

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, June 16, 2005

MICHAEL S. PINTO CONFERENCE ROOM

7:00 p.m. – Regular School Committee Meeting

Members Present: Michael F. Crowley, Jr., Chairman

Edward K. Draper

Theresa M. Spengler

William R. Coogan arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Member Absent: Liana F. Fenton, Vice-Chairman

Also Present: Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools Joseph R. Krupowicz, Assistant Superintendent Beth Perrin, Director of Facilities Management

The Regular School Committee Meeting was held in the Michael S. Pinto Conference Room and called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Michael F. Crowley, Jr. Administrative staff members present were Vincent Giuliano and Fran Blaess. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

DESTINY LIBRARY PROGRAM

Mrs. Libby Gill, Teacher Assistant, Middletown High School Library, gave an overview of the Destiny Program. Access to the program is through the Middletown Public Schools webpage. When a topic is entered, a list of books appears, along with an overview, summary and author. Students can check the inventory of other schools and see if a book is available. The book can then be requested and sent to the library of the student's school the next day. In Rhode Island, 47 schools are currently using this program.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Mexican Exchange”

Mr. Dana Ramey, Middletown High School Foreign Language Teacher, shared a presentation on the Mexican exchange Fullbright Program. He thanked the School Committee and Administration for their assistance. Students and families were paired both in Mexico and Middletown. The goals of the program were:

- To increase communication and writing skills.**
- To provide increased technology access. The Middletown students presented the Mexican students with computer hardware.**
- To experience historical and cultural activities.**

While in Middletown, the students visited NUWC and learned about robotics. They also visited Boston and Plymouth, Massachusetts, the Newport Mansions and the State House in Providence. A day trip to New York City was taken.

Mr. Ramey will be returning to Mexico in August to instruct the teachers more about the computer; virus protection, and other technology strategies.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

- **Student Awards:**

- o **Newport Daily News Student of the Week**
- o **Newport Daily News Athlete of the Week**
- o **Providence Journal Scholastic Journalism Competition**
- o **Destination Imagination (1st Place R.I. State Tournament)**

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No Student Activities for June 16, 2005.

INFORMATION

- **Commissioner's Decision regarding kindergarten eligibility**
- **Town Council Member's request and suggestions to review possible reductions and cuts in the budget**

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Alice Young, Parent Volunteer, Junior Post Prom Party, requesting funds to help offset the cost of the Junior Class Post Prom Party at the Newport County YMCA.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Edward Draper. That the School Committee receive the communication and move it to an Action Item. Unanimous vote.

Memo from Gerry Kempen, Town Administrator, regarding IT collaboration.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William Coogan. That the School Committee receive the communication from Gerry Kempen, Town Administrator, relative to IT Collaboration. Unanimous vote.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

- **CURRICULUM – Mr. Krupowicz reported that 20 students received a CIM Awards at a ceremony at Rhode Island College recently. A Mentoring Meeting and Destiny Training were held. Mr. Krupowicz and Mrs. Kraeger have interviewed all Department Heads, Grade**

Leaders and Lead Teachers about their goals for the school year. Everyone has done a tremendous job in preparing for the NEASC visit. All of the exhibits are in great shape. On June 6th, the Chair of the NEASC committee toured Middletown High School. Mr. Mason Hawes said he is very proud of the staff and thanked Mr. Krupowicz. He added that everyone needs to be on the same page at the start of the year and schedules need to be in order.

- **FINANCIAL– Mrs. Kraeger received notice that the House Finance Committee will hear the 2006 budget tomorrow including the Pension Reform efforts. The last Town Budget Meeting will be held on June 29th.**

- **FACILITIES – Ms. Beth Perrin reported that she has provided the School Committee with the summer work list. Overtime has been cut down by the new organization model. The School Committee then thanked Beth for all her hard work and presented her with a token of their appreciation.**

MOTION: 1) Edward Draper, 2) William Coogan. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) William Coogan, 2) Edward Draper. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

- **Approval of Minutes of May 19, 2005 School Committee Meeting**
- **Approval of Minutes of May 19, 2005 Executive Session**
- **Approval of Financial Report, dated May 31, 2005, in the amount of \$25,542,458.91**
- **Approval of Special Grants Register, dated May 18, 2005, in the amount of \$3,400.00**
- **Approval of Special Grants Register, dated May 18, 2005, in the amount of \$27,812.77**
- **Approval of Special Grants Register, dated June 2, 2005, in the amount of \$57,932.14**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 17, 2005, in the amount of \$633,113.40**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 23, 2005, in the amount of \$1,440.51**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 27, 2005, in the amount of \$193,531.12**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 3, 2005, in the amount of \$1,164.81**

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENTS

Holly R. Cousens Lead Teacher, J.F. Kennedy School

Elizabeth D. Hughes Lead Teacher, Forest Avenue School

Debra Petrie Grade Five Leader

Donna Murphy Grade Six Leader

Denise McCarthy Grade Seven Leader

Mary E. Nassaney Grade Eight Leader

Luis M. Oliveira Foreign Language Department Chair

James Ascoli Math Department Chair

Kathleen Barrette Career/Technology Department Head

Brian Buck Science Department Chair

David F. Picard Social Studies Department Chair

Linda Faria Savastano Director of Technology

Laura A. Yentch English Department Chair

Claudia C. Vars Director of Fine Arts

John McDevitt Athletic Director

J.H. GAUDET SCHOOL ADVISORS

Kathleen Sonier Art Club Co-Advisor

Chris Sisson Art Club Co-Advisor

RESIGNATIONS

Courtney A. Hughes Literacy Coach

Beth D. Perrin Director of Facilities Management

M. Jessica Mulvena .8 Business Teacher, Middletown High School

EXTENSION OF MATERNITY LEAVE FOR THE 2005-2006 SCHOOL

YEAR

Deborah Marcellino Literary Development Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

Michelle Fonseca Principal, Aquidneck School

FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

Cris Pickens Teacher Assistant, Middletown High School, for six months beginning August 31, 2005

JOB SHARE

**Ramona Bessinger English Teacher, Middletown High School,
pending finding a certified English Teacher**

Kimberly A. Ceglarski Kindergarten Teacher, Forest Avenue School

Josephine A. Brennan-Corey Grade Three Teacher, Forest Avenue School

CORRECTION

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2005-2006 SCHOOL YEAR

Fran Blaess Grade Two Teacher, Aquidneck School

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business for June 16, 2005.

NEW BUSINESS

- **FOOD, NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY REPORT – Mr. Draper gave the report in Mr. Ponte's absence. Recommendations from the committee are:**
 - o **During school hours, only milk, 100% fruit juice and water be sold.**
 - o **Adopt Chartwells Balance Choice program with the objective to eventually reduce sugar content in snacks to 25%.**
 - o **A Family Nutrition night be held once per year, per school, involving Newport Hospital, Chartwells and possibly the YMCA.**
 - o **Educational materials will be provided district-wide.**
 - o **High School students (through CIM or Community Service) do physical activities with middle school students.**
 - o **Intramural sports be reinstated, if allowed by budget.**
 - o **A daily 30 minute recess district-wide.**
 - o **Increase Physical Education time.**
 - o **Use grant money to hire outside athletes or volunteers to coordinate physical activity periods with students.**
 - o **All school administrators follow Chartwells contract and prohibit all outside food sales during school lunchtimes.**

The Superintendent would like to meet with the Building Principals on

some of these recommendations, bring them to the Policy Subcommittee and then back to the School Committee for approval.

ACTION ITEMS

GREENHOUSE BID

MOTION: 1) Edward Draper, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee award the greenhouse structure bid to Atlas Greenhouse for the cost of \$21,113.09. Unanimous vote.

Ms. Perrin explained that this is just for the greenhouse kit. We still need to go out for a small construction bid. The Town and School Department will collaborate on some of the details.

POLICY REVISIONS

MOTION: 1) William Coogan, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve the revised job descriptions for High School Department Heads and Director of Facilities Management. Unanimous vote.

POLICY ADOPTION

The “Vision, Mission, Beliefs, Parameters, Legal Structures and System of Governance” policy needs to be tabled. Attorney Updegrave would like this postponed to the next meeting to give him

time to review the policy.

Policy history and School Committee annual retreat need to be added to the policy.

MOTION: 1) Michael Crowley, 2) Theresa Spengler. To table this motion. Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) William Coogan, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee adopt the Student Attendance Facilitator job description (1st Reading). Unanimous vote.

IT PLAN

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Edward Draper. The School Committee approve the Information Technology Plan. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Draper asked about an evaluation implementation plan. Mrs. Kraeger said that a rubric would be developed that the Technology Users Group would evaluate twice per year. Mrs. Kraeger thanked Mrs. Linda Savastano and the users group for all their work. The IT Plan will be put on the school website.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mr. Crowley attended an Executive Board Meeting for RIASC Plans regarding workshops on negotiations are being developed by RIASC.

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MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William Coogan. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 8:27 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger

Clerk