

**Middletown Public Schools**

**Middletown, Rhode Island**

**Thursday, December 21, 2006**

**MICHAEL S. PINTO CONFERENCE ROOM**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

**Liana F. Fenton, Vice-Chair**

**William Coogan arrived at 7:55 p.m.**

**Edward K. Draper**

**Theresa M. Spengler**

**Also Present: Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools**

**Joseph P. Maruszczak, Assistant Superintendent**

**Catherine M. McLeish, Business Manager**

**Edward Collins, Facilities Director**

**The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Michael Crowley.**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To go into Executive Session 42-46-5 (a) 1, 2,5,8,9 at 6:00 p.m. Unanimous vote.**

**The meeting was called back to open session at 7:12 p.m. Administrative staff members present were Steven Ruscito, Stephen Ponte, Vin Giuliano and Gail Abromitis. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

**Mr. Crowley announced that a unanimous vote was taken in Executive Session to compensate the Superintendent and Business Manager under the same terms and conditions of the Administrators' contract, retroactive to July 1, 2006.**

**Mrs. Kraeger requested nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Middletown School Committee.**

**Mrs. Liana Fenton nominated Mr. Michael Crowley.**

**Mrs. Theresa Spengler seconded the motion.**

**No other nominations were made.**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To close the nominations for School Committee Chairman. Unanimous vote.**

**With the nominations closed, the Clerk cast one ballot for Mr. Michael Crowley as Chairperson of the Middletown School Committee.**

**Mrs. Kraeger turned the meeting over to Mr. Crowley, Chairperson of the Middletown School Committee.**

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**Mr. Crowley called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Middletown School Committee.**

**Mrs. Liana Fenton nominated Mrs. Theresa Spengler.**

**Mr. Edward Draper seconded the motion.**

**No other nominations were made.**

**MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Edward Draper. To close nominations for Vice-Chairperson. Unanimous vote.**

**With the nominations closed, the Chairperson cast one ballot for Mrs. Theresa Spengler as Vice-Chairperson.**

**Mrs. Theresa Spengler was elected Vice-Chairperson of the Middletown School Committee.**

**The next order of business was to assign committee members to sub-committees:**

**&#61607; CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER COMMITTEE – This committee meets four times during the school year. Its primary function is to review career technical programs and opportunities for our high school students. Liana Fenton**

**&#61607; POLICY COMMITTEE – This is an ongoing committee that reviews and suggests policies. Liana Fenton and Theresa Spengler**

**&#61607; JOHN CLARK SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE – This committee meets in May with the High School guidance staff to determine scholarship recipients. Theresa Spengler and Liana Fenton**

**&#61607; SICK BANK COMMITTEE (CERTIFIED) – This committee meets as needed when a certified staff member requests sick days because they have exhausted their days. Theresa Spengler and Ned Draper**

**&#61607; SICK BANK COMMITTEE (COUNCIL 94) - This committee meets as needed when a Council 94 member requests sick days because they have exhausted their days. Michael Crowley and William Coogan**

**&#61607; HEALTH AND WELLNESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – This committee meets quarterly with parents and Chartwells Food Service personnel to discuss issues relative to hot lunch/breakfast. Ned Draper and William Coogan (Alternate)**

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**• GRIEVANCE SUBCOMMITTEE – An as-needed committee - part of NEAM Teacher Contract. The School Committee, or a three (3)**

**person sub-committee of the School Committee, shall hear the grievance before the start of the next regularly scheduled meeting, or by mutual agreement schedule a time and day prior to the regularly scheduled meeting. Michael Crowley, Theresa Spengler and Ned Draper**

- **OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE – This is a Town-wide committee established by the Town Council. Michael Crowley and Ned Draper (Alternate)**

- **TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – This is a Town-wide committee established by the Town Council. Ned Draper**

- **FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE – This is an advisory committee established by the School Committee charged with creating a long-range facilities master plan. Theresa Spengler**

- **BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS – This committee will explore business partnership relationships that connects opportunities for the school community. Liana Fenton and William Coogan**

- **SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – This committee will study the issue of school-community safety in relation to the behavior of youth in the Town of Middletown. This advisory committee will address such issues as traffic safety, health, substance abuse and choices that our youth will face as they grow and live in our town. Ned Draper**

## **SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**No “Spotlight on Teaching and Learning” for December 21, 2006.**

## **PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS**

**• Student Awards – Student awards were presented to two Newport Daily News Students of the Week and one Newport Daily News Athlete of the Week. The School Committee presented each student with a book for them to keep.**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To move agenda item “MEC Grants” to later in the meeting. Unanimous vote.**

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**No “Student Activities” for December 21, 2006.**

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## **INFORMATION**

**Mrs. Kraeger noted items of information from the School Committee Package:**

- **A letter from the Social Studies Department requesting the School Committee and Administration appoint an acting Social Studies Department Head.**
- **New and revised High School Regulations**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**Letter from Janet Sheehan, Associate Principal of Teaching and Learning, requesting the School Committee commence contract negotiations with the Administrator's Association.**

**MOTION: 1) Edward Draper, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee receive the communication. Unanimous vote.**

**Letter from Joseph R. Peckham, Business Agent, R.I. Council 94, notifying the School Committee of its intention to commence negotiations for Council 94 Local 1823.**

**MOTION: 1) Edward Draper, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee receive the communication. Unanimous vote.**

**Letter from Alicia Hicks, requesting the School Committee commence contract negotiations with Non-Certified Clerical Personnel.**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the communication. Unanimous vote.**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Edward Draper. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.**

- Approval of Minutes of November 16, 2006 School Committee Meeting**
- Approval of Financial Report, dated November 30, 2006, in the amount of \$8,964,176.45**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 9, 2006, in the amount of \$3,586.82**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 17, 2006, in the amount of \$198,799.90**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 22, 2006, in the amount of \$728.14**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 27, 2006, in the amount of \$27,866.15**

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- Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 12, 2006, in the amount of \$1,169,309.54
- Approval of Special Grants Register, dated November 17, 2006, in the amount of \$65,873.02
- Approval of Special Grants Register, dated December 12, 2006, in the amount of \$71,388.34

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL**

### **APPOINTMENTS**

**Michaela Kennedy .3 School-Based Coordinator, MHS**

**Nadira Ferreira 3-Hour Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School**

**Stephen G. Fagan Acting Mathematics Department Head (One Year Only)**

### **RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT**

**Robert Williams Custodian/AV, Facilities Management Department  
Effective on December 29, 2006**

### **MATERNITY LEAVE - ARTICLE XIV, C, OPTION #1 (NEA/Middletown)**

**Kimberly Ceglarski Kindergarten, Forest Avenue School**

**From January 2, 2007 to the end of the 06-07 school year**

**CHANGE IN MATERNITY LEAVE - ARTICLE XIV, C, OPTION #1  
(NEA/Middletown)**

**Jennifer Holubesko Grade Four, Aquidneck School**

**From November 27, 2006 to February 26, 2007**

**RETURN FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Ramona Bessinger English Teacher, Middletown High School**

**EXTENSION OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Michael S. Dinagen Facilities Management Department**

**Return date to be determined**

**REGIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**Melissa Kleinknecht Speech Language Pathologist**

**Leave of Absence from February 7, 2007 until the start of the  
2007-08 School Year**

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## **2006 FALL COACHING APPOINTMENTS**

**Jenny Henderson Assistant Co-Ed Varsity Swim Coach**

**Kristen Seyster J.H. Gaudet School Cross Country Coach**

## **2006 FALL VOLUNTEER COACHING APPOINTMENTS**

**Richard Formica Volunteer Soccer Coach**

**Ted Hersey Volunteer Cross Country Coach**

## **2006-2007 WINTER COACHING APPOINTMENTS**

**Michael Clancey Boys' Varsity Basketball**

**David MacGregor Boys' Assistant Varsity Basketball**

**Raleigh Brennan Boys' 6/7/8th Grade Basketball**

**Christine Clancey Girls' Varsity Basketball**

**Justin Buffman Girls' Assistant Varsity Basketball**

**Heidi Gauch Girls' 6/7/8th Grade Basketball**

**Russel Forgue Varsity Wrestling**

**Richard Francis, Jr. Assistant Varsity Wrestling**

**Andrew Bulk 6/7/8th Grade Wrestling**

**Heather Markman Varsity Swim**

**TBA Assistant Swim**

**Elizabeth Scott Varsity Gymnastics**

**Stephen Saunders Varsity Hockey**

**Eric Godin Assistant Varsity Hockey**

**Sharon Thibeault Cheerleading**

**MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL ADVISOR APPOINTMENT**

**Samantha Hines Academic Decathlon Advisor**

**ACTION ITEMS**

**HOME SCHOOLING**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 06-07-12 and 06-07-13. Unanimous vote.**

**SNOW REMOVAL BID**

**MOTION: 1) Edward Draper, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee award the Snow Removal bid to JAM Construction Co., Inc. Unanimous vote.**

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**ELECTRIC SUPPLY BID**

**MOTION: 1) Edward Draper, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee award the Electric Supply bid to TransCanada Power Marketing. Unanimous vote.**

## **ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT**

**MOTION: 1) Edward Draper, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee commence contract negotiations with the Middletown Administrator's Association. Unanimous vote.**

## **COUNCIL 94 CONTRACT**

**MOTION: 1) Edward Draper, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee commence contract negotiations with Council 94 Local 1823. Unanimous vote.**

## **CLERICAL CONTRACT**

**MOTION: 1) Edward Draper, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee commence contract negotiations with Non-Certified Clerical Personnel. Unanimous vote.**

## **TITLE I PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY – 1ST READING**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Title I Parent Involvement Policy – 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.**

## **SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATES**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the School Committee Meeting Dates for 2007. Unanimous vote.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **School Committee/Administrator's Retreat – The retreat is scheduled for Wednesday, January 10th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Silveira kindergarten.**
- **High School Reorganization Model – This discussion will be postponed until the School Committee Workshop on the Program of Studies in January.**
- **Planetarium – Two teachers from Gaudet School have been trained to use the planetarium equipment. The equipment has been repaired. Administration is still working on a collaboration with Brown University.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Athletic Department Update – Mrs. Kraeger introduced Eric Godin, new Athletic Director. Mr. Godin's predecessor, John McDevitt, made a recommendation to realign coaches based on participation rates. Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse participation rate increased, as a result Mr. McDevitt recommended moving an assistant varsity baseball coach and assistant varsity softball coach to girls' lacrosse and boys' lacrosse. A survey was given to students as to what sport they would like to**

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**participate in the spring. The survey supported Mr. McDevitt's coaching recommendations. Mrs. Kraeger said when spring coaches are advertised, they will be advertised as "anticipated openings". Mr. Draper's concern is that it is communicated clearly that cuts are made because of participation rates. Mrs. Kraeger said the budget does not support funding Freshman baseball. We will be asking the Boosters to supplement the costs.**

**Mr. Draper said there are more students coming out for sports, but there are still the same number of coaches. We are not cutting coaches, participation is just up in different sports. Mrs. Spengler said that funding projections are very questionable and could change. Mr. Godin said that we need to be careful of saying that one sport's participation is low and it needs to be eliminated, because participation rates are cyclical and in a few years, participation could be up.**

**Mr. Draper said that we need to develop a policy relative to participation rates and coaching assignments. Policies also need to be developed regarding volunteer coaches and the hiring of staff as coaches. Mr. Crowley said that this School Committee has made a determined effort – they have added lacrosse and hockey to our budget, but we are operating on limited resources. Middletown offers**

**more sports than any other high school in the state.**

**The process for hiring coaches was questioned. Mrs. Kraeger said that all coaches are hired for one year only. The Athletic Director requests a letter of intent for the next season and advertises.**

**Paul Reynolds stated as a coach last year, he never had an assistant with him. He feels that baseball is being hurt by taking away a coach.**

**Kirk Scully said that the boosters role is to enhance programs, not to fund them. He feels that two adults are needed on a bus for away games in case of injury to a player.**

**MEC AWARDS – The collaborative now has two grant funding cycles instead of one. For the fall 2006 grant cycle, 29 grant requests totaling \$30,000 were received and 13 grants totaling \$10,908 were actually awarded. Mrs. Kraeger expressed her thanks to MEC for the work they do. MEC spends about \$3,000 per year putting on events and fundraisers. Staff can now designate MEC through the United Way and approximately \$4,000 was allocated to the United Way this year. Mrs. Kraeger suggested contacting the town and putting a note in with tax bills giving taxpayers the opportunity to donate to MEC.**

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- **High School Program of Studies – The Committee needs to determine a date in January for a workshop on the Program of Studies. The Board of Regents requires 4 years of English, 4 years of mathematics, 3 years of science, 3 years of history/social studies, plus physical education and health. The Regents will be granting a “Regents Diploma”, which will be standards based and will certify what a student knows and is able to do.**

**MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William Coogan. To extend the meeting past 9:00 p.m. Unanimous vote.**

**Mr. Ruscito said that graduates of the Class of 2008 will have a very different diploma than previous years. Changes in the Program of Studies will include: 1) redesign of math offerings, 2) addition of math intervention, 3) omission/redesign of Computer Applications course, 4) redesign Special Education delivery of content disciplines, 5) align Special Education resource delivery with the new diploma system, 6) civics educations, 7) add new mandatory health class, 8) alignment of science courses with new regulations, 9) scaffold/embed Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements, 10) applied learning strategies, 11) review Capstone model, and 12) eliminate Business English. A workshop on the Program of Studies will be held in January. Department Heads and Acting Department Heads should attend.**

- **Mr. Coogan asked about Capstone projects and what happens when**

a student's project isn't up to par. Mr. Coogan suggested that Capstone Advisors who are not faculty members receive guidelines as to how to assist the student.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS**

- **CURRICULUM** – Joe Maruszczak said that work is on-going with K-12 guidance counselors and they are writing a K-12 curriculum. A Guidance Advisory Counsel will be formed for goal setting.
- The school department will receive \$45,500 under the Federal Immigrant Assistant Fund. A grant was written for additional professional development, technology and after school tutoring and homework clubs for these students.
- Middletown has been invited to participate, along with three other island districts, in a 3-year program funded by a \$250,000 grant from the Office of Higher Education. Six teachers from each community will develop curriculum on natural ecosystems. The grant money will fund field trips and technology.

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- Mrs. Kraeger acknowledge and commended Gail Abromitis for applying for and receiving a grant for \$1500 for Kennedy School

through the R.I. State Council on the Arts for an after school dance program.

- **FINANCIAL** –The 2007-08 budget cycle has begun. Budget goals need to be developed and Budget Workshop dates need to be established. Town Council Members Shirley Mello and Theresa Santos are liaisons to the budget subcommittee. The community needs to be educated on the 5 ¼% increase. Revenue estimates are lower than expected and Federal Impact Aid has been reduced. On the expenditure side of budget, the Blue Cross premium projected increase to 14.2% over last year. Teacher retirement increase is 1.4% over last year.

- **FACILITIES** – Mr. Collins reported that the department stayed below the budget this year. He included a graph on energy use in the School Committee Package.

- **CORE FACILITIES COMMITTEE** – The minutes from the first meeting are included in the School Committee package. Approximately 45 people attended the second meeting.

**MOTION:** 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William Coogan. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

**Mr. Draper – Attended a Safety Advisory Committee Meeting on December 12th. The hiring of a director for the Middletown Substance Abuse Task Force is progressing.**

**Mrs. Fenton – The Governors K-16 counsel discussed technology, higher education and a “Student Web Portal” for students to access different schools and jobs, as well as career planning.**

**ADJOURN FROM MEETING**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 9:35 p.m. Unanimous vote.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Rosemarie K. Kraeger**

**Clerk**