

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

May 21, 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 7:02

p.m. by Chairman Michael Crowley. Administrative staff members present were Vincent Giuliano, Gail Abromitis and Michelle Fonseca. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

•**Middletown Teacher of the Year - The 2009 Middletown Teacher of the Year is Mr. Dana Ramey. Mr. Ramey has been a Foreign Language Teacher at Middletown High School since September 1996. Mr. Ramey has organized student exchange programs to Mexico. He was named a Fulbright Exchange teacher.**

•**Student Awards were presented in the following categories:**

•**Tech Collective Girls Reaching Remarkable Levels**

•

Aquidneck Island Multicultural Scholarship

A short recess was taken. The meeting was called back to order at 7:20 p.m.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Pure Performance Program”

Ms. Lori Verderosa has been with the Middletown Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force for two years and is also a member of the Middletown Safety Advisory Committee. With the Junior and Senior proms approaching, the task force has sent messages to parents via the school listserv regarding underage drinking. The messages address ways to keep students safe and chemical free.

Mr. John Underwood, a researcher in the area of sports medicine, an Olympic coach and a NCAA member, has a program called “Life of an Athlete”. All athletes need to sign a Code of Conduct. He also has a program called “Pure Performance”. On Tuesday, May 26th at 2:30 p.m., Oliphant Administration, an overview presentation of the “Pure Performance” program will be held. Barrington Schools began this program last year. Parent needs to participate in workshop to have their student eligible. Warwick, North Kingstown and South Kingstown participate in the program as well.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No Student Activities for May 21, 2009.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted items of information in the School Committee

Package:

- Summary report of Starbase Atlantis**
- Dr. Martha Ullman, School Physician, regarding her consulting fee.**
- Information on different types of board members.**
- Information on School Board Laws**

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Mary Wiley, MHS Senior and Junior Post Prom Committees, requesting funds to help offset the cost of the MHS Senior and Junior Post Prom Parties.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee receive the Correspondence and move to an Action Item. Unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of Minutes of April 23, 2009 School Committee Meeting**
- Approval of Financial Report, Dated April 30, 2009, in the amount of \$22,819,897.59**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated April 16, 2009, in the amount of**

\$1,698.74

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated April 24, 2009, in the amount of \$1,318.22

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated April 28, 2009, in the amount of \$120,911.41

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 12, 2009, in the amount of \$663,742.32

•Approval of Special Grants Register, dated April 16, 2009, in the amount of \$36,732.08

•Approval of Special Grants Register, dated April 28, 2009, in the amount of \$3,277.47

•Approval of Special Grants Register, dated May 13, 2009, in the amount of \$27,569.10

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT

Mason Hawes Science Teacher, Middletown High School

MaryAnne Miller Allan Speech Language Pathologist, Forest Avenue School

EXTENTION OF MATERNITY LEAVE

Sarah McCarty Grade Six, ELA, Social Studies, Gaudet School

From April 27, 2009 to February 1, 2010

ACTION ITEMS

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1)Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 08-09-04. Unanimous vote.

POLICY – 2300 “Guidelines for the Use and Abandonment of School Buildings” – 2nd Reading

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

POLICY – 3000 “School Committee Fiscal Responsibilities” – 2nd Reading

MOTION: 1)Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve Policy 3000” School Committee Fiscal Responsibilities”, 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

POLICY – 3010 “School Committee Annual Budget and Format” – 2nd Reading

MOTION: 1)Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve Policy 3010” School Committee Annual Budget and Format”, 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

**POLICY – 3020 “School Committee Budget Development Process” –
2nd Reading**

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve Policy 3020” School Committee Budget Development Process”, 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

ELECTRICAL BID AWARD

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee use the option for the second of the two one-year extensions to the electrical contract with Coastal Electric. Unanimous vote.

PLUMBING BID AWARD

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee use the option for the second of the two one-year extensions to the plumbing contract with Custom Plumbing. Unanimous vote.

**AUTHORIZE SUPERINTENDENT TO APPLY FOR CONSOLIDATED
RESOURCE GRANT, COZ AND DOD FUNDING**

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee authorize the Superintendent to apply for Consolidated Resource Grant, COZ and DOD Funding. Unanimous vote.

RECALL/RESCIND

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. 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.

EARLY RETIREMENT

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee authorize the Superintendent to reopen the Early Retirement Incentive for certified staff until June 30, 2009. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Kraeger said that there is so much uncertainty at the State level that we want to give our staff another opportunity for early retirement.

MIDDLETOWN SUBSTANCE ABUSE SURVEY

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee authorize the Superintendent to administer the Substance Abuse Survey to grades 8, 10 and 12. Unanimous vote.

Previously the SALT Survey data was used, but the State is no longer doing this. Letters will be mailed tomorrow with a letter to parents requesting that they return a form if they do not want their student to participate. The survey will be administered during an Advisory period.

JUNIOR AND SENIOR POST PROM PARTIES

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee allocate \$250 to help offset the cost of the Middletown High School Junior Post Prom Party and \$250 to help offset the cost of the Senior Post Prom Party. Unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

•TRANSITION TEAM – Carmela Geer, COZ Coordinator provided an update. New participants are encouraged to join any time during the process. After Phase I, all the information was compiled. The Team discussed transportation and was presented with two scenarios. The majority of the members of the transition team favored transporting grades 4-8 with stipulations, including a revision to the Bus Policy, increased number of stops, retrained monitors, assigned seating and a possible second monitor. Fielding Nair gave a presentation on the concept of a Learning Academy.

Public Input –

Two parents expressed their concern about the J.F.K. closure and the relocation of grade 4 student to Gaudet School.

Mrs. Kraeger responded that closing a school is not an easy decision to make. If a school was not closed, services to students would be lost.

In response to allegations of plagiarism, Mrs. Kraeger said that the

PowerPoint Presentation was “cited” and the research was never meant to be “our research”, but a review of research. Mrs. Kraeger asked the parent group to meet with her and move forward together. Mrs. Spengler clarified her statement about regionalization.

NEW BUSINESS

- BASIC EDUCATION PLAN – A revised BEP will be voted on by the Board of Regents in June.**

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

- CURRICULUM – Mrs. Savastano reported that they are working with teachers on curriculum development and the standards-based report card. There will be a draft of the new report cards at the June meeting.**

- FINANCIAL – Mrs. Kraeger reported that 69.18% of the budget has been expended. This compares favorably with previous years. The MISA Impact Aid Conference will be held in Middletown June 21-23. This is a national group of over 100 members. The planetarium, NUWC and robotics team will be showcased.**

- FACILITIES – Mr. Collins reported that most of the buildings are maintaining or dropping below electrical usage. He has locked in a**

favorable gas contract for next year and has gone out to bid for electrical. He supplied a building by building breakdown of electrical and gas usage. The J.F.K. playground has been inspected. It is in good shape and should be moved to Gaudet School. Volunteers cannot be used to move the playground because of liability issues.

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

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1)Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 9:07 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk