The following policies and bylaws were discussed.

#6142.101 – Student Nutrition and Physical Activity (Wellness) - Most of the attendees at this meeting came to offer their suggestions for this policy.

The first page #6142.101 (a) Those present found no issues or concerns around topic on this page.

Second page #6142.101 (b) – Goals for Physical Activity - Administrators had a concern regard the new wording:
Schools will work toward providing sixty minutes of physical activity daily for students (as a best practice).

Administrators were reassured this wording did not mandate 60 minutes of daily activity, but encouraged it and raised the awareness for this recommended time for daily physical activity. After much discussion, the following wording was accepted:

Schools will work toward intergrading physical activity daily for students (60 minutes as a best practice)

While discussing the practice of snacks being sold during the lunch period, it was suggested that lunches be more appealing so students would be more likely to consume them and less likely to buy snacks to fill up. Sheila asked elementary principals if they were eliminating snacks at all. Some are not allowing the sake of snacks, while others are limiting the number of days they offer snack sales. Elementary principal and WWMS principal all agreed they’d support the elimination of snack sales during the lunch waves. It was further decided that snacks would continue to be sold during lunch waves at MHS. Administrators and those present decided on the following changes to this section of the policy:

Competitive foods* or beverages shall be vetted through the Wellness Committee before sale to students at the secondary Middletown High School. Competitive foods will not be sold during the school day at the elementary schools.

Look alike snacks were discussed and the following with be in the policy:

Look-a-like snacks should not be sold during the school day. A look-a-like snack is one that meets the Smart Snack standards in the school setting, but when purchased elsewhere, such as at a grocery store, fails to meet the USDA “Smart Snacks in School” nutrition standards.

The next item of concern to the Administrators was whether foods and beverages could be brought into school for sharing.

Mary Emerling noted nurses have concerns around the responsibility of vetting foods for children with allergies. She questioned who would vet the food? It was noted that teachers are given a list of children's allergies in their classes. A lengthy discussion around bringing foods into school, who could do so, if we wanted to allow some exceptions or not took place. Chris Sugar stated that Connecticut is weaving its way to eliminate the bringing of any food into school outside of cafeteria. Further discussion included the noting that this piece of the policy is not state mandated and could be removed, altered or dropped from the policy and revisited at a later date after the policy went through without this content.

Meg Susi said since it is not a requirement, we eliminate this part of the policy and bring it forth to the Board for its approval.

Sheila said Wellness Committee recommended this to help change the climate around celebrations, especially birthdays. She also noted she wanted the policy to go before the Board in tact with no plan to revisit it at a later date.
Richard said he thought we should do more information education on what this is doing in the sense of obesity, diabetes, etc. -- make it a positive approach as oppose to negative.

This is the wording proposed at the current time:

**Non-sold Foods and Beverages**

Non-sold foods and beverages brought into the schools by students and other persons for such events as birthdays and classroom celebrations shall comply with federal nutrition standards. (Note: This is a recommendation, not a requirement.)

Foods and beverages should not be brought to school by students or other persons non-school personnel for sharing among the class for birthdays, celebrations or other class events except foods intended to support curriculum and instruction. Non-food recommendations can be found in Appendix.

Additionally, food should never be used to reward children for behavior, even fruits and vegetables. It leads to unhealthy food habits. Food should also not be denied to children as a form of punishment.

NOTE: Dr. Charles wants a new letter from the Wellness Committee to give to the parents for the annual notification.

In an effort to bring forth to the Board on June 27th, Dr. Charles will send edited policy to administrators for their review and suggest a second meeting so the policy will be agreed upon and sent forward fir it's final meeting.

The Policy was reviewed and the Committee recommended it be reworked and brought back to the next Policy Committee meeting on June 22, 2017. NOTE: This must be ready for its second reading at the BOE meeting on June 27, 2017.

#5113 – **Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal.** Cabe sent legislative changes to policy which must go into effect on or before 8/15/17. (CABE Packet 11/11/16 Section D.) Donna Marino spoke to this policy. Our current policy was revised on April 21, 2015. There is new legislature PA 16-147.

CABE recommends we delete the following:

The required mailed notice shall include a warning that two unexcused absences from school in one month or five unexcused absences in a school year may result in a complaint filed with the Superior Court alleging the belief that the acts or omissions of the child are such that the child's family is a family with service needs. – (effective 8/15/17)

The Committee also recommended we highlight the Excuses B. 1. Student illness (must be verified by a licensed medical professional to be deemed excused, regardless of the length of the
absence. (**Tenth absence and all absences thereafter**), which will help to make it more prominent.

**The Policy was reviewed and the Committee recommended this revised policy be brought forward at the next BOE meeting for its first and final reading.**

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**#5113.2 – Truancy** - Our current policy is dated June 28, 2016. As with the above policy, there have been legislative changes to this policy which must be in effect as of 8/15/17 (Packet 11/11/16 Section D.)

State wants to clarify who will be giving instruction for the in school suspensions. Must be by a certified teacher. This statement concerns the suspension policy that we are holding off addressing, because Attorney Littlefield said there would be new legislative changes in the near future.

Brooke Carta spoke on concerns that we need to be coding suspensions that are considered absences. And any in-school suspension is more than a half should be considered as an absence.

Tom Termine spoke of his concerns on a child being promoted to the next grade when he/she may have more than 50 or so absences. Dr. Charles stated you cannot punish the child for the parent’s decisions. If the child can pass the tests for the next grade, he/she will be promoted.

On Policy #5113.2 under remediation of Truancy, the following changes will be made:

4. Make a reasonable effort to notify parents or other persons having control of the child, **enrolled in grades one through eight, inclusive**, when a child does not arrive at school and there has been no previous approval or other indication which indicates parents are aware of the absence. *(Note: Persons who in good faith give or fail to give notice pursuant to this section shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, which might otherwise be incurred or imposed and shall have immunity with respect to any judicial proceeding which results from such notice or failure to give notice.)*

   The required mailed notice shall include a warning that two unexcused absences from school in one month or five unexcused absences in a school year may result in a complaint filed with the Superior Court alleging the belief that the acts or omissions of the child are such that the child’s family is a family with service needs. *(effective 8/15/17)*

7. *(b)* a requirement to complete a summer school program successfully before being promoted to the next grade. This is because we only have summer school available to high school students, not middle and elementary.

8. File a written complaint with the Superior Court, not later than fifteen calendar days after the failure of a parent/guardian to attend the meeting (item #7) or upon the failure to cooperate with the school attempting to solve the truancy problem, alleging that the acts
or omissions of a child identified as “truant” are such that the student’s family is a “family with service needs”, if the parent or other person having control of the child fails to attend the required meeting with appropriate school personnel to evaluate why the child is truant or fails to cooperate with the school in trying to solve the child’s truancy problem. (effective 8/15/17)

After #11. The following will be inserted:

The Board, on or before 8/15/18, shall implement a truancy intervention model identified by the Connecticut State Department of Education (SDE) for any school within the District that has a disproportionately high rate of truancy, as identified by the Commissioner of Education. Parents or other persons having control of each child shall be notified of such truancy model. (Note: The SDE is required to identify these effective truancy intervention models by 8/15/17.)

Note: The legal references will be updated.

NOTE: Kathy will format the proposed regulation for Policy #5113.2 and then send to Dr. Charles, Donna Marino, Colleen Weiner, Michelle Gohagon for their review in a meeting in July, 2017. This regulation MUST be in placed by August 15, 2017.

NOTE: The annual notification truancy letter should be updated.

The Policy was reviewed and the Committee recommended this revised policy be brought forward at the next BOE meeting for its first and final reading.

The following policies were not discussed because of time constraints or forwarding to be reworked. They will be addressed at the next policy committee meeting:

#4118.111 -- Grievance Procedure Title IX
#5145.5 -- Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment
#5145.6 -- Student Grievance Procedures (Title IX)
#6121 - Nondiscrimination in the Instructional Program. – Mandated – Readopt
#6142.101 – Student Nutrition and Physical Activity (Wellness)
#6153 – Field Trips

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2017.
/kfb