

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

February 12, 2009

4:00 p.m. – Executive Session

6:00 p.m. – Budget Workshop

7:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting

MICHAEL S. PINTO CONFERENCE ROOM

Members Present:

Michael F. Crowley, Jr., Chairman

Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair

Kellie M. DiPalma

Liana F. Fenton

William R. O'Connell

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 Budget Workshop was called to order at 6:46 p.m. Mr. Crowley announced that no votes were taken during Executive Session.

Mrs. Kraeger asked the School Committee to rank items from a list of possible reduction items that could potentially be eliminated. All items come with a great deal of concern and some affect other items.

The committee was in agreement that the elimination of All-Day Kindergarten is not something that they would want to do. Grade Leaders could be reorganized to save funds. There will be a meeting with the Alternate Learning Program teachers tomorrow to take a look at the program to see how it can function more efficiently. At the next Budget Workshop on February 26th, the public is invited to speak.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the Budget Workshop at 6:57 p.m. Unanimous vote.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman Michael Crowley. Administrative staff members present were Michael Mancieri and Pete Wood. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

No “Spotlight on Teaching and Learning” for February 12, 2009.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

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

oNewport Daily News Student of the Week

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No Student Activities for February 12, 2009.

INFORMATION

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

•Letter from Salve Regina University regarding the Gaudet Football Field.

•College Planning Center has opened a satellite campus at Middletown High School.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Robert M. Silva, Esq., requesting to be considered for the

position of School Department Attorney.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of Minutes of January 15, 2009 Budget Workshop and School Committee Meeting**
- Approval of Financial Report, dated December 31, 2008, in the amount of \$11,723,670.44**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 31, 2009, in the amount of \$15,087,648.36**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 20, 2009, in the amount of \$371,319.25**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 23, 2009, in the amount of \$3,821.86.00**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated February 3, 2009, in the amount of \$499,806.960**
- Approval of Special Grants Register, dated January 9, 2009, in the amount of \$100,725.25**
- Approval of Special Grants Register, dated January 23, 2009, in the amount of \$17,345.94**

•Approval of Special Grants Register, dated February 2, 2009, in the amount of \$52,411.20

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SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT

Mary C. Clark Grade 1 Teacher, Forest Avenue School

Nancy Dugan Grade 2 Teacher, J.F. Kennedy School

Carol A. Hutchinson Grade 4 Teacher, Forest Avenue School

Renee D. Kaminitz Elementary Library Media Specialist

Colleen Martin Grade 1 Teacher, Forest Avenue School

Rosaline M. Pascoe Career Education Teacher, Middletown High School

Claudia Carlson Vars Music, Middletown High School

Beth Spooner-Willis Guidance Counselor, J.F. Kennedy School

NON-CERTIFIED RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT

Barbara Lindh Teacher Assistant

Diane J. Macedo Teacher Assistant

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

Sarah McCarty Grade 6 ELA/Social Studies Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School From June 8, 2009 to the beginning of the third trimester of the 2009-2010 school year

RETURN TO FULL-TIME POSITION

Maureen Sullivan Kindergarten, Forest Avenue School

ACTION ITEMS

REDUCTION IN FORCE

MOTION: 1)Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the Superintendent's Report be accepted and adopted and the necessary letters sent out. Unanimous vote.

The year, letters have been sent to an unprecedented number of teachers. Administration worked with NEAM to review the list. The school department must comply with R.I. Law and send out letters by March 1st. It is our hope that as soon as dollars become more real, we will be able to rescind letters as soon as possible. Mrs. Spengler said that this gets more difficult every year and the hope is to bring back as many teachers as possible.

POLICIES – 2nd READING

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MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve Policy Sections 0000 “Philosophy” and 1000 “Community Relations”, Second Reading, with the exception of “XXXX Bullying, Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Violence”. Unanimous vote.

Miss DiPalma reported that the Safety Advisory Committee had some issues with the “Bullying, Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Violence” policy. The policy will be reviewed at the next Safety Advisory Committee Meeting and then put forth for approval.

APPOINT CO-NEGOTIATOR

MOTION: 1)Kellie DiPalma, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee appoint Michael Crowley and Attorney Benjamin Scungio to begin negotiating a successor agreement to the current teacher contract and Teacher Assistant Contract. Unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

No “Old Business” for February 12, 2009.

NEW BUSINESS

No “New Business” for February 12, 2009.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

•CURRICULUM – Mrs. Savastano reported that the allocation for the Consolidated Resource Plan has been increased. It will be resubmitted to RIDE. It is the hope that we can begin the Professional Development piece again. Regarding Professional Development, Gaudet School teachers worked for two days with EBEC on strategies and interventions they can apply to literacy. Gaudet teachers are also doing wonderful work with co-teaching.

Next month, there will be a more detailed assessment summary. Overall, in reading, 76% of students are at or above proficiency, compared to the State average of 68% in grades 3-8 and 11. In math, Middletown had 72% at proficiency or above, compared to 53% statewide. In Writing, 58% of Middletown students were at or above proficiency, compared to 49% statewide. AP results will be available next month as well.

•FINANCIAL – To date, 46% of the budget has been expended. This fares favorably from past years. Mrs. Kraeger will attend the Impact Aid conference in early March. We have more “B” students (students whose parents work on base, but do not live on base), so we will receive fewer dollars.

•FACILITIES – Ed Collins reported that he is pleased with the way the National Grid contract is performing for electric. The contract for gas is also performing well. With the weather breaking soon, the Facilities Department we begin preparing the fields for the spring.

MOTION: 1)Theresa Spengler, 2)Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent’s Reports. Unanimous vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Miss DiPalma – Miss DiPalma attend the RIASC Conference on management rights on Saturday, January 24th. Outcomes from different cases were reviewed.

On January 31st, Miss DiPalma attended the R.I. Interlocal Trust and League of Cities and Towns seminar on public official liability, ethics, and the Open Meetings Act. The Auditor General discussed State finances.

Miss DiPalma attended a Safety Advisory Committee Meeting on February 10th. There was discussion about the Gaudet Bullying Program possibly expanding to the elementary schools. The Gaudet Bullying Committee presented an informative video to this group. They would be interested in presenting this at an upcoming School

Committee Meeting.

Mrs. Fenton – Mrs. Fenton attended the Governor’s PK-16 Conference. There was discussion about dual enrollment and NECAP results.

Mrs. Spengler – Mrs. Spengler attended an Early Childhood Committee Meeting. The committee is looking at the age for kindergarten enrollment.

Mr. Crowley – Mr. Crowley gave testimony at the State House on a bill regarding changing the March 1st date for teacher layoff notices. There is a lot of support to change the date to June. Mr. Crowley also testified on a Management Rights bill.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 7:38 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk