

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

April 23, 2009

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 regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairman Michael Crowley. Administrative staff members present were Steven Ruscito, Timothy Ryan, Maureen Cicchitelli, Vincent Giuliano, Stephen Ponte and Gail Abromitis. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To move proclamations first on the agenda. Unanimous vote.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

- **Middletown Teacher of the Year will be moved to the May School Committee Meeting.**

- **Retiring Personnel:**

Mary C. Clark Grade 1 Teacher, Forest Avenue School 25 years

Nancy Dugan Grade 2 Teacher, J.F. Kennedy School 28 years

Shirley A. Fisher Resource Teacher, J.F. Kennedy School 22 years

Carol A. Hutchinson Grade 4 Teacher, Forest Avenue School 18 years

Renee D. Kaminitz Elementary Library Media Specialist 24 years

Barbara Lindh Teacher Assistant 16 years

Diane J. Macedo Teacher Assistant 23 years

Colleen Martin Grade 1 Teacher, Forest Avenue School 37 years

Rosaline M. Pascoe Career Education Teacher, MHS 19 years

Beth Spooner-Willis Guidance Counselor, J.F. Kennedy School 32 years

Claudia Carlson Vars Music, Middletown High School 29 years

Total 273 Years

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- **Student Awards were presented in the following categories:**
 - o **Newport Daily News Athlete of the Week**
 - o **Newport Daily News Student of the Week**
 - o **Academic Decathlon Team**
 - o **R. I. Art Education Association State Wide Postcard Competition**

- **National Volunteer Week – Mrs. Carmela Geer, COZ Coordinator, accepted the National Volunteer Week Proclamation. National Volunteer Week is April 19-25, 2009.**

- **Teacher Appreciation Week – Mrs. Carol Hutchinson accepted the Teacher Appreciation Week Proclamation. National Teacher Day is May 5, 2009.**

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Legislative Update”

Senator Lou DiPalma updated the committee on Legislative issues. Senator DiPalma serves on the Education Committee and is the Deputy Chair of the Senate Finance Committee. They have begun

hearings on the FY10 budget. Presently, the State has a \$500 million deficit.

Senate Leadership expects a State Education Funding Formula to be finalized soon. Rhode Island is the only State that lacks a funding formula. Federal stimulus money being allocated in 2010 is not going to be there in two years. When looking at programs we need to look forward to what a program will look like in two years when the funding is not there. Mrs. Kraeger said we are being briefed next week about how to use these Federal dollars.

It is unclear when the State budget will be finalized. The 2011 budget will be even more difficult.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No Student Activities for April 23, 2009.

INFORMATION

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

- **Announced that First Robotics ranked 3rd in the World!**
- **Mrs. Kraeger and Mr. Collins attended an event at the State House sponsored by the R.I. Recycling Club. Six schools in the state were**

recognized for their efforts in

recycling. Three of the schools are from Middletown; Middletown High School, J.H. Gaudet School and J.F. Kennedy School.

• Special Education Awards Recognition Night is scheduled for May 27th.

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CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for April 23, 2009.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

• Approval of Minutes of March 19, 2009 Budget Workshop and School Committee Meeting

• Approval of Minutes of March 23, 2009 Special School Committee Meeting

• Approval of Financial Report, Dated February 28, 2009, in the amount of \$17,739,852.10

• Approval of Financial Report, Dated March 31, 2009, in the amount of \$20,191,700.50

- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated March 17, 2009, in the amount of \$484,845.94**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated April 1, 2009, in the amount of \$582,781.73**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated April 14, 2009, in the amount of \$340,369.16**
- **Approval of Special Grants Register, dated March 26, 2009, in the amount of \$251,259.14**

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENT

Stephen Tetzloff Day Lead Custodian, Forest Avenue School

COACHING APPOINTMENT

Richard Formica Boys' Varsity Lacrosse

COACHING RESIGNATION

Lucien E. Forbes Boys' Varsity Lacrosse

FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE

Renee Kaminitz Elementary Librarian

From April 27, 2009 to May 1, 2009

Daniel P. Seger Grade 7 Social Studies, J.H. Gaudet School

From May 11, 2009 through the end of the 2008-09 School Year

**Kathleen Edwards Regional Special Education Teacher Assistant,
Forest Avenue School**

From April 27, 2009 through the end of the 2008-09 School Year

Rosaline Pascoe Career Education, Middletown High School

Through the end of the 2008-2009 School Year

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ACTION ITEMS

POLICY – 2000.1 “Administrative Organization” - 2nd Reading

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma . That the School Committee approve Policy 2000.1 Administrative Organization, 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

POLICY – 2200 “Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer” - 2nd Reading

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School

Committee approve Policy 2200 “Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer”, 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

POLICY – 2510 “Residency” - 2nd Reading

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton , 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve Policy 2510 “Residency”, 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

POLICY – 2300 “Guidelines for the Use and Abandonment of School Buildings” – 1st Reading

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve Policy 2300 “Guidelines for the Use and Abandonment of School Buildings”, 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

POLICY – 3000 “School Committee Fiscal Responsibilities” – 1st Reading

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve Policy 3000 ”School Committee Fiscal Responsibilities”, 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

POLICY – 3010 “School Committee Annual Budget and Format” – 1st Reading

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve Policy 3010 "School Committee Annual Budget and Format", 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

**POLICY – 3020 "School Committee Budget Development Process" –
1st Reading**

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve Policy 3020 "School Committee Budget Development Process", 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

2009-2010 CALENDAR

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma . That the School Committee approve the School Calendar for School Year 2009-2010. Unanimous vote.

This calendar is consistent with Newport Schools.

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE STIPED

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) Theresa Spengler . That the School Committee approve the proposal regarding School Committee Stipend. Unanimous vote.

This was proposed by Miss DiPalma. School Committee Members have the option of giving all or part of their stipend back to the School Department and having the funds used for a specific objective, if they so chose.

GAUDET GYM FLOOR SANDING AND REFINISHING BID

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee award the Gaudet School Gym Floor Sanding and Refinishing Bid to O’Sullivan Flooring Co. Unanimous vote.

GAUDET FIELD/SALVE LEASE

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma . That the School Committee approve the lease between the Middletown School Committee and Salve Regina University for the use of Gaudet Field. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Collins said that this is a 40-year lease with Salve Regina University. Salve will pay for the cost of replacing the field, if necessary. There will be six home football games played on Saturday’s through November. Games and practices times will be

coordinated with the Athletic Department and School Department. School Department and Pop Warner activities take precedence.

CLUB SOCCER

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve a Middle School Soccer Team, which will be funded by the Middletown Middle School Soccer Club. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Kraeger thanked Mr. Cristos Argos for all his work in putting this club together.

CHARTWELLS

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee confirm the cooperating district's decision to award the School Food Services Contract to Chartwells School Dining Services. Unanimous vote.

TUITION RATE

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the tuition rate for 2009-2010. Unanimous vote.

ANNUAL RATE

2006-2007 2007-2008 2008-2009 2009-2010

Elementary \$10,178 \$10,789 \$11,436 \$11,800

Middle School 11,973 12,691 13,452 13,900

High School 12,150 12,879 13,652 14,000

Special Education 32,389 34,332 36,392 37,500

Alternate Learning Program 17,548 18,601 19,717 20,300

Alternate Learning Program SpEd 21,937 23,253 24,648 25,400

OLD BUSINESS

- EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMITTEE – Mrs. Maureen Cicchitelli reported that the Early Childhood Committee began a committee to explore the age for entrance into Kindergarten. 2004 Rhode Island Regulations state that a Kindergarten student needs to be 5 years old by September 1st, but the State gives school districts the option of taking each situation case by case. Policies and research regarding how the age requirement benefits the child were reviewed. The Committee came to the decision that that the September 1st date is acceptable. They asked the School Committee to adhere to R.I.**

Regulation without exception. Mrs. Kraeger said the research done was outstanding.

Mrs. Spengler said that she was very impressed with the committee and they are a great group of educators. Standards have changed and expectations are higher for children. The brochure created by the committee offers information about the benefits of the September 1st date.

Mrs. Fenton suggested that we convene another early childhood committee to work together with private preschool, head start, home schoolers. The outcome she would like is that Kindergarten teachers would have more information from private preschools to ensure that students are placed well and the teachers know the students needs.

NEW BUSINESS

- **CAREER PATHWAYS – Mrs. Fenton would like to form a committee to look at Career Pathways with the goal of what can be provided for our children in career opportunities and internships. There would be a model from PK-16.**

- **TRANSITION TEAM – Mrs. Kraeger presented a Phase I and II report to the committee. In March, the School Committee voted to close Kennedy School, resulting in moving grades K-3 students to Aquidneck and Forest Avenue and 4th grade students to Gaudet School.**

Mrs. Kraeger then discussed all the alternatives and research

reviewed.

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Mrs. Savastano discussed the difference between an elementary and a middle school model. K-4 will remain an elementary model and 5-8 will remain a middle school model. "Clusters" will be used.

With a small learning community, there is a great opportunity for collaboration and collaboration with professional development.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To extend meeting past 9:00 a.m. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Savastano and Mrs. Kraeger discussed Frequently Asked Questions regarding recess, lunch, co-curriculars, special education, class size, bussing, start time, kindergarten and multi-age class. Important events and upcoming meetings, such as parent meetings, teacher meetings and PTG Meeting were listed.

Miss DiPalma said she did research on the Old Saybrook, CT School Department which houses grades 4-8 in one school and has won recognition awards.

Mrs. Carmela Geer, COZ Coordinator, discussed the COZ Program and the work of the Transition Team. She reviewed the Summary, Needs, Problems and Goals & Objectives and explained how the

questions were derived from the Phase I Report.

Public Input –

Several individuals addressed the School Committee regarding the closing of Kennedy School, concerns with moving 4th graders to J.H. Gaudet School and bussing.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

- **CURRICULUM – Mrs. Savastano will report at the May School Committee Meeting.**

- **FINANCIAL – Currently, 61.21% of the 2008-09 budget has been expended. This is consistent with previous years. The Town Council has made it clear that they will only approve a budget with a 2% increase.**

The MISA Conference will be held at the end of June in Middletown.

- **FACILITIES – Mr. Collins will report at the May School Committee Meeting.**

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

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REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mrs. Fenton

- **Attended Governor's PK-16 Council. Discussed dual enrollment, new high school graduation requirements and Professional Development.**
- **Physics First Rhode Island – They will meet next week with two chemistry teachers.**

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 10:30 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk