

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

June 21, 2007

6:00 p.m. – Executive Session

7:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting

MICHAEL S. PINTO CONFERENCE ROOM

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

Theresa M. Spengler, Vice-Chair

William Coogan (arrived @ 7:10)

Edward K. Draper

Liana F. Fenton

Also Present: Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Catherine McLeish, Business Manager

Edward Collins, Director of Facilities

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 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 6:05 p.m. Unanimous vote.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Michael Crowley. Administrative staff members present were Timothy Ryan, Steven Ruscito, Stephen Ponte, Michelle Fonseca, as well as Linda Savastano. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Edward Draper. To seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Unanimous vote.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

• CAPSTONE PROJECT

Carley Benson, Middletown High School sophomore, wrote a children's book about preparing for a hospital visit and is donating it to a children's hospital. She also received a grant to publish the book. Ms. Benson distributed copies of her book to the School Committee and administration. Mr. Draper wanted to know if other students could build on this students' experience – using her knowledge as a building block for future CIM students and their capstone projects.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

• STUDENT AWARDS – Student Awards were presented in the following categories:

o Newport Daily News Student of the Week

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No Student Activities for June 21, 2007

INFORMATION

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

- Distribution of Formal invitation for the Krupowicz Planetarium Dedication Ceremony on July 12th @ 6pm; with a sky adventure program immediately following**
- RI Skills Commission CIM presentation booklet**
- Dr. Ambrogi notice of closing the Newport Area Career and Technical Center's Health Careers Program (effective 9/1/07) due to continuing low enrollment**
- MPS Extended Learning Opportunities Program**

CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence for June 21, 2007

CONSENT AGENDA

- **Approval of Minutes of May 17, 2007 School Committee Meeting**
- **Approval of Minutes of May 17, 2007 Executive Session**
- **Approval of Monthly Financial Report, dated May 31, 2007, in the amount of \$26,166,258.37**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 15, 2007, in the amount of \$659,959.01**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 18, 2007, in the amount of \$2,985.41**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 30, 2007, in the amount of \$441,547.78**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 1, 2007, in the amount of \$1,349.00**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 12, 2007, in the amount of \$532,535.12**
- **Approval of Special Grants Register, dated May 15, 2007, in the amount of \$42,588.34**
- **Approval of Special Grants Register, dated May 30, 2007, in the amount of \$17,934.26**
- **Approval of Special Grants Register, dated June 12, 2007, in the amount of \$67,350.91**

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENTS

Anita DeLima Senior Class Co-Advisor

Christian LeBlanc Senior Class Co-Advisor

RESIGNATION

Joseph P. Maruszczak Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

Whitney Ruggeri Teacher Assistant, Special Education

Michael Dinagen Custodian, Facilities Management Department

APPROVAL OF .5 JOB SHARE FOR 2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR

Kimberly A. Ceglarski Kindergarten, Forest Avenue School

Maureen Sullivan Kindergarten, Forest Avenue School

MATERNITY LEAVE – ARTICLE XIV, C, OPTION #1

Rita N. Konchar Resource Teacher, Gaudet School

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

Alison Belcher Grade Two Teacher, Aquidneck School

From June 11, 2007 to September, 28, 2007

TRANSFER

**Donna Byron School Nurse Teacher, Aquidneck
To Middletown High School**

APPROVAL OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE

**Mary Dyl Administrative Assistant, Oliphant Administration
From July 9, 2007 to April 2008**

APPROVAL OF VOLUNTEER COACHES FOR 2007 SPRING SPORTS

Danielle Ventura Varsity Softball

Katherine Woolbright JV Softball

Morgan Roberts Varsity Boys' Lacrosse

Raymond LeBeau Gaudet Softball

Harry Eng Gaudet Softball

Michael Eggeman Gaudet Baseball

Alexander Dresser JV Baseball

ACTION ITEMS

POP WARNER STORAGE SHED

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approves a partnership between the Middletown School Department and the Middletown Youth Football and Cheerleading to construct a new storage shed at Gaudet Football Field. Unanimous vote.

Edward Collins suggested that the school department maintain the shed and pay the utilities. He estimated the electric to be approximately \$2,300~\$2,500 annually, and \$4,200 for gas. The shed will have two meeting areas and storage for Pop Warner and the high school. The shed will be 30 ft x 70 ft.

The target date for completion is approximately October 2007. A deposit on blueprints has been made by Pop Warner and a committee of contractors (volunteers) is being formed. The estimated cost is within \$60,000. The shed will be constructed of steel.

Liana Fenton questioned the availability of grant money for solar panels. Edward Collins said there wouldn't be constant traffic in the shed, so the utility usage would be minimal.

Tina Vars stated that Pop Warner has a two million dollar liability insurance policy in place for volunteer contractors. She was looking into recreation grants for school grounds and she will research other funding options. She said the boosters also want to build a press

box (in partnership with Pop Warner) with a 50/50 use of the space.

Some items to be stored in the shed will be the mat for track/field, the school department tractor, and high school sports equipment.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

MOTION: 1) William Coogan, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee authorizes the transfer of funds in the 2006-2007 budget to cover obligations. Unanimous Vote.

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1) Edward Draper, 2) William Coogan. That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 06-07-15. Unanimous vote.

AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF BILLS

MOTION: 1) Edward Draper, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee authorizes payment of bills through June 30, 2007. Unanimous Vote.

RECALL/RESCIND PENDING FUNDING

MOTION: 1) William Coogan, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee authorize the Superintendent to send the appropriate

rescission and recall letters to the teachers involved, as funding becomes available. Unanimous vote.

CONTRACTS

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To ratify the agreement between the Middletown Clerical Employees and the School Committee for 2007-2010. Unanimous Vote.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To ratify the agreement between the Middletown Administrators and the School Committee for 2007-2010. Unanimous Vote.

RESOLUTIONS

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William Coogan. That the School Committee adopt and send to the RI General Assembly the resolution regarding the new group home. Unanimous Vote.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee adopt and send to the members of Congress the resolutions regarding the reauthorization of NCLB. Unanimous Vote.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business for June 21, 2007

NEW BUSINESS

- **Food, Nutrition, Wellness and Physical Advisory Committee**

Mr. Ponte has chaired this committee for a number of years and commented that this was a good year with progressive thinking in the group. They came up with many creative ways to get activities into schools, the PTG funding and grants for afterschool physical activity programs such as dance and yoga. Mr. Giuliano attended the meetings providing input about nutrition and the new regulations on healthier snacks.

A survey (KidsFirst) was completed. A discussion was held regarding our strengths/weaknesses with some of the results listed below:

- o **Blue Cross (MuniBlue) ~ a wellness program opportunity for staff**
- o **School stores and compliance issues**
- o **Using food as rewards**
- o **More proactive approach**

Mrs. Spengler expressed concern about students not washing their hands when they come in from recess before going to lunch.

Mr. Draper requested absentee data from before/after Purell dispenser installations.

Mrs. Fenton asked if the committee could work with teachers and the community on wellness

Mrs. McLeish said Muniblue will conduct a seminar for retirees and existing employees on wellness during an evening in July from 6 pm – 9 pm. for town employees.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

• CURRICULUM –

Middletown Public Schools received a submission extension, for the Consolidated Resource Grant. Thanks to Timothy Ryan, Steven Ruscito, and all our principals for putting the pieces together. This grant is a large part of our funding.

The IT department is providing technology training throughout the summer. Some areas being covered are My Learning Plan (professional development accounting system) and Microsoft Office

2007.

Our English/Language Arts committee is meeting in August to develop a scope and sequence. K-12 TIENET has a curriculum piece which will enable a teacher can go online to see what a student needs to know by the end of each grade and track student progress. Brochures are ready for parents of K-8 students, that explain curriculum expectations.

We are building a communication system with the use of ConnectEd, a phone message system to families and staff. Our initial message had a very good response. Almost 94% listened to the entire message. Mr. Ruscito will provide parents with a message about summer school. We would like to utilize this system to survey students leaving Middletown Public Schools for feedback from parents as to why they are leaving. We can reach families using home, work, cell phone numbers, and home emails.

Summer school registration started. Tee Gomes is working hard to turn around the registration information quickly. Stephen Ponte and Gail Abromitis are coordinators for elementary. Vincent Giuliano and Michael Mancieri are coordinators for the middle and high school.

• FINANCIAL –

The State has level funded State Aid. The Town Council will vote on

our budget on Monday, June 25th at 6:30 at the town hall. 79% of our budget has been expended as of May31, 2007. The business office is closing out grants and end of year financials. We had a wonderful, successful year and need to highlight all accomplishments. Thank you to our building principals.

• FACILITIES –

Three charts in the packet show our usage comparison for electricity and gas. It reflects one year of tracking enabling the development of a portfolio. The last report breaks down how much gas usage per square foot.

The town paid for watering can equipment utilized by pop warner and boosters.

• CORE FACILITIES COMMITTEE –

The committee is currently putting together a solid funding program. They are working towards the best plan fit, values, and state reimbursement.

The Gaudet Middle School library is 40 % complete. They plan to swap the music room and common learning area during the summer.

Forest Avenue School will be evaluated in September 2007. A report

is being written, and a presentation will be done, in either August or September, to town council.

Mrs. Kraeger said there was great team spirit during the preparation for the high school graduation. Everyone worked unbelievably to get everything done. Kudos to the custodial staff!

Mr. Crowley suggested a presentation showcasing the J.H. Gaudet Middle School project to town council.

Mr. Draper suggested that it was very important to push the issue of the actual work being done as result of study, dispelling concerns of it being “just another study”.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mrs. Fenton –

- Attended a meeting with Rosemarie Kraeger at the Newport Career Tech Advisory group. They reported being down to 5 career paths and were worried about continued career pathways in the school systems and as a result of future budget cuts.**
- Mrs. Fenton attended a K-16 Governors Council which highlighted**

the short and long term goals of STEM Physics First and FIRST Robotics.

- **Attended CIM awards ceremony with Mrs. Kraeger.**

Mr. Draper –

- **Attended a safety advisory meeting. The goals of the group will concentrate on bullying. They discussed implementing safety within schools (i.e. high school and Gaudet drill). Mr. Draper said we're in good shape with the bomb threat issues as well. The Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force Program is handling safety at a community-wide level.**

Mrs. Spengler –

- **Commended Mr. Steven Ruscito on graduation, awards and honor society events. The awards were unbelievable and high school graduation was phenomenal. The students performed very well at graduation, the prom was successful, and the students were respectful. It was a great example of how future classes will perform.**

Mr. Crowley –

- **Will meet with Dr. Shoemaker at end of July regarding the island-wide study with RIPEC**

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 8:43 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk