

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, March 15, 2007

MICHAEL S. PINTO CONFERENCE ROOM

BUDGET WORKSHOP

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

Liana F. Fenton, Vice-Chair

Edward K. Draper

Theresa M. Spengler.

Member Absent: William Coogan

Also Present: Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Catherine McLeish, Business Manager

Edward Collins, Director of Facilities

The Budget Workshop was called to order at 5:10 p.m. Mrs. Kraeger and Mrs. McLeish met with the Budget Subcommittee to review the latest figures.

The School Department budget request for FY07-08 must stay within the 5.25% tax levy. The town could possibly apply for a waiver as a result of decreased Impact Aid funding. This revenue has been

reduced by \$1,075,927.

Mr. Draper asked if we could work with Shawn Brown, Finance Director, to show what students at the Anchorage Housing property are costing the school department. There are approximately 55 students at the Anchorage Housing who are all civilian.

Mr. Draper asked about staffing at Middletown High School. Mrs. Kraeger said that the staff reductions reflect the decreased enrollment, as well as capping classes to a minimum of 12 students.

Mrs. McLeish and Mrs. Gagne provided Shawn Brown with the information on Impact Aid. Census numbers show that the number of “A” students who are military students who reside on-base has declined drastically, while the number of “B” students who are military students who reside off-base has remained fairly constant.

On other budget items, committee members feel that if textbooks and supplies are cut, sports need to be cut as well. Mrs. Fenton asked about having the General Assembly change the laws to allow school departments to charge fees for certain things – “Pay for Play” and private school transportation. Additionally, Mr. Draper said that we need to look at capacity, relative to busses, sports programs and classrooms.

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Additional cuts that have been made are:

- Textbooks and Supplies
- 1 Non-certified position
- 1 - Elementary teacher – which will put class size at the maximum
- 1 Reading teacher
- 1 ESL teacher
- 1 Guidance counselor
- 1 Nurse
- High school reorganization
- Sports
- Blue Cross & Delta Dental

Mrs. Spengler is very concerned about cutting a nurse and guidance counselor. Mr. Draper said that our community has many weak points and we need to have safety nets in place. Mrs. Fenton questioned what the effects of all these cuts will be in the future. Mr. Crowley said we need to take a heavier look at sports and high school reorganization.

At the Thursday, March 22, 2007 workshop the full budget will be presented. NECAP test results will also be discussed.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from Budget Workshop at 6:20 pm. Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To go into Executive Session 42-46-5 (a) 1, 2,5,8,9 at 6:21 p.m. Unanimous vote.

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Chairman Michael Crowley. Administrative staff members present were Vin Giuliano, Michelle Fonseca and Gail Abromitis .

Mr. Crowley announced that no votes were taken during Executive Session.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

•Student Awards were presented in the following categories:

oNewport Daily News Athlete of the Week

oFirst Lego League Robotics Week

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SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Implications of Readers and Writers Workshop“

Mrs. Anne Coogan, Grade One Teacher, Aquidneck School, gave a presentation on Readers and Writers Workshop. Mrs. Coogan videotaped classroom sessions with her students to share with other

teachers.

Mrs. Coogan explained how students developed a story by creating a beginning, middle and ending. The student does one version of the story, then has a conference with the teacher, and then completes a final version of the story.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for March 15, 2007.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted items of information in the package:

- RI statewide curriculum initiation.
- Registration for Kindergarten, 1st Grade and 9th Grade students will begin held April 3-24.
- Various Commissioner’s Decisions

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for March 15, 2007.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Minutes of February 1, 2007 Budget Workshop**
- Approval of Minutes of February 7, 2007 High School Reorganization Workshop**
- Approval of Minutes of February 15, 2007 Budget and School Committee Meeting Workshop**
- Approval of Minutes of February 15, 2007 Executive Session**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated February 9, 2007, in the amount of \$4,403.89**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated February 20, 2007, in the amount of \$361,718.19**

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- Approval of Invoice Register, dated February 22, 2007, in the amount of \$1,563.36**
- Approval of Special Grants Register, dated February 20, 2007, in the amount of \$41,445.01**

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

SPRING 2007 COACHES

Heidi Gauch Gaudet 6/7/8 Softball

Steve Ponte Gaudet 6/7/8 Baseball

Eric Godin Varsity Baseball

Michael Yates Assistant Varsity Baseball

Paul Reynolds Jr. Varsity Baseball

John Cawley Freshman Baseball

Shane Fennessey Boys' Varsity Track & Field

Justin Buffman Boys' Assistant Varsity Track & Field

Ted Hersey Girls' Varsity Track & Field

Kristen Seyster Girls' Assistant Varsity Track & Field

Robin Ramey Varsity Softball

Christine Elliot Assistant Varsity Softball

Jesse Alvanas Jr. Varsity Softball

Lucien Forbes Boys' Varsity Lacrosse

Richard Formica Boys' Assistant Varsity Lacrosse

Michael Whaley Girls' Varsity Lacrosse

TBA Girls' Assistant Varsity Lacrosse

David Leys Boys' Tennis

Lisa Clark Coed Golf

Some of the coaching positions are the result of parent funding.

ACTION ITEMS

07-08 LUNCH PRICES

MOTION: 1) Edward Draper, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve school lunch prices at the rate of \$2.25 for secondary and \$2.00 for elementary. Unanimous vote.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler That the School Committee approve the Affirmative Action Policy. Unanimous vote.

We are required by law to update this policy yearly and publish in the Newport Daily News.

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VOLUNTEER POLICY – 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Edward Draper, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Volunteer Policy – 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Kraeger thanked Mr. Draper for his work on the policy. Mr. Draper requested that another policy be developed for regular coaching staff, specifically the evaluation by players of the coaches

and program.

VIRTUAL COURSES POLICY – 2nd READING

MOTION: 1)Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Virtual Courses Policy – 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

SUMMER SCHOOL POLICY – 1ST READING

MOTION: 1)Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve the Summer School Policy – 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

This policy was formulated by a group that is taking a closer look at summer school policy and practice. Mrs. Fenton asked about the timing of the policy, because families decide what kinds of activities their children will participate in earlier in the year.

BUILDING USE POLICY – 1st Reading

MOTION: 1) Edward Draper, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Building Use Policy – 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Paul Murphy, Middletown Little League President, spoke on the Building Use Policy and how it affects the students who use the Gaudet School Gymnasium on Sundays for practice. The gym is used from the beginning of February until April. The group is now

paying double time for the custodian since it is used on Sundays. Mr. Collins said that the present policy states that when a building is used, there is a fee associated with it. He feels that a custodian needs to open and close the building, but it is not necessary to have the building covered for 8 hours. Volunteers monitor the students and Middletown Little League has its own insurance. As was past practice, keys will not be handed out to individuals not employed by the School Department. Mrs. Spengler requested that the opening and closing of the building be coordinated with the building check. There was also a question about snow removal in the winter. This policy will give the school department the option of not opening if there is a storm.

CONTRACT

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Council 94, Local 1823 Contract for years 2007 - 2010. Unanimous vote.

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OLD BUSINESS

No "Old Business" for March 15, 2007.

NEW BUSINESS

No “New Business” for March 15, 2007.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

•CURRICULUM – Mr. Maruszczak will be attending the ASCA Conference in Anaheim, California, from March 17-19th. He has been holding grade level meetings to examine the NECAP results. A Writing Curriculum Committee has been established. Mr. Giuliano, Mr. Mancieri and Mr. Maruszczak presented a parent workshop at Gaudet School about standards-based report cards. The workshop was attended by about 55 parents.

Another meeting will be held next week to decide what the site-based council will look like at the high school. The dialogue needs to continue. Mr. Draper would like priority put on the advisories at Middletown High School.

•FINANCIAL – At the Budget Workshop next Thursday, the Committee will vote on the budget, which must come in with the tax cap of 5.25%. Mrs. Kraeger will attend the annual Impact Aid Conference in Washington from March 17-20, and will meet with the Congressional Delegation. Mrs. Kraeger will send out an email notifying all of

potential cuts to our staff.

•FACILITIES – Mr. Collins reported that a breakdown of overtime is in the School Committee package. For the April meeting, he will put together a utility breakdown.

•CORE FACILITIES COMMITTEE – This past Monday, Mr. Collins, Administrators and principals met with the Fielding Nair Group to discuss options that will be presented to the Core Committee. Mr. Crowley reiterated that he would like to have Amy Rice's and Charlie Shoemaker's group invited to the next Core Committee Meeting. Prakash Nair will attend the meeting on April 10th.

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

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REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mr. Draper –

•Attended a meeting of the Health and Wellness Committee. Chartwell's has done a good job on the nutritional aspect and have

been very responsive. The next step is exercise and wellness.

- Safety Advisory Committee, along with the Middletown Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force, submitted a grant for over ½ million dollars over a three year period to assist in combating drug and alcohol abuse. Middletown qualifies for this because of the extremely high ranking for substance/alcohol abuse in the country.**
- The Technology Committee is looking at aligning island-wide municipal IT Departments to see what can be shared.**

Mrs. Fenton –

- Mr. Crowley and Mrs. Fenton attended a Civic Education Meeting where discussion revolved around putting civic education into history and social studies.**
- Both Mrs. Fenton and Mr. Crowley attend Senate 3050 meeting to learn more about the law and its impact on school districts.**

Mr. Spengler –

- Attended a meeting last Thursday sponsored by the Newport County Fund on “What is a school?” The meeting was more focused on charter schools and MET schools than public schools.**

Mr. Crowley –

- **Attended a RIASC Meeting and will be Chairing a subcommittee that is looking at mandates.**
- **Met with the Commissioner of Education last week and hopes to make it a quarterly event with RIASC.**
- **Will attend a meeting dealing with legislative issues this Saturday.**

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 8:47 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk