

**Middletown Public Schools**

**Middletown, Rhode Island**

**Thursday, August 28, 2008**

**7:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting**

**MICHAEL S. PINTO CONFERENCE ROOM**

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

**Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair**

**Liana F. Fenton**

**Member Absent: William Coogan**

**Edward K. Draper**

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

**Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent for**

**Academic and Technology Services**

**Catherine McLeish, Business Manager**

**Edward Collins, Director of Facilities**

**The regular meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Michael Crowley. Administrative staff members present were Steven Ruscito and Michelle Fonseca. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

**There was a Moment of Silence for Thomas Burns, Middletown High School Math Teacher, who passed away in July.**

**MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. To move “Proclamations and Awards” on the agenda. Unanimous vote.**

## **PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS**

**•PLANETARIUM – The Krupowicz Planetarium was recently awarded “Best After Dark Activity” in the “Best of Fun” category, for Rhode Island Monthly Magazine. Mrs. Kraeger said the award would not have been received without the work of Ms. Renee Gamba, who coordinates activities at the Planetarium. Ms. Gamba thanked the school department and Mrs. Carmella Geer, COZ Coordinator, for their help in building the program.**

## **SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING**

### **“Middletown Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force”**

**Mrs. Kraeger introduced Lori Verderosa, Middletown Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force Coordinator, and Genevieve Verde from Child and Family Services, who did consulting work on the Strategic Prevention Plan. Ms. Verderosa introduced Mrs. Carmella Geer, Task**

**Force Secretary, and John Feld, Task Force Member. The grant is a five-step data driven planning process, tasked to produce population change in attitude and behavior about substance abuse, particularly alcohol. Step One is "Assessment". Middletown is 6th in the State for DUI arrests and there is a marked increase in heavy drug use between grades 11 and 12. Data indicates that Middletown has low rates of teen parenthood and juvenile arrest. Substance abuse rates are higher than the State average.**

**The Strategic Prevention Plan notes that there are three risk factors as a result of the needs assessment: 1) youth access, 2) perception of risk, and 3) parental monitoring. There is the lack of a central gathering place for youth and substance free recreational activities. A K-12 curriculum is needed to address substance abuse prevention and there needs to be education about the risks and consequences of alcohol and drugs. A media campaign about the laws and penalties of purchasing and providing alcohol to minors is underway, focusing in on social access (parents and older siblings purchasing alcohol).**

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**No "Student Activities" for August 28, 2008.**

## **INFORMATION**

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

- Completed Impact Aid audit**
- Letter from Attorney Jeremiah Lynch regarding request to tie-in to storm drain at Middletown High School. This will be an Action Item for the September School Committee meeting.**
- COZ-E Newsflash celebrating Safety Town**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**No “Correspondence” for August 28, 2008.**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Approval of Minutes of August 7, 2008 Regular School Committee Meeting**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL**

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Russell Kruse Network Administrator**

**Dr. Martha Ullman School Physician**

**Dr. Hakan Durudogan School Dentist**

**Denise S. Morrow .2 Spanish**

**Corinne Piner Math Teacher, Middletown High School**

**RESIGNATION**

**Jeannine K. Magliocco Grade 4 Teacher, Aquidneck School**

**FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT**

**Susan McIntosh Teacher Assistant, Forest Avenue School**

**From September 2, 2008 to approximately October 14, 2008**

**RECALLS/TRANSFERS**

**Beth Ward Grade 4, Aquidneck School**

**Joanne Reilly Chaves Grade 4, Forest Avenue School**  
**Christa Robinson Multi-Age, Forest Avenue School (OYO)**  
**Deborah Prentiss Multi-Age, J.F. Kennedy School**  
**Christina Logothets Grade 2, J.F. Kennedy School**  
**Jacqueline Zahm Grade 7, Science**  
**Jane Violet Grade 8, Social Studies (.6)**  
**Kathryn Fecso-Trefethen Grade 7, Math**  
**Jaime Sheridan Grade 8, Science**  
**Robyn Borges Combination Grade 5 (.4) and Grade 7 ELA (.6)**  
**Meaghan Corr Grade 7, ELA (.4)**  
**Gail Sullivan-McCune .4 Computer Science, MHS**

## **2008-2009 FALL COACHING APPOINTMENTS**

**Andrew Leys Head Varsity Football Coach**  
**Andrew Bulk Assistant Varsity Football Coach**  
**Stephen Ponte JV Football Coach**  
**Ryan McCormack Assistant JV Football Coach**  
**Luis Oliveira Boys' Varsity Soccer Coach**  
**Richard Formica Boys' JV Soccer Coach**  
**David Kolator Girls' Varsity Soccer Coach**

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**Shannon Lewis Girls' JV Soccer Coach**

**John McDevitt Coed Varsity Cross Country Coach**

**Angela Santa Assistant Coed Varsity Cross Country Coach**

**Kristen Seyster 6/7/8th Grade Coed Cross Country**

**Marianne Curtis Girls' Varsity Tennis Coach**

**Karen Massaro Girls' Varsity Volleyball Coach**

**Gail Abromitis Girls JV Volleyball Coach**

**Sharon Thibeault Cheerleading Coach**

**Gail Abromitis Athletic Trainer**

**Andrew Leys Conditioning Coach**

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS**

**MOTION: 1)Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve the following budget adjustments: 1) eliminate freshman sports, 2) eliminate one school bus, and eliminate three (3) three-hour teacher assistant positions. Unanimous vote.**

**Mrs. Spengler said that the Budget Subcommittee met as a subcommittee a week ago to discuss more budget reductions. Central Office reorganization was a big savings. Mrs. Fenton asked about freshman sports. Students are able to play JV football and some players will be playing for Pop Warner. Mr. Crowley thanked Mrs. Spengler and Mr. Draper for their work on the Budget**

**Subcommittee.**

**JOB DESCRIPTIONS – 2ND READING**

**MOTION: 1)Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the job description for Assistant Superintendent for Academic and Technology Services, 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.**

**BUS CONTRACT**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the First Student contract through 2010. Unanimous vote.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**No “Old Business” for August 28, 2008**

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## **NEW BUSINESS**

•**AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM AT GAUDET SCHOOL** – The Town has developed an afterschool enrichment program for Gaudet School students. This idea was introduced by the Safety Advisory Committee when they were looking for programs for the students. Mrs. Carmella Geer has helped spearhead this program. RFP's were sent out and scholarship opportunities and a sliding scale are being developed. This will begin the second week of September. Mrs. Spengler said that this is a good step.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS**

•**CURRICULUM** – Mrs. Savastano said that technology workshops have been offered over the summer. They have taken the work the high school has done and have begun mapping curriculum. GSE's and GLE's have become the foundation. As a result, this will be highlighted on Opening Day Teacher Orientation. There will be three breakout sessions 1) instruction, 2) assessment, and 3) communications. As a supplement piece, an assessment calendar has been developed and a professional development calendar that can be shared will be developed.

•**FINANCIAL** – Mrs. Kraeger said that this year's budget has been a challenge continue to work on the numbers to bring us to the bottom

line set by the Town Council. Transfer Day was held yesterday; eight teachers were not recalled to positions, and three came back to less than full time. This year's budget has been a combination of the reality of the 30/50 cap, lower enrollment and level funding by the State.

•**FACILITIES** – Mr. Collins reported that this has been an extremely busy summer. All buildings are ready, with the exception of Forest Avenue School pilot project, which is about two weeks away. Teachers have been fabulous. The funds for this project came from Capital Improvement – not tax dollars. Mrs. Kraeger said facilities team did 90% of work. The teachers and principal have been very cooperative. The October School Committee Meeting will be held at the school.

•**ENROLLMENT UPDATE** – Enrollment has been monitored daily. The Foreign Officers students were registered this week. Students logged on to Rosetta Stone and NWEA screening was completed. There are less foreign students than last year.

**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**

**Mrs. Fenton –**

•**Attended two meetings on high school regulations. One was an Exeter West Greenwich High School parent meeting. The other was a Board of Regents meeting.**

•**Organized the 1st STEM Council Meeting, which was attended by Bristol/Warren, Tiverton, Portsmouth, Middletown and Newport Superintendents. The objective is to improve all student achievement in math, science and technology using problem solving and critical thinking. The next meeting will focus on educators and bringing in Dr. D'Olivier from RIC to work with school-based coordinators on career pathways. This will be a pilot program throughout the state.**

**Mr. Crowley attended a RISCA Meeting. Discussion revolved around NECAP being a diagnostic test and should not be used as a high stakes test or graduation requirement.**

## **ADJOURN FROM MEETING**

**MOTION: 1)Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 8:12 p.m. Unanimous vote.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk**