

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

January 17, 2008

7:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting

MICHAEL S. PINTO CONFERENCE ROOM

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

Liana F. Fenton, Vice-Chair

William Coogan arrived at 7:41 p.m.

Edward K. Draper

Theresa M. Spengler

Also Present: Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Catherine McLeish, Business Manager

Edward Collins, Director of Facilities

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairman Michael Crowley. Administrative staff members present were Steven Ruscito, Vincent Giuliano, Stephen Ponte, Michelle Fonseca, Gail Abromitis, as well as Linda Savastano. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To move agenda item “Proclamations/Awards” first, before “Spotlight on Teaching and Learning”. Unanimous vote.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

- **STUDENT AWARDS – Student Awards were presented in the following categories:**
 - o **Newport Daily News Student of the Week**

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

Rhode Island Department of Education

Superintendent Kraeger reviewed the RI Department of Education’s School/District Classifications results.

Superintendent Kraeger introduced Dr. Mary Canole from the RI Department of Education. She explained to the school committee what the classification “Progressive Support and Intervention” means as it relates to the test results. Dr. Canole reassured the committee that these results and classification were not something to be alarmed about. She asked us to take a close look at test scores for

out of district placement students. She suggested we focus on our special needs students and assure they are being exposed to the curriculum. Is our curriculum and that of out of district placement schools aligned with GLEs and GSEs? Dr. Canole referenced page 13 for reviewing the conditions for classification of “needing improvement”, as well as page 14 for RIDE’s response to districts when they are classified. She said once districts submit the CRP, RIDE would look at activities which support students with special needs and looking for the correct alignment. Dr. Canole then referred to page 28 of the report which lists the schedule of districts with the classification of needing improvement. There will be a formal meeting with the deputy commissioner to review our data. The Superintendent, School Committee, SpEd Director, and others should brainstorm together and look for barriers as to why these students are not meeting the requirements. We should put a plan together. Then we will be in “Watch” mode. Dr. Canole said that RIDE is prepared to help in any way they can with technical assistance. They have faith that this district will do what needs to be done. This is a very well recognized school district and we should be proud.

Theresa Spengler asked how the number of military families affects us in this report.

Dr. Canole said that mobility is a huge issue. She said we should

look at students who have gone through our entire system and compare to the transfers. In some districts, the transfers did better than the stable residents.

Mr. Draper asked how the ESL impact these test results. Mrs. Kraeger said those scores aren't counted if students are not in the country for three years.

Mr. Crowley asked if the classification was a result of NCLB? Dr. Canole responded with a "yes". He stated, as he did once before, that there needs to be a National Common Assessment implemented. The response given to Mr. Crowley was "That would embarrass too many states", and "it undermine the whole education system".

Mrs. Kraeger said the commissioner addressed this issue in Washington and the response he heard was "Let the states decide".

Mrs. Fenton asked if RIDE was doing anything about the PR regarding this report. Dr. Canole said Commissioner McWalters has responded to the press, stating that more districts will be in this situation.

We need to look at subpopulations and their proficiency rates. Mr. Draper asked what kind of support can RIDE give us. Can we petition for additional resources?

We can expect level funding at best. Mrs. Fenton asked about

graduation with proficiency?

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Dr. Canole asked if the model was accountable enough. She said they are looking at multiple measures.

Mrs. Kraeger said our next step is an action plan with RIDE.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

INFORMATION

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

- RISSA – There is a ceremony scheduled in the State Room at the RI State House to present the First Paul W. Crowley Award posthumously to Representative Paul W. Crowley along with a scholarship**
- President of Naval War College letter was received which thanked the Middletown School System for developing a new ESL program.**

CORRESPONDENCE

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1000. Approval of Minutes of December 20, 2007 School Committee Meeting

1010. Approval of Minutes of December 20, 2007 Executive Session

1100. Approval of Financial Report, dated December 31, 2007, in the amount of \$11,987,251.47

1200. Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 21, 2007, in the amount of \$308,509.94

1210. Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 4, 2008, in the amount of \$3,300.95

1220. Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 8, 2008, in the amount of \$801,562.08

1230. Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 11, 2008, in the amount of \$1,376.56

1300. Approval of Special Grants Register, dated December 21, 2007, in the amount of \$58,836.91

1310. Approval of Special Grants Register, dated December 21, 2007, in the amount of \$124.05

1320. Approval of Special Grants Register, dated January 8, 2008, in

the amount of \$50,165.01

1400. Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel

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SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT

Barbara H. Reed Social Studies Teacher, Middletown High School

Carol E. Turcotte English Teacher, Middletown High School

APPOINTMENT

Maha Chamseddine ELL Teacher Assistant (3 Hour)

For remainder of 2007-2008 school year only

TRANSFERS

Bryan Dumond From Custodian (Floater)

To Custodian II (Night), Aquidneck School

Effective January 21, 2008

RETURN FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Jaime Sheridan Grade Five, J.H. Gaudet School

Beginning the 2008-2009 School Year

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

Erin Doorley Multi-Age Teacher, John F. Kennedy School

Anticipated leave from February 8, 2008 to April 11, 2008

Christine Karoly Foreign Language Teacher, Gaudet Middle School

Anticipated leave beginning March 31, 2008

Returning no later than the first day of SY2008-2009

FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

Christina Logothets LSP Teacher, Forest Avenue School

To January 25, 2008

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2007/08 WINTER COACHING APPOINTMENTS

David G. MacGregor Boys' Varsity Basketball (remainder of the 07-08 season)

Michael Yates Boys' Assistant Varsity Basketball (remainder of the 07-08 season)

WINTER VOLUNTEER COACHES

William J. Nash, Jr. Varsity Hockey

Kristin Leskowitz Varsity Gymnastics

Henry Lombardi Gaudet Wrestling

ACTION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee extend the Superintendent's contract through 2011. Unanimous Vote.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S CONTRACT

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Edward Draper. That the School

**Committee extend the Business Manager's contract through 2011.
Unanimous Vote.**

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- **Budget Workshop dates are scheduled for January 31, 2008; February 14, 2008; and February 25, 2008. Mr. Edward Draper said he would continue on budget sub-committee.**
- **MHS Course of Study Workshop with the schools committee is scheduled for February 7, 2008.**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

- **CURRICULUM – It's been a very busy month regarding the curriculum.**
- **Technology- Tienet is being used to manage tasks aligned with GLEs and GSEs, PLPs, and IEPs. The Technology Department is researching iParent for parents to access their child's student records, completed tasks, disciplines, and multiple information.**
- **Curriculum booklets – GSEs are currently being generated for grades 9-12.**

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- **ELL- This program is going very well.**
- **Forest Avenue has SALT visit next week. The school is READY! We wish them good luck.**
- **There is a Program of Studies workshop scheduled for next week.**
- **Planetarium – Family Fun nights continue to be scheduled.**
- **Graduation – This date was originally listed as “TBA” on the school calendar. The RI Department of Education initially stated that ALL students were required to complete 180 days of school. In late December, we received notice that this requirement had changed for seniors. A teacher poll was conducted at the high school asking the teachers what date they felt was best for the Class of 2008 graduation. There was a 44-2 vote to have graduation on Saturday, June 14th. Mrs. Kraeger said she supported the shared-decision procedure at the high school and she is supporting the teachers’ vote for Saturday, June 14th.**

Mrs. Cheryl Boergerson requested to speak. She asked why the traditional date of Sunday was changed to Saturday based on the teachers voting. Jessica Sweeney, a high school senior, spoke regarding the changed date as well. She explained that her dance school scheduled a recital for the 14th of June months in advance, based upon the traditional graduation date always taking place on Sunday.

School Committee member, William Coogan, questioned why the “teachers” were polled and not the seniors. He felt that maybe we should keep graduation on Sunday this year and then change it to Saturday in the future.

- **Mrs. Kraeger announced that the Middletown Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force will be presenting their initial Strategic Prevention Framework Plan and the Middletown Community Needs Assessment to the community at a meeting at the Middletown Town Hall on February 4th at 6:00 p.m.**

- **FINANCIAL –**

- **Governor Carcieri’s plan is grim. Our first budget workshop is scheduled for January 31st. We have a gap of over a million.**
- **There are planned meetings with our principals regarding staffing and scheduling needs**
- **Our State aid is being level funded next year**
- **We received 1.3M in Impact Aid for the current school year. We are scheduled to received 900K next year**
- **Will work with the council on the 5.0% cap**

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- **FACILITIES –**

- **Electricity figures for December are not in yet**
- **The Gaudet storage area is up. There is a meeting planned for Saturday, January 19th, to discuss the separation of space. There is also an agreement being written for the building to be turned over to Middletown Public Schools**
- **The facilities personnel are currently being trained in key cutting**

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mrs. Fenton said she and Mr. Crowley went to a SORICO Legislative meeting. Discussions regarding funding formulas, pensions, healthcare, career tech centers, impact fees, group homes, and user fees for school sports took place. Mrs. Fenton requested Career Centers to be fully funded by the State. She stated that Davies Vocational is the only school supported by the state, which is very inequitable. She will be sending a letter to all of the legislators and senators to talk about this situation.

Mrs. Fenton also attended a meeting with Mrs. Kraeger regarding the Career Tech in Newport. Ms. Karen Mullen, Director of the Career

Tech Center, reviewed all assessments (internships, partnerships, and articulation agreements with businesses).

Mr. Crowley stated that all districts are in the same situation. He said it doesn't look like much is going to happen this year.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William Coogan. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 8:38 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk