Middletown Public Schools
Middletown, Rhode Island

September 2, 2009

5:00 p.m. – Executive Session
Immediately Followed by 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
Edward Collins, Director of Facilities
Ben Scungio, School Department Attorney
Absent:

Peter Wood, Director of Technology

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: 1) William O’Connell, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To go into Executive Session 42-46-5 (a) 1,2,5,8,9 at 5:02 p.m. Unanimous vote.

The regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Chairman Michael Crowley. Administrative staff members present were Steven Ruscito, Vincent Giuliano, Michael Mancieri, Michelle Fonseca, Gail Abromitis and Stephen Ponte. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

No votes were taken in Executive Session.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

No “Spotlight on Teaching and Learning” for September 2, 2009.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS
No “Proclamations/Awards” for September 2, 2009.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for September 2, 2009.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

• Approval of Minutes of July 28, 2009 School Committee Meeting
• Approval of Minutes of July 28, 2009 Executive Session
• Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 18, 2009, in the amount of $545,395.92

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENTS

Tara Manion.6 to Full-Time Librarian
Eric Godin.Athletic Director
Colleen Larson.Dean of Students
Alana Robles.5 Art Teacher
Emma Hookway  Music Teacher
Gustavus Steppin  Math Teacher, Middletown High School
Kevin Zahm  Director of Science, Math and Physical Education

RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT

Catherine McLeish  Business Manager

RESIGNATION

Corinne Piner-Badar  Math Teacher, Middletown High School

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Colleen Larson  Dean of Students, Middletown High School
From September 21, 2009 to October 23, 2009

Gary Sebastiao  Music Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School
From October 6, 2009 to December 4, 2009

FALL COACHING APPOINTMENTS

Andrew Leys  Varsity Football Coach
Steve Ponte  Assistant Varsity Football Coach
Arthur Bell  Junior Varsity Football Coach
Ryan McCormack  Assistant Junior Varsity Football Coach
Charles Russ Freshman Football Coach
TBA Assistant Freshman Football Coach
Luis Oliveira Boys Varsity Soccer Coach
Chris Greene Boys' Junior Varsity Soccer Coach
Dave Kolator Girls' Varsity Soccer Coach
TBA Girls' Junior Varsity Soccer Coach
Kristen Seyster Coed Varsity Cross Country Coach
Angela Santa Asst Coed Varsity Cross Country Coach
TBA 6th/7th/8th Gr. Coed Cross Country Coach
Marianne Curtis Girls' Varsity Tennis Coach
Karen Massaro Girls' Varsity Volleyball Coach
Gail Abromitis Girls' Junior Varsity Volleyball Coach
Renee Brietzke Cheerleading Coach (Fall)

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for September 2, 2009.

ACTION ITEMS

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee award the contract for student accident insurance to Lefebvre Insurance. Unanimous vote.
Lefebvre Insurance was recommended by RIASBO.

POLICY – 3030 “School Committee Budget Implementation, Monitoring and Transfers” – 2nd Reading
MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve Policy 3030 ”School Committee Budget Implementation, Monitoring and Transfers”, 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

POLICY – 3050 “School Committee Capital Reserve Account” – 2nd Reading
MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve Policy 3050 ”School Committee Budget Capital Reserve Account”, 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

POLICY – 3060 “School Committee Purchasing Procedure” – 2nd Reading
MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve Policy 3060 ”School Committee Purchasing Procedure”, 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.
POLICY – 3070 “School Committee Bid Purchase Policy” – 2nd Reading


CHEMICAL HEALTH & STUDENT SAFETY POLICY

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Chemical Health & Student Safety Policy, 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

CONTRACTS

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Teacher Assistant Contract for years 2009-2012. Unanimous vote.

The Fiscal Impact Statement will be posted on the school department website, as required by law.

ADDITIONAL STAFF

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee authorize the Superintendent to add additional staff, if needed, based on enrollment. Unanimous vote.
Mrs. Kraeger will review the enrollment. This will impact the budget, so reductions will have to be made elsewhere.

OLD BUSINESS

TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE: Mr. Collins reported that the playground installation is behind schedule as a result of weather. It should be ready one week after school starts. The Gaudet Learning Academy will be ready for the opening of school. New storage units are continually being made. After school starts, teachers will provide feedback as to what they would like in the Learning Academy. The 4th grade lockers are installed. The parking lot study and redesign was completed today.

Mr. Mancieri discussed the entry and dismissal procedures at Gaudet. All busses will come into the front of the building. Student drop-off by parents will be in the back of the building with supervision. Walkers will leave last after the buses leave. The Transportation Policy has been revised. Instead of a “5 strike” rule, it is now a “3 strike” rule.

Fourth grade students will have a full year of Music, PE, Art and chorus, as well as Health, Library, Family and Consumer Science and Tech Ed for ½ year. They will also have recess for 30 minutes.

Mr. Giuliano thanked Mr. Collins and his crew for a phenomenal job.
At the 4th Grade Breakfast, the grade four teachers were introduced to parents and tours were given. There was also a 5th Grade Breakfast for parents, students and teachers.

- Back to School Night for Grades 4-5 - September 22nd
- Back to School Night for Grades 6-8 - September 24th

NEW BUSINESS

- ENROLLMENT UPDATE – Mrs. Kraeger showed the enrollment trend over the past three years and for this summer. A Grade 3 has been added at Forest Avenue and a Multi-Age at Aquidneck School. The Grade 2 numbers at Forest Avenue School are being reviewed.

- COMMISSIONER’S VISIT – Commissioner Gist will be visiting Middletown on September 29th from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. The focus will be on Gaudet School because of the new Learning Community and technology.

- H1N1 – Mr. Collins and Mrs. Savastano attended a conference at CCRI and participated in a conference call regarding H1N1. There will be a weekly conference call and a letter to parents that is the same for every community. Vaccines should be administered October through December. Administration will meet with all nurse teachers to
discuss procedures.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

• CURRICULUM – Mrs. Savastano reported that they are working with EBEC for support with PLP. They are also working with Newport grades K-6 looking at data and analyzing to see how they can support student achievement. Work is being done on a math project K-12. Task force members will meet 12 hours throughout the year. Vertical alignment of curriculum is also being looked at.

• FINANCIAL – Mrs. Kraeger said that they are working on getting to the bottom line that the Town Council set in June. The Business Manager position has been advertised. Miss DiPalma asked about sharing some job responsibilities with the town. The Town and the School Department are now working on payroll collaboration, but Mrs. Kraeger said that because our mission is different from the Town, we need our own Business Manager.

• FACILITIES – The football field is almost complete. The field is currently being lined. Football begins in two weeks. There will be a ribbon cutting prior to the first football game. To schedule the field, Middletown sports are scheduled first, followed by Pop Warner, then Salve. Mr. Collins said that they have locked in at 5.5 cents for electrical.
MOTION:  1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent’s Reports. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Spengler requested that hand washing be enforced before lunch.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION:  1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 7:11 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk