

**MIDDLETOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

In Person Meeting 5:30 P.M.

Board of Education Policy Committee Members participating:

Deb Kleckowski, Policy Committee Chair

Harold Panciera, Board Member

Stacy Porch, Parent

Also participation:

Dr. Alberto Vasquez Matos, Superintendent

Marco Gaylord, Executive Director of Operations

Elba Llantín-Cruz, DEIB Director

Jill Power, Operations Administrative Secretary

The Meeting was called to order by Deb Kleckowski at 5:34P.M.

1. Introductions

2. Policy #0301 Equity Policy

Deb stated that this policy was brought forth because of a letter that was sent to the Board from FIRE. FIRE is an organization that is threatening lawsuits with districts if they do not update or have certain policies. The Board is reviewing policy 0301 for that reason. This policy is not mandatory but the Board would like to review it for consideration of discussion so no lawsuit is filed. Dr. Vazquez Matos has sent a letter to FIRE stating we are in the process of updating the policy so they hopefully won't push back. Elba Llantín-Cruz stated that we will be removing the term Disruptive Equity Framework to SOP (Strategic Operating Plan). We are changing this because we use the SOP terminology not the other terms. Dr. V stated that we are going to remove paragraph 3 and the committee approved. Harold asked the question of are we doing anything now in our district for staff to know about this policy. Dr V. stated that in our Vector mandatory training for all staff members that one of the trainings is to read and state that you read this policy. Deb brought up to the committee that somewhere in the policy it should state who to go to for students and staff when they need to discuss something with someone they will know who to contact. Dr V. and the committee agreed. Elba discussed that we will be adding, The Middletown Public Schools (the "District") is committed, to using the Strategic Operating Plan (SOP) within the District. The SOP is designed to create learning communities that provide support and academic programs for every student by addressing and eliminating barriers to equity and inclusion that hinder the academic achievement, social emotional development, and physical well-being of a marginalized students (e.g., culturally, racially, & linguistically diverse students, students receiving special education services, students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, and other marginalized identities), in replacement of the second paragraph. The committee agreed. A motion was brought forth to move this policy to its first and final reading at the next Board meeting on June 17th, 2025 with the changes. That motion was second.

3. Policy #5131.911 School Climate

Dr. Vazquez Matos explained that this is a statute mandated by the State. All districts are having to comply and have this school climate policy. The changes are that this policy states we have to have designated people from the district, and schools to be in charge of a climate committee and there is some wording changing. We are going to exchange this policy for the bullying policy we currently have. Dr. Vazquez Matos stated we will adopt the Connecticut school climate policy as our district policy with wording that fits our district. This policy needs to be implemented by July 1st. Dr. Vazquez Matos also stated that this policy goes in depth about restorative practices in the school. Dr. Vazquez Matos stated that we will be using restorative practices but that does not replace discipline. After discussion the committee motioned to move this policy for its first and final reading at the June 17th Board meeting. The committee second the motion.

4. Policy #3320 Purchasing Procedures

Dr. Vazquez Matos explained that this is a statute mandated by the State. Non-federal entities are now prohibited from contracting parties that are suspended or debarred. There will be a cover letter that goes out with suspension and debarment to follow through with the suspension. “Compliance Requirements - Suspension and Debarment Non-federal entities are prohibited from contracting with or making subawards under covered transactions to parties that are suspended or debarred. “Covered transactions” include contracts for goods and services awarded under a non-procurement transaction (e.g., grant or cooperative agreement) that are expected to equal or exceed \$25,000 or meet certain other criteria as specified in 2 CFR section 180.220. All non-procurement transactions entered into by a passthrough entity (i.e., subawards to subrecipients), irrespective of award amount, are considered covered transactions, unless they are exempt as provided in 2 CFR section 180.215. When a non-federal entity enters into a covered transaction with an entity at a lower tier, the non-federal entity must verify that the entity, as defined in 2 CFR section 180.995 and agency adopting regulations, is not suspended or debarred or otherwise excluded from participating in the transaction. This verification may be accomplished by (1) checking the System for Award Management (SAM). Exclusions maintained by the General Services Administration (GSA) and available at [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) (click on Search Record, then click on Advance Search-Exclusions) (Note: The OMB guidance at 2 CFR Part 180 and agency implementing regulations still refer to the SAM Exclusions as the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS)), (2) collecting a certification from the entity, or (3) adding a clause or condition to the covered transaction with that entity (2 CFR section 180.300). Non-Federal entities receiving contracts from the federal government are required to comply with the contract clause at FAR 52.209-6 before entering into a subcontract that will exceed \$30,000, other than a subcontract for a commercially available off-the-shelf item”, we be added under PROCUREMENT OF PROPERTY AND SERVICES UNDER A FEDERAL AWARD. After discussion the board motioned to move this policy for its first and final reading at the June 17th Board meeting with the additional paragraph. The committee second the motion.

5. Policy #6146.1 Weighted Grading and Calculation of Grade Point Averages

Dr. Vazquez Matos stated that after the passing of Dr. Stacey McCann, a committee has been formed to continue the discussion of grading and all its policies. A meeting will be held in the upcoming days to hash out weighted grading, grading, and the homework policy. Dr. Vazquez Matos will give an update on these policies at the next policy committee meeting after the committee meets. A motion was moved to keep discussing this policy at the next policy meeting. The motion was seconded and all in favor.

6. Policy #5121 Examination/Grading/Rating/Extra Credit

Dr. Vazquez Matos stated that after the passing of Dr. Stacey McCann, a committee has been formed to continue the discussion of grading and all its policies. A meeting will be held in the upcoming days to hash out weighted grading, grading, and the homework policy. Dr. Vazquez Matos will give an update on these policies at the next policy committee meeting after the committee meets. A motion was moved to keep discussing this policy at the next policy meeting. The motion was seconded and all in favor.

7. Policy #6146.11 Grading/Changing Grade

Dr. Vazquez Matos stated that after the passing of Dr. Stacey McCann, a committee has been formed to continue the discussion of grading and all its policies. A meeting will be held in the upcoming days to hash out weighted grading, grading, and the homework policy. Dr. Vazquez Matos will give an update on these policies at the next policy committee meeting after the committee meets. A motion was moved to keep discussing this policy at the next policy meeting. The motion was seconded and all in favor.

8. Policy #6154 Homework

Dr. Vazquez Matos stated that after the passing of Dr. Stacey McCann, a committee has been formed to continue the discussion of grading and all its policies. A meeting will be held in the upcoming days to hash out weighted grading, grading, and the homework policy. Dr. Vazquez Matos will give an update on these policies at the next policy committee meeting after the committee meets. A motion was moved to keep discussing this policy at the next policy meeting. The motion was seconded and all in favor.

9. Policy #4010 Hiring of Certified Staff - Continued Discussion

A motion was moved to keep discussing this policy at the next policy meeting. The motion was seconded and all in favor.

10. Policy #5112 Student Attendance, Truancy, and Chronic Absenteeism - Discussion

A motion was moved to keep discussing this policy at the next policy meeting. The motion was seconded and all in favor.

11. Charter Discussion

Dr. Vazquez Matos discussed that there is an MOU in the contract book for non-certified staff. The common council can only have a say in pension and insurance. The common council does not have to say yes to all non-certified staff that are being hired. The committee understood once Dr. Vazquez Matos explained the charter and MOU.

12. Policy #9316 Length of Board Meeting - Continued Discussion

A motion was moved to keep discussing this policy at the next policy meeting. The motion was seconded and all in favor.

The next policy committee meeting is TBD.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marco Gaylord

Executive Director of Operations