

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, November 17, 2005

MICHAEL S. PINTO CONFERENCE ROOM

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

Liana F. Fenton, Vice-Chair

William Coogan

Edward K. Draper

Theresa M. Spengler

Also Present: Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Joseph R. Krupowicz, Assistant Superintendent

Catherine McLeish, Business Manager

Edward Collins, Director of Facilities

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To go into Executive Session 42-46-5 (a) 1, 2,5,8,9 at 5:01 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Crowley announced that a unanimous vote was taken to deny a grievance.

The regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman Michael Crowley. Administrative staff members present were Maureen Cicchitelli, Steven Ruscito, Janet Sheehan, Gail Abromitis and Stephen Ponte. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Grade Seven Standards-Based Report Card”

Mrs. Denise McCarthy, Grade Seven Leader, presented the seventh grade standards-based report card. Learner qualities are listed that indicate if the student is self-directed. An explanation of marking is listed by the numbers 1 through 5. There is a change this year in the Honor Roll recognition. Instead of achieving either “High Honors” or “Honors”, there are three levels of recognition. The categories are: Performance Recognition, for earning a consistent grade of “C”; Academic Recognition, for earning all 3’s or higher in all areas; and, Academic Excellence for earning all 4’s. Teachers met throughout the summer to develop the new report card. A parent handbook was developed and will be distributed to all families.

Two)

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

• **PROCLAMATION** – Senator June Gibbs presented Mrs. Kraeger a citation from the Senate for being named Superintendent of the Year. Senator Gibbs has also received a citation from the Governor to present to Mrs. Kraeger. Representative Bruce Long also presented a citation and noted the achievements and accomplishments of Mrs. Kraeger. Mrs. Kraeger thanked the School Committees, Town Councils that she has worked with, as well as the administrative staff and teachers.

• **AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK** – Mr. Crowley read a proclamation for American Education Week and presented a plaque to each principal. This year's theme is "A Strong America Starts with Great Public Schools".

A short recess was taken.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

There were no "Student Activities" for November 17, 2005.

INFORMATION

A meeting was held with the Parent Leadership Team in October and November. At the November meeting, it was decided to create a parent friendly link off of the school website. The link will provide information to parents and definitions of terminology used. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 5, 2005.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no “Correspondence” for November 17, 2005.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

- CURRICULUM – Mr. Krupowicz discussed AP Exams from 2001-2005. Mr. Crowley said that on the Department of Education website there is a link that lists the number of students taking AP classes in each district.**
- FINANCIAL – The School Committee will vote tonight on the revised budget. The budget reflects the bottom line that the Town Council set for the School Department. Mrs. Kraeger thanked Mrs. McLeish and the budget subcommittee, Mr. Draper and Mrs. Spengler. The School Committee and Town worked cooperatively to reach the numbers. It was difficult to balance the budget this year with the full loss of the Little Compton tuition and State Aid being level funded. Other challenging factors included teacher class changes being higher than**

in the past, more students going to

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the Career Tech Center with the increased tuition and the number of Special Education out-of-district placement. The budget was reviewed line-by-line and areas where the budget was cut were highlighted. Mrs. McLeish said that the fuel and electricity lines have not been increased in the budget. Mr. Draper said that it is important to realize that the town has stepped up and we need to plan ahead for next year.

• FACILITIES – The old greenhouse in the Courtyard will be removed shortly. There are issues with water on the roof at Gaudet School that are currently being addressed. At Forest Avenue School, the topsoil discussion is being addressed with the company developing the Forest Avenue development site. Northeast is purchasing “School” signs for the street in front of both sides of Forest Avenue School. Mr. Collins has put together a comparison of the cost of overtime from last year to this year. The rotating schedule has significantly decreased the overtime line for the department. Mr. Collins will report each month on overtime and provide the background for the needed overtime. To save energy, the schedule for turning the heat on in the morning in each school will be

staggered.

• **HIGH SCHOOL NEW STANDARDS TEST RESULTS** – The Middletown High School has been categorized as “High Performing with Caution” because one category was missed by a very small margin. Mr. Ruscito said that the good news is that Middletown High School as a school-wide group is hitting the 2011 targets that the State has set. There is 100% test participation rate.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. 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 October 20, 2005 School Committee Meeting**
- **Approval of Minutes of October 20, 2005 Executive Session**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated October 18, 2005, in the amount of \$237,702.68**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated October 24, 2005, in the amount of \$2,539.48**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 1, 2005, in the amount of \$724,437.03**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 4, 2005, in the amount**

of \$1,441.12

•Approval of Special Grants Register, dated October 18, 2005, in the amount of \$83,856.43

•Approval of Special Grants Register, dated November 3, 2005, in the amount of \$41,446.69

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SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENTS

**Sharon K. DiScullo .5 Special Education Resource
(Aquidneck School)(One Year Only)**

Allison Srubas .4 Math Teacher, Middletown High School/ALP

APPOINTMENT TO SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tammy L. Nelson

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Samantha Hines English, Middletown High School

From November 3, 2005 to January 23, 2006

MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL ADVISORS FOR 2005-2006

Patrick Aylward Activities Coordinator

Anita DeLima Senior Class Advisor

Kristin Simpson Senior Class Advisor

MaryBeth Murphy Junior Class Advisor

Deanna Smith Junior Class Advisor

Kendra Lanzire Sophomore Class Advisor

Michele Oliveira Sophomore Class Advisor

Lisa Clark Freshman Class Advisor

Philip Statser Freshman Class Advisor

Kellie Sorel Freshman Class Advisor

Stephen Fagan Math League Advisor

Keith Holubesko Debate Team Advisorship

James Ascoli Fall & Spring Dramatic Directorship

Brian Buck Student Council Advisorship

Jean Bomeisl Tempo Directorship

Susanne Suprock Tempo Art Advisorship

Philip Statser Band Directorship

Claudia Vars Choral Directorship

David Picard Model Legislature

James Ascoli Academic Decathlon Advisor

Kevin Zahm Academic Decathlon Advisor

Carol Turcotte National Honor Society

Barbara Reed National Honor Society

Timothy Sunn Natural Helpers

Michaela Kennedy Mock Trial

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OLD BUSINESS

•SCHOOL COMMITTEE RETREAT – The date has been set for December 6, 2005.

NEW BUSINESS

•HIGH SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDY – The Science curriculum will not change this year. Earth School, Life Science and Physical Science will be the focus. Mr. Ruscito said they would like to create a mandatory 9th Grade Science that would be a combination of Life Science and Earth Science. In the sophomore year, students would take Biology or Environmental Science.

Art proficiency will change. Ms. Renee Bissell and Mrs. Diane Kerins,

Art teachers, have introduced a new course called Visual Design. This would be a half-year course which will be taught by the present staff that will address everything the State has requested for a portfolio. The State recommended portfolio is 8-10 pieces of art in different medium.

Another change in the Fine Arts Department is the introduction of Choral Ensemble, a full-year course. This course would be for a select group of students who have an advanced singing ability. They would perform at concerts, festivals and community events. No additional staff is required.

Mr. Ruscito said that this is just a first review of the Program of Studies. The new high school diploma system will create strains on the Program of Studies. Mr. Ruscito would like to have the Program of Studies printed before the Christmas break.

ACTION ITEMS

BID AWARD – TRASH SERVICES

MOTION: 1) William Coogan, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee award the Trash Services bid to Waste Management. Unanimous vote.

RFQ FOR MIDDLETOWN SCHOOLS

MOTION: 1) Edward Draper, 2) William Coogan. That the School Committee approve the RFQ to hire a consultant to conduct a needs assessment of all schools and properties. Unanimous vote.

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Mr. Draper noted that a meeting should be set up with the Town Council to discuss this matter. A copy of the RFQ should be sent to the Council.

BUDGET ADOPTION (REVISED)

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve the revised budget in the amount of \$34,396,424. Unanimous vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mrs. Fenton attended an Economic Policy Council Meeting with the Governor's Office to discuss partnerships. On November 14th, Mrs. Fenton attended a discussion with some high school teachers regarding partnerships and grants, and how to develop a one-page grant application.

Mr. Crowley said in the School Committee package is a list of issues

that he and Mrs. Kraeger brought up with the Town Council President and Town Administrator.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William Coogan. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 9:00 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk