

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

June 26, 2008

(Rescheduled from June 19, 2008)

MICHAEL S. PINTO CONFERENCE ROOM

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

Liana F. Fenton, Vice-Chair

William Coogan arrived at 7:51 p.m.

Edward Draper arrived at 7:50 p.m.

Liana F. Fenton

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 7:02 p.m. by Chairman Michael Crowley. Administrative staff members present were Steven Ruscito, Stephen Ponte, Michelle Fonseca and Linda Savastano. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Child Opportunity Zone”

Carmela Geer, COZ Coordinator, reported on the activities and accomplishments of the Middletown COZ during the school year. The eight Standards and Indicators are: 1) Partnership and Governance, 2) Community Priority and Needs, 3) School-Linked, 4) Programs, Services, Outreach and Referral, 5) Family and Student Leadership, 6) Public Education and Engagement, 7) Fiscal Sustainability, and 8) Transitions and School Improvement.

There were many partnerships throughout the year, including Kiwanis Club, GMH, AAA, Middletown Parks and Recreation, Regional Special Education, EBCAP and Barnes and Noble. Parent education, support groups, afterschool activities and many family events were initiated through COZ. Many of the programs/activities offered were made possible through grants from local businesses and State agencies.

R.I. Kids Count “Middletown Child Well Being” presentation of statistics was held at Oliphant Administration in May.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

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

oNewport Daily News Athlete of the Week

oNewport Daily News Student of the Week

oJunior Varsity Softball Championship

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No Student Activities for June 26, 2008.

INFORMATION

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

- “Three Cups of Tea” summer reading, “one book, one school, one community” theme at Middletown High School**
- RIDE release of newly calculated graduation rates**
- Auditor General’s recommended practice for School Committees**
- Invitation to Kindergarten Round Up**
- School Committee Vice-Chair named Teacher of the Year by the Aquidneck Grange**
- School Newsletters**
- Volume I and II of MHS Tempo**

CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence for June 26, 2008.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of Minutes of May 15, 2008 School Committee Meeting**
- Approval of Financial Report, dated May 31, 2008, in the amount of \$25,574,822.84**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 13, 2008, in the amount of \$851,320.89**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 19, 2008, in the amount of \$1,102.27**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 27, 2008, in the amount of \$444,922.87**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 2, 2008, in the amount of \$3,077.77**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 10, 2008, in the amount of \$499,343.89**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 20, 2008, in the amount of \$861.75**
- Approval of Special Grants Register, dated May 13, 2008, in the amount of \$33,241.56**

- Approval of Special Grants Register, dated May 28, 2008, in the amount of \$12,016.25
- Approval of Special Grants Register, dated June 10, 2008, in the amount of \$16,818.49
- Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel

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SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

MaryAnne Miller Allan Speech Language Pathologist, Forest Avenue School

From May 16, 2008 to May 22, 2008

ACTION ITEMS

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1)Theresa Spengler, 2)Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 08-09-01. Unanimous vote.

BID AWARDS

MOTION: 1)Theresa Spengler, 2)Liana Fenton. That the School Committee award the electrical bid to Coastal Electric . Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee award the plumbing bid to Custom Plumbing. Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee award the Phone System bid to Rhode Island Telephone. Unanimous vote.

POST PROM

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee allocate \$250 to help offset the cost of the Jr. Class Post Prom Party. Unanimous vote.

LINDEN SCHOOL

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee surplus Linden School to the Town. Motion passed 2 to 1.

YEA - Liana Fenton NAY – Theresa Spengler

Michael Crowley

Mr. Morris Hirsch urged the School Committee to reconsider the decision stating that it is not in the best interest of the Town, school or students. Once property and land is gone, it is gone.

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Mrs. Spengler said that she has concerns that once the property no longer belongs to the school department it is gone for good and there is no benefit of disposing of it now. Mr. Crowley said the building needs to be taken down and we do not have the \$6 - \$10K for upkeep each year. This cost covers insurance for any liability on the playground, the custodial check on the weekend, and the alarm system that is connected to the Fire Department. He encouraged the Town Council to keep the property as open space. The structure is deteriorating and each year and the cost of demolition goes up.

RECALL/RESCIND

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2)Liana Fenton. 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.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

MOTION: 1)Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee authorize the transfer of funds in the 2007-2008 budget to cover obligations. Unanimous vote.

EARLY RETIREMENT

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2)Liana Fenton. That the School Committee open the Early Retirement option for certified staff until August 15, 2008. Unanimous vote.

STRATEGIC PLAN

MOTION: 1)Theresa Spengler, 2)Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the draft Strategic Plan. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Linda Savastano outlined the updated Strategic Plan. One change this year is the vision statement. The new statement is to “Create a community of lifelong learners prepared to achieve success in the global marketplace”. The Mission Statement has also changed.

This change was a result of the work done by the Core Facilities Committee. The goals are:

Goal 1 – Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment – By 2011, all Middletown students will be assured of the opportunity to achieve high educational standards/expectations.

Goal 2 – Safe, Healthy and Supportive Environments for Students –

By 2011, all Middletown schools will be safe, orderly, accessible, attractive, substance abuse free, creative learning environments that promote productivity and learning.

Goal 3 – Parent-Family-Community Engagement - By 2011, all Middletown schools will increase involvement by parents, families, students, and community in decision-making and support for student learning.

Goal 4 – Utilization of Resources – By 2011, all Middletown Public Schools will ensure equity of financial and human resources.

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With the arrival of Mr. Draper and Mr. Coogan at the meeting, and due to the importance of the issue, Mrs. Fenton reopened the discussion on the surplus of Linden School. Mrs. Spengler reiterated her concern that the School Department has no leverage if the building is surplus back to the Town.

OLD BUSINESS

•Wellness Committee – Mr. Steve Ponte reported on this committee. Physical Education and Health teachers are needed on the committee. A priority of last year was to establish afterschool activities. Goals this year are to run a “Health Night” or “Health Week” to focus on health issues, as well as holding Family Nights

and School Wellness Nights. A fifty question School Wellness Survey was distributed in the spring. Results should be tabulated by Thanksgiving. Mrs. Spengler asked about having the students surveyed about what they would like on the hot lunch menu. Capstone Students come to the elementary schools to do afterschool activities such as basketball, cheerleading and dance.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business for June 26, 2008.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

•CURRICULUM – The Consolidated Resource Grant has been electronically submitted. Mrs. Kraeger thanked all for their hard work. The Gaudet School 8th Grade Celebration was a success. The MHS Honor Society Induction, Scholarship and Awards Night and Graduation all went well. NWEA data comparisons with math and language arts are underway. Summer School will be starting after the July 4th holiday. Mrs. Kraeger thanked Tee Gomes, Vincent Giuliano, Mike Mancieri and Steve Ponte for their work to get the program up and running. Grades 9/10 and 11/12 Grade Span Expectation's are in draft form brochures.

•FINANCIAL – The Town Council will vote on the budget at 6:00 pm on Monday. No decision will be made on budget reductions until the

budget is set. The hope is that the Town Council will reconsider the reduction and give the School Department all or some of the funding. State aid will be level funded. A prior year impact aid payment was received. There is concern that next year Impact Aid will be less than level funded. Mrs. Kraeger congratulated Cathy McLeish and the Business Office for balancing the budget.

•FACILITIES – Mr. Collins reported that summer projects have begun. Projects include redoing the baseball infield at Gaudet School, redoing the MHS gym floor, paving the Gaudet School driveway, and remodeling the 4th grade wing at Forest Avenue School. The funding for these projects comes from Town CIP funds – not school budget dollars. Replacing all lights in the cafeteria and gym at Gaudet School

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and Middletown High School will be done. The “Barn” at Gaudet School was funded by Pop Warner, and the crow’s nest was funded by the Boosters.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mr. Crowley – RIASC will hold a workshop for people who have filed to run for School Committee.

Mrs. Fenton – Attended the RI Kids Count presentation with Mrs. Kraeger. Data was distributed on the comparison of R.I. with the State.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 8:40 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk