community Member.

The following policies and bylaws were discussed.

#5131.91 – Hazing – This policy was again reviewed by the Committee. At the last meeting, the Committee decided it wanted a more detailed description of hazing and to incorporate the hazing part into our bullying policy, which would allow the deletion of the Hazing policy. Kathy gave Dr. Charles the wording on hazing which was found in the Athletic section of the Middletown High Student handbook. See below for more information.

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

#5131.911 – Bullying – At the last meeting, the Committee decided to incorporate the hazing wording into the bullying policy. Kathy had check with CABE and they said there had been no changes to the bullying policy since 2014. Our latest bullying policy was revised on September 9, 2014, so we just need to insert the agreed upon hazing terminology. Kathy had provided the policy with numerous selections for wording. After reviewing the selections, the Committee decided to put the Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 53-23a hazing definitions at the beginning of the bullying policy.

On the second page of the policy the word “hazing” is inserted as follows:

“Students who engage in hazing or bullying behavior or teen dating violence shall be subject to school discipline, up to and including expulsion, in accordance with the Board's policies on student discipline, suspension and expulsion, and consistent with state and federal law.”

The Committee also made minor change to the final paragraph as follows:

“By September 1, 2014, The Middletown Board of Education shall submit its has a Safe School Climate Plan to the Department of Education for review and approval. Not later than
thirty (30) calendar days after approval by the Department, the Board shall make such plan which is available on the Board's and each individual school in the school district's web site. and ensure that The Safe School Climate Plan is included in the school district's publication of the rules, procedures and standards of conduct for schools and in all student handbooks.”

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

#0000 – Mission/Philosophy & #0200 – Goals for Student Accomplishment

– The Policy Committee discussed these policies, and then tabled them because the Board of Education was meeting that evening to discuss this subject and the Committee felt they would address it after the BOE’s feelings were know.

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2016.

/sd