

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

June 16, 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 7:00

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

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

No "Spotlight on Teaching and Learning" for June 16, 2009.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

•Student Awards were presented in the following categories:

Newport Daily News Athlete of the Week

Newport Daily News Student of the Week

2009 Aquidneck World Affairs Essay Contest

Holocaust Ed. & Resource Center of RI's Art & Writing Contest

2009~ First Place Winners

All-State Chorus

Junior All-State Orchestra

Art Scholastics (Self Portrait)~Silver Key Winner

All-State Band

•Retirees - Mrs. MaryAnne Miller Allan was honored for her 29 years of service to Middletown. Mr. Mason Hawes was not present, but is retiring after 33 years of service.

A short recess was taken. The meeting was called back to order at 7:33 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

TRANSITION TEAM – Mrs. Carmela Geer reported on the findings of the Transition Team, which was created to provide input to administrators regarding the close of J.F. Kennedy School and Grade 4 at Gaudet School. Over 50 people participated in the team. The priorities were: transportation, social interaction, parent involvement and communication.

Transportation – The recommendation was to adhere to the current Gaudet time schedule - 7:50 a.m. to 2:10 p.m. The Bus Policy must be revisited and revised to reflect current needs. There will be a “go to” person for bus concerns and extra monitors will be retrained, if needed. An adult will accompany the 4th grade students at the entrance/exit.

4th Grade Learning Academy – Grade 4 will remain elementary. Grade 4 and 5 will have recess. There will be opportunities for grades 4 and 5 to work together.

Social Interactions – There will be adult supervision for transition times (in hallway and bathrooms). Teacher Assistants will be maximized for adult supervision. There will be clear entrance and dismissal protocols.

Parent involvement – There will be a PTG, SIT, Volunteer Program, and Parent Education.

Communication Planning – During the summer, updates on progress, as well as bus schedules and class assignments, will be provided on the website. Listserv's will be used during the summer to communicate to parents. For the opening of school, there will be a community-wide open house one week before school starts. Facilities updates will be provided before and after school starts.

The findings were submitted as a formal report to the School Committee. Mrs. Spengler said that Mrs. Geer did a great job. Mr. Crowley thanked everybody for all their hard work and said that they want to serve the children of Middletown the best they can.

Public Input –

Lisa Rosenthal, Literacy Specialist, Newport School Department and parent of twin daughters in grade 5, spoke regarding students not receiving Foreign Language until grade 8.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No Student Activities for June 16, 2009.

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INFORMATION

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

- National Honor Society banquet at the Atlantic Beach Club.**
- DARE Graduation**
- 4th Grade Nights**
- 3rd Grade Performances**
- Minutes from “Foods and Nutrition Advisory Board Meeting”. There will be a “Walk to School Day” event in September.**
- High School Principal and 3 students on were featured on WADK radio.**
- ELOP Brochure**
- Answers to SOS Group questions**
- Letter regarding Newport County Career Tech Center continuing to maintain programs, but in a different way.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Claudia Carlson Vars, Director of Vocal Music, requesting funds to help offset the cost of a student attending the Music Education National Conference All-Eastern Honor Mixed Chorus, in Providence, R.I. on March 12-15, 2009.

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) Kellie DiPalma. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Minutes of May 19, 2009 Executive Session**
- Approval of Minutes of May 21, 2009 School Committee Meeting**
- Approval of Financial Report, Dated May 31, 2009, in the amount of \$25,345,412.55**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 15, 2009, in the amount of \$2,120.15**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 22, 2009, in the amount of \$2,814.88**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 26, 2009, in the amount of \$284,453.72**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 27, 2009, in the amount of \$955.21**

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 5, 2009, in the amount of \$170,664.18

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SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT

John J. McDevitt Director of Math, Science & PE, Middletown High School

Lanni M. Sullivan Clerk, Oliphant Administration

Peter G. Reynolds Custodian, Facilities Management Department

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

Melissa Kleinknecht

Regional Special Education Speech Language Pathologist

From September 8, 2009 to January 4, 2010.

ACTION ITEMS

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee authorize the transfer of funds in the 2008-2009 budget to cover obligations. Unanimous vote.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

MOTION: 1)Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee authorize payment of bills through June 30, 2009. Unanimous vote.

REQUEST FOR FUNDS

MOTION: 1)Theresa Spengler, 2)William O'Connell. That the School Committee allocate \$100 to help offset the cost of a student attending the Music Education National Conference All-Eastern Honor Mixed Chorus, in Providence, R.I. on March 12-15, 2009. Unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

No "New Business" for June 16, 2009.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

•CURRICULUM – Mr. Giuliano and Mr. Mancieri spoke about the changes in the Foreign Language program at Gaudet School. By moving the program to 8th grade, it will give every student the opportunity to take a Foreign Language and the opportunity to enter high school at a Level II. Mrs. Spengler said that children should be exposed to a foreign language at a young age and the younger they start, the more they absorb. Mrs. Geer will look into Foreign Language as an afterschool program.

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•FINANCIAL – The Business Office is working on closing out the 08-09 year and reconciling budget lines. To date, 76% of the budget has been expended. The first Public Hearing will be held tomorrow. The second Public Hearing will be held on June 2nd and the Budget Adoption is scheduled for June 29th.

•FACILITIES – Mr. Collins said the Facilities Department is getting ready for a busy summer and prioritizing jobs.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To go into Executive Session 42-46-5 (a) 1,2,5,8,9 at 8:32 p.m. Unanimous vote.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 9:30 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk