

**MIDDLETOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
POLICY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

In Person Meeting 5:30 P.M.

**Board of Education Policy Committee Members participating:**

Deb Kleckowski, Policy Committee Chair

Liz Crooks, BOE Member

Shelia Daniels, Chair of Board of Education

**Also participation:**

Dr. Alberto Vazquez Matos, Superintendent

Marco Gaylord, Executive Director of Operations

Jennifer Cannata, Assistant Superintendent

Jill Power, Operations Administrative Secretary

**The Meeting was called to order by Deb Kleckowski at 5:36P.M.**

**1. Introductions**

**2. Policy #5145 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**

Marco Gaylord discussed that this policy has just gone through a legal review. Discussion was had about who the ADA coordinator is for students and personnel. Vacianna Spaulding is the contact person for students and Jennifer Cannata is the contact person for personnel. After discussion the Board moved this policy to its first reading at the Board meeting on January 14th, 2024.

**3. Policy #5141.5 Suicide Prevention and Intervention**

Dr. Alberto Vazquez Matos stated that we do have an inside crisis team to assist with students who are feeling suicidal or who make comments as such. Liz Crooks asked if outside personnel would include a mental health professional/doctor. Dr. V mentioned that we will use our inside crisis team to help those students in need and a wellness check will be done if necessary. Sometimes that could be a counselor or the Police Department. If they see fit they then will call 411. Deb questioned the optional language on page 2. After discussion we will be removing the optional language because we do not have a student assistance program. We have a crisis team. Jennifer Cannata also mentioned that all students have the Suicide hotline phone number on their ID badges and staff get QPR training which helps them recognize the signs of suicide. Marco also mentioned that we have Securely which is an online platform that will flag certain words students type into a search bar. So if a student types something suicide related it will get flagged and then the team will research it. After discussion the Board moved this policy to its first reading with removing the optional language on page two at the Board meeting on January 14th, 2024.

**4. Policy #4118.51 Social Media**

Marco discussed that this policy is about Social Media for personnel. Liz Crooks asked if there is somewhere where it states that teachers and staff should not be friends with students on social media. There is a statement in the regulation mentioning this for staff. After discussion the Board moved this policy to its first reading at the Board meeting on January 14th, 2024.

#### **5. Bylaws of the Board Discussion**

A discussion was had about looking and replacing some of the Bylaws that we have currently. Some need to be updated, replaced and if needed, removed. We will start to look at each Bylaw and go through them to fix anything needed. Starting in January we will review these policies.

#### **6. Policy #4152.6 Family and Medical Leave**

This policy was pulled at the December Board meeting because there are going to be some changes to the Connecticut State Law coming in January. The Board did not want to pass through the policy before the changes.

The next policy committee meeting will take place on January 21st, 2024.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Marco Gaylord**

**Executive Director of Operations**