Board of Education Policy Committee Members Present:

Cheryl A. P. McClellan, Chair

Also Present:

Michele DiMauro, Manager of Human Resources
Jennifer Cannata, Principal Snow School
Jeff Fournier, Bielefield Principal
Kathleen Bengtson, Administrative Assistant
Meg Susi, Community Member
Sheila Daniels, Community Member
Christopher Sugar, Community Member
Mary Emerling, School Health Supervisor

The question came up about the quorum not being met, as Edward Ford, Jr. was not able to attend this meeting. Kathy called Vincent at CABE and he stated as long as Michele DiMauro was duly appointed to the Policy Committee as the Superintendent's Central Office Cabinet Representative, that would allow the quorum to be met.

The following policies and bylaws were reviewed:

Nondiscrimination Policies -- Kathy brought forward to the Committee that CABE had recently sent out notification that PA 17-127 an Act Concerning Discriminatory Practices against Veterans, Leaves of absence for National Guard Members, Application for certain Medicaid programs and disclosure of certain records to Federal Military Law Enforcement had been recently passed and a number of our policies, regulations and forms required updating with the insertion of the words “status as a Veteran” in the list of nondiscrimination areas, along with the legal reference inclusion of PA 17-127. Michele DiMauro, Cheryl McClellan, and Christopher Sugar discussed this and stated it is very important that our policies contain this wording. The following policies requiring this change are:

#0521 – Equal Opportunity – Non-Discrimination – POLICY
#1001 – Nondiscrimination-Community -- POLICY
#4118.11 – Nondiscrimination – POLICY

The Policy Committee recommended Policies #0521, #1001, & #4118.11 be brought forward to the next BOE meeting for their first and final reading.
#5141.25 – Students with Special Health Care Needs – POLICY – Our current policy is dated June 20, 2006. Mary Emerling addressed this policy and stated she had met with Amy Clarke, Director of Pupil Services, and Janet Calabro, Food & Nutrition Manager, and they agreed the only suggested change to this policy would be to change the word “life threatening” to “disabling.” Janet Calabro emailed to Mary Emerling the following:

“I found a summary that states "reasonable modification for disability"; it specifies does NOT need to be life-threatening. Here is the clause from the CSDE website:

The USDA regulations require reasonable accommodations for children whose disability restricts their diet, based on a written medical statement signed by a recognized medical authority. Under the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Amendment Act of 2008, most physical and mental impairments will constitute a disability. This includes conditions that impair immune, digestive, neurological, and bowel functions, as well as many others. A physical or mental impairment does not need to be life threatening to constitute a disability. It is sufficient that it limits a major life activity.”

The Policy #5141.25 Students with Special Health Care Needs was reviewed and revised and the Policy Committee recommended it be brought forward to the next BOE meeting for its first reading.

#5141.3 - Health Assessments and Immunizations – POLICY –Our current policy is dated September 11, 2012. Mary Emerling reviewed this policy with Amy Clarke. Mary presented the proposed changes to the Committee.

Mary Emerling stated the parents must now submit a notarized form, for the Religious Exemption Statement. Originally the form authorized the nurse to sign the form, but they did not feel comfortable doing this and Dr. Patricia Charles agreed that they could be taken off the form.

Amy Clarke and Mary Emerling felt there should be more information about the Religious Exemption concerning immunizations and the following proposed changes were recommended:

Or, parents wanting their children excused from immunizations on religious grounds (prior to enrollment in Middletown Schools, pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and grades seven and ten) must request such exemption in writing to the Superintendent of Schools if such immunization is contrary to the religious belief of the child or of the parent/guardian of the child. The request must be officially acknowledged by a notary public or a judge, a clerk or deputy clerk of a court having a seal, family support magistrate, a town clerk, a justice of the peace, or a Connecticut-licensed attorney.

The Superintendent of Schools shall give written notice to the parent/guardian of each student who is found to have any defect of vision of the eyes, with a brief statement describing such
defect or disease and a recommendation that the student be examined by an appropriately licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist.

The Policy #5141.3 – Health Assessments and Immunizations was reviewed and revised and the Policy Committee recommended it be brought forward to the next BOE meeting for its first reading.

#9000 Series Bylaws – At the last policy committee meeting, it was decided to review each series. Cheryl and Kathy meet last week to discuss the procedures for the review of the #9000 Series. Kathy created a spreadsheet listing all of the Series #9000 bylaws and included their present adoption date, and her initial recommendation after comparing with the CABE website. At the Policy committee meeting it was decided she should share this spreadsheet, along with the CABE and our present policies, so the committee could review them and bring them forward at the next meeting with their suggestions and comments.

#9222 – Resignation/Removal from Office – BYLAW – The Committee looked at the CABE Bylaw and decided to insert the paragraph concerning censure into our present policy.

The Committee will review this bylaw further at the next meeting.

Mary Emerling requested we add for review at the next meeting Policy #5125.11 Health and Medical Records which is a required policy.

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, 2017 at 8:30 A.M. /kfb