

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

January 15, 2009

6:30 p.m. – Budget Workshop

7:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting

MICHAEL S. PINTO CONFERENCE ROOM

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

Kellie M. DiPalma

Liana F. Fenton

William R. O’Connell

Member Absent: Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair

Also Present: Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Linda Savastano, Asst Supt for Academic & Tech Services

Catherine McLeish, Business Manager

Edward Collins, Director of Facilities

Budget Workshop called to order at 6:30 p.m. Budget Workshop dates were set, as follows:

Week of January 26 TBA Budget subcommittee 2009-10 proposed

budget

Week of February 2 TBA Budget subcommittee 2009-10 proposed budget options

February 5 6:00 pm Budget Workshop Draft budget with budget options

Week of February 9 TBA Budget subcommittee Review budget options

February 12 6:00pm Budget Workshop Review budget 7:00pm Regular SC meeting

February 26 6:30pm Budget Workshop Review budget

March 19 6:30pm Budget Workshop Finalize budget 7:00pm Regular SC meeting

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The following FY 09-10 budget goals were determined:

- **Continue to meet the needs of our students in a climate of fiscal crisis at the federal, state and local level.**
- **Meet the challenge of the Rhode Island Senate 3050 statute, 4.75% tax cap**
- **Articulate to both the school community and community at large the specific expected shortfalls in local, State and Federal dollars and the impact on programs and personnel.**
- **Provide a detailed cost analysis budget by school and by program.**
- **Continue to work effectively with members of the Budget Subcommittee**

Miss DiPalma suggested we add another goal:

- **Continue to provide Professional Development opportunities for staff to enhance teaching and learning.**

Budget Workshop dates were determined. Mrs. Kraeger presented a number of challenges we will face.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Michael Crowley. Administrative staff members present were Vincent Giuliano, Steven Ruscito and Pete Wood. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Middletown Sports Boosters”

Scott Finn, President of Middletown Athletic Boosters updated the committee on the work of the boosters. Boosters meet monthly and work closely with Administration and the Athletic Director. They support the Senior Sports Banquet in the spring and provide recognition for State and Divisional Championships. The Boosters provided funding for the softball dugouts and the press box at Gaudet School.

There are many different types of fundraising, including an annual golf tournament, concession sales, apparel sales, membership dues, donations from individuals and socials. The next social will be held on January 25th from 4-8:00 p.m. at the Newport Athletic Club. Mr. Crowley thanked him for all work they are doing and said that the School Department needs to rely more on the Boosters during the tough economic times.

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PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

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

- o Newport Daily News Athlete of the Week**
- o Newport Daily News Student of the Week**

• **SCHOOL COMMITTEE RECOGNITION** – The School Committee honored William Coogan and Edward Draper for their work on the School Committee. Mr. Draper was elected for a four-year term. He served on the Budget Subcommittee, the Core Facilities Committee and formed the Safety Advisory Committee. Mr. Coogan was appointed to finish a term and then was elected for a four-year term. He served on the Health & Nutrition Committee and worked on developing a policy on wellness.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“East Bay Educational Collaborative”

Mr. Gerry Kowalczyk, Executive Director of EBEC, gave a background and updated the Committee on the work of the Collaborative. They are a private, non-profit group formed in 1989. There are four Collaboratives; East Bay, Northern, West and Southern. EBEC has developed a national reputation as a professional development provider. The Mission is to nurture world class educational practice.

Areas of service include; teaching and learning essentials, guaranteed and available curriculum, culture of collaboration and enabling structures and support. Using the Collaborative results in a cost savings for the school district.

The Collaborative also houses the East Bay Career Academy with fifty students and a 95% graduation rate.

Mr. Crowley thanked Mr. Kowalczyk for his presentation and said that East Bay is an example of collaboration with the school.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No Student Activities for January 15, 2009.

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INFORMATION

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

- Core facilities meeting**

- **List of School Committee Subcommittees**
- **Letter from Rosemarie Kraeger and Shawn Brown to Union Presidents regarding GHGRI**
- **Middletown Fire Department fire prevention information**

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Patrick Crowley, NEARI, requesting to meet and confer for the purpose of negotiating a successor collective bargaining agreement to the current contract which expires August 31, 2009.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee receive the communication. Unanimous vote.

Copy of Letter from E. Richard Carpender, Chairman, Portsmouth School Committee, to Governor Carcieri, stating Portsmouth's opposition to regionalization or consolidation of the Middletown, Newport and Portsmouth School Departments.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee receive the communication. Unanimous vote.

Copy of Letter from E. Richard Carpender, Chairman, Portsmouth

School Committee, to Senator-Elect Louis P. DiPalma, stating Portsmouth opposition to regionalization or consolidation of the Middletown, Newport and Portsmouth School Departments, until complete information is collected.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee receive the communication. Unanimous vote.

Letter from Senator-Elect Louis P. DiPalma, inviting School Committee Members to meet with him to discuss the Legislative Agenda for 2009.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee receive the communication. Unanimous vote.

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A meeting has been set up with the Town Council and Legislators on Monday, February 2, 2009 at 6:00 p.m., Town Hall.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To approve the Consent

Agenda. Unanimous vote.

- **Approval of Minutes of December 11, 2008 Special School Committee Meeting**
- **Approval of Minutes of December 11, 2008 Executive Session**
- **Approval of Minutes of December 16, 2008 Regular School Committee Meeting**
- **Approval of Minutes of December 16, 2008 Executive Session**
- **Approval of Financial Report, dated December 31, 2008, in the amount of \$11,723,670.44**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 9, 2008, in the amount of \$465,862.56**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 12, 2008, in the amount of \$1,662.55**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 15, 2008, in the amount of \$50.00**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 2, 2009, in the amount of \$2,680.20**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 6, 2009, in the amount of \$646,607.58**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 9, 2009, in the amount of \$1,533.29**
- **Approval of Special Grants Register, dated December 23, 2008, in the amount of \$6,790.00**

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENT

Ronald A. Dumais Technology Educator (K-12 Support)

RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT

Shirley A. Fisher Resource Teacher, J.F. Kennedy School

NEWPORT COUNTY REGIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION RESIGNATION AS OF FEBRUARY 20, 2009

Susan Sisson Special Education, Middletown High School

EXTENSION OF MATERNITY LEAVE

Jaime Sheridan Grade 8 Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

Until March 23, 2009

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ACTION ITEMS

POLICIES

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To approve the First Reading of the policies, as noted in Section 0000 “Philosophy” and Section 1000 “Community Relations”. Unanimous vote.

The following policies are approved as “First Readings”:

0000 Philosophy

0100 Objectives

1070 Minutes

1071 Electronic Filing of Meeting Notices/Minutes with the Secretary of State

1080 Advisory Committees

1100 Public Records

1325 Solicitation of Funds

TBA Bullying, Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Violence

TBA Peanut and Tree Nut allergy

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To adopt revised policies in Section 0000 “Philosophy” and Section 1000 “Community Relations”, as noted. Unanimous vote.

The following policies are approved as “Revisions”:

1000 Purpose

1010 Guiding Beliefs

1020 Ethical Standard and Principles

1030 General Powers and Duties

1031 Bylaws

1041 Policy Process

1051 Public Participation at Meeting

1061 Defense and Indemnification of School Employees

1326 Student Activities and Fundraising

TBA Computer and Internet Acceptable Use with Student Web Mail Form

MANDATES

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee identifies mandates and statutes that need to be relaxed or appealed based on the FY09-10 financial constraints. Unanimous vote.

Items have been divided into what is a State Law, State Mandates or contractual. The elimination of bus monitors is a significant issue for Middletown. Mr. Crowley and Mr. O'Connell both said that they would oppose the elimination of bus monitors for elementary students. Mrs. Kraeger said that there has been more training and student
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awareness has risen. Mr. Collins said it is difficult on middle school buses to keep control of 75 students without a monitor. Mrs. Kraeger will prepare a list for our legislators in preparation for the joint meeting with the Town Council, School Committee and Legislators on February 2, 2009.

BUDGET DATES

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the Budget Workshop Dates for 2009. Unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

No “Old Business” for January 15, 2009.

NEW BUSINESS

No “New Business” for January 15, 2009.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

- CURRICULUM – Mrs. Savastano reported that with the recent news of possible cuts, funding for professional development has been**

frozen in the district. The district is working to utilize Title 2, Title 3 and IDEA funds to support the void. This would allow the districts to continue to move forward with professional development. Winter NWEA Testing is being completed in grades 2-8. Teachers will then use that data to support instruction in the classroom.

“PROGRAM OF STUDIES”

Mr. Ruscito reported on the Science portion of the Program of Studies. A committee of ten met and considered that with the advances in science, the cycle should be Physics, Chemistry and then Biology. The results of NECAP Testing, indicated that 16% of students met proficiency. This sequence of course will help expose students to particular areas of the curriculum for NECAP Testing. Middletown High School teachers have advocated for this change for some time. There would be no changes in electives.

Mr. Crowley asked what professional development is being done for Physics First. It is crucial that teachers are comfortable with teaching physics. One teacher is trained and another would need to be trained.

- **FINANCIAL** – 35.54% of budget has been expended. This compares favorably with previous years and is actually 1% less than this time last year. The 09-10 budget process has begun. The Impact Aid count is down. There is concern about what kind of dollars we will receive.

- **FACILITIES** – Mr. Collins gave the Committee reports on the monthly usage of energy. The district goes out to market to bid on gas and electric. We are currently in a gas contract for the next six months. An electrical bid went out, but the school department will stay with National Grid. Mr. Collins reported that so far it has been a cold winter, but the buildings are in great shape.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mrs. Fenton – Attended a regionalization meeting with the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission. The meeting was attended by legislators and others to update the status of collaboration on Aquidneck Island. RIPEC data is being used for this.

Mr. Crowley – A workshop will be held in February on Collective

Bargaining. He will also be meeting with the Commissioner of Education tomorrow. Mrs. Fenton asked him to address the issue of Career Tech and funding.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 8:53 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk