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

Also Present:
Dr. Patricia Charles, Superintendent; Meg Susi, Appointed Policy Community Member; Mary Emerling, Nurse Supervisor; David Mensher, Food & Nutrition Manager; Monica Belyea, Middlesex Hospital Program Planner; Mariah Chadukiewicz, Food Corps Service Member; and Kathleen Bengtson, Administrative Assistant,

The following policies and bylaws were discussed.

#6142.101 – Student Nutrition and Physical Activity (School Wellness Policy) --  This is a mandated policy, which reflects legislative changes. The Wellness Committee has reviewed this CABE policy and has brought forward its proposed changes.

Under the goals for Physical Activity, the Wellness Committee recommended the following be added to the policy:

- **Recess and other physical activity breaks; before and after school activities, and walking and bicycling to schools, where safe to do so, are encouraged and supported by the Board.**
  - **Schools will work toward providing sixty minutes of physical activity daily for students (as a best practice).**

The definition of Competitive foods and healthy snacks was discussed.

Dr. Charles stated this would change the food budget, when they enforce the healthy choices. Monica Belyea said she had seen dramatic changes when the healthy choices are enforced. Dr. Charles stated that snacks are a significant source of revenue for the Food Services budget, especially at the High School; and she questioned whether the Board would be acceptable to this change.

Christopher Drake commented the community rated schools (Macdonough & Farm Hill) are different than the other schools. Dr. Charles stated the category of these schools might change next year, depending on the demographic data.

Mary Emerling stated we need more parent education on the healthy choices available.
It was suggested a committee be established to revamp our snack choices and to make every effort to eliminate unhealthy snacks.

Mariah Chadukiewicz noted each school should have its own Wellness Committee and that Committee should include a PTA member.

Dave Mensher mentioned the two big yogurt machines at the High School, that are not being utilized. He suggested we try to use them and will research what healthy products we can disburse with these machines.

Dr. Charles suggested this policy should come back to the Policy Committee every year for review.

The following will be added to the policy under Nutrition Guidelines for Foods Sold in Schools:

**Competitive foods* or beverages shall be vetted through the Wellness Committee before sale to students.**

*“A competitive food” is defined by 7 CFR 210.11 and 220.12 as any food item that is sold in competition to the reimbursable school meal.*

Under the Marketing section of the policy the following will be added:

**Look-a-like snacks should not be sold during the school day.**

And under the Non-sold Foods Beverages section, the following changes have been proposed.

**Foods and beverages should not be brought to school by students or other persons for sharing among the class for birthdays, celebrations or other class events. Non-food recommendations can be found in the Appendix.**

Mary Emerling stated this is an important change to our policy. Presently, the school nurses must review all labels of foods brought into the building to make sure nothing will affect the students.

Discussion around the recommended changes and their impact on current practices in the district. While the initial response might cause a rise and concern around foods and funds, this is a mind set shift and it was noted celebrations and fundraising can be successful in the confines of the new recommendations.

Discussion around this policy being brought to the BOE as a first and final reading, since it is mandated policy update. Sheila Daniels stated that is the usual protocol, but because of the impact, it could be brought forth with two readings. This would allow not only the Board time to review, but those impacted as well, along with the public. She did note that she sent an email to the co-chairs of the Wellness Committee, inviting them and any other party impacted by the proposed policy changes to attend this meeting. Christopher Drake agreed and asked that this policy go forward as a first reading and not a first and final reading, because he wanted the Board and community to have time to review it.

**The Committee recommended it be brought forward at its next meeting for its first reading.**
There was not enough time to address the following policies, they will be reviewed at the next Policy Committee Meeting.

#3524.43 – Food Service – Charging Policy

#6112 – School Day

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2017.

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