

**MIDDLETOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 6, 2026

In Person Meeting 5:30 P.M.

Board of Education Policy Committee Members participating:

Deb Kleckowski, Policy Committee Chair

Shelia Daniels, Board Member

Harold Panciera, Board Member

Dean Krupa, Board Member

Hakeem Grant, Board Member

Susan Owens, Board Member

Judy Judkins, Community Member

Stacy Porch, Parent

Also participation:

Dr. Alan Addley, Interim Superintendent

Jennifer Cannata, Assistant Superintendent

Colleen Fitzpatrick, Interim Chief Academic Officer

Paul Griswold, Director of Assessment

Randall Mel, Director of Food Nutrition and Wellness Services

Marco Gaylord, Director of Facilities, Safety & Security

Elisha DeJesus, Director of Student Athletics and Activities

Jill Power, Operations Administrative Secretary

The Meeting was called to order by Deb Kleckowski at 5:32 P.M.

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Introductions**
- 3. Minutes to be Accepted - March 2nd 2026**

Minutes were accepted.

- 4. Open Public Comment**
- 5. Close Public Comment**
- 6. Policy #5141.26 Meal Changing**

This policy was brought forth due to USDA and CSDE legal and federal requirements which were recently brought to the district's attention. Randall Mel discussed with the committee that the only change in this policy is to add a date when unpaid meal debt will be paid for. Middletown Public Schools chose June 30th of each fiscal year to be their date. Discussion was also had about how each child gets free lunch and will not be denied a lunch. A motion was made to accept the word changes. All were in favor.

- 7. Sports Physicals Discussion**

Elisha DeJesus was in attendance to explain our Sports Physical policy. Middletown Public Schools policy states that students need to have a physical that goes to the end of their season they are playing for. The physical needs to expire after the season is over. We do this so coaches do not have to worry about students not having an up to date physical during playoff time or during the season. The district is making it so there are no barriers for students to get a physical, they can go to the student based health center to get a physical if needed. The school based health center makes it easy to make an appointment if students and families need too. The CIAC's policy is that the physical is good for 13 months. This was brought to the attention of the policy committee because a parent of the committee is having to get two physicals for her daughter because of when her physical expires. She believes that since the CIAC's policy is 13 months then she should not have to get another physical. There was discussion about how it might be hard for students and families to get another physical after they have already gotten one and that it will be an out of pocket cost for families. Elisha explained that we do this for the safety of the students and that the district will cover the cost for families if needed. Discussion was continued and will continue through the next meetings. A motion was made to continue discussion. All were in favor.

8. Policy #6146.1 Grading Discussion

This policy was brought forth for continued discussions on grading within our schools, now that the district's homework policy has been revised and updated. Colleen Fitzpatrick and Paul Griswold explained to the committee that this policy does follow what our district is doing with grading. It is how we grade students, and that it is simple and serves the right purpose. Paul explained that grading is changing to a universal way of grading which is unweighted. It is in line with the CAP standards. Middletown is already following the unweighted grading, many districts are switching over to it. A discussion was had to make sure the handbook has the improvements it needs for our upper grades. Deb mentioned homework at the college level and that it needs to be more rigorous for students so they are prepared for college. Discussions will continue. A motion was made to continue the discussion. All were in favor.

9. Policy #1250 Visitors and Observations in Schools - continued discussion

This policy was discussed at the last meeting regarding board members wanting to be present in the schools. Last meeting Dr. Addley said he would come back with some comments from the administrators. The feedback he got from administrators was that they welcome the Board into the schools with an appointment with the Superintendent. They also would invite them to events and such happening at the schools but do not want Board members to be just walking around the schools. Board members should not be evaluating anything in the schools while they are there. Hakeem asked if Board members could speak to Administrators after hours. Dr Addley said they would probably let you do that if you made an appointment with them. The Board members want to be able to help the community and be in the schools. Dr Addley states that the Board should trust the administrators and central office staff but are welcome to visit the schools during after school activities and when appointments are made to show positive things happening in the schools. This policy will continue to be discussed. A motion was made to continue discussion. All were in favor.

10. Bylaw #9130 Committees

The committee wanted to look into this policy to have an additional level of scrutiny to better define the line of authority and the formal procedures for committees. Deb believes there should be some change to this policy. She believes there should still be at least three Board Members but should maybe be less formal. She would like to keep the section about "no quorum requirements". Hakeem agreed that the wording of "procedure shall be at the discretion of the committee chairperson" should stay the same.

Discussion was also had about if you are taking a vote then it is formal. Discussion will continue in the next upcoming meetings. A motion was made to continue the discussion. All were in favor.

11. Bylaw #9131 Community Members on Board Committees Discussion

This committee wanted to look into this policy to have an additional level of scrutiny to better define the line of authority and procedures for committees. Harold had comments and questions about the third bullet point. He just wanted clarification on this section and that committees and the board chair are selected every two years not one. He also wanted to know if they can be rejected? Discussion was had about following the election calendar and having a community member on the committees. Many agreed to keep a community member on the committee because they are a big part of the discussions. They would still not get a vote but will be there to offer their ideas and opinions. Discussion will continue on this policy but the committee would like to tighten it up. A motion was made to continue the discussion. All were in favor.

12. Policy #6141.3291 One to One Device Program Discussion

This policy was brought forth by a committee member. Deb discussed how she was reading an article about how a college professor was not using computers anymore in their classes because of AI and cheating going on. By reading this article she wanted to bring forth this policy to the committee. Colleen spoke to the committee about how teachers in all our grades are using pencil and paper just as much as technology these days. Kids are writing and using their penmanship. Committee members were happy to hear that. Discussion was also had that computer and technology is important as well but should not only be used. Colleen also mentioned how not as much homework is being done on the computer. Chromebooks are staying in the schools and not going home at the lower levels. Discussion will continue in the next couple meetings. A motion was made to continue the discussion. All were in favor.

13. Old Business

14. New Business

15. Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marco Gaylord

Director of Facilities, Safety & Security