

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

September 24, 2009

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

Absent:

Peter Wood, Director of Technology

The regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman Michael Crowley. Administrative staff members present were Michelle Fonseca and Gail Abromitis. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

•Student Awards – Awards were given to Newport Daily News Athlete of the Week and Student of the Week.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To move “First Student” up on the agenda. Unanimous vote.

FIRST STUDENT – Bill Roche, Bob Jencks and Robyn Joslyn represented “First Student”.

Mr. Roche addressed the bus concerns that surfaced at the start of school. An action plan has been put together. Drivers have been brought in from other areas to fill vacancies and the Marketing Director has been brought in to recruit drivers. Ads have been placed in the Newport Daily News and Providence Journal. There have been logistical errors with the phones and radio contact that need to be addressed. Mrs. Kraeger said that since the routes were adjusted today, the morning went well, but there were issues with the

afternoon runs at Aquidneck School.

Mr. Roche said that the construction on West Main Road and Miantonomi Avenue was a huge issue. The Regional Safety Coordinator has been in Middletown assessing the situation. Mrs. Spengler said that time is important, but do not jeopardize students safety by speeding.

The School Committee had many questions for First Student regarding the bussing situation:

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•At what point before school began was First Student aware of the shortage of drivers? Mr. Collins said that they met with First Student numerous times throughout the summer and that potential problems were not conveyed to the school department.

•Are we still using spare drivers or do we have the positions filled with steady drivers for our district? There are spare drivers and there will be a smooth transition once permanent drivers are hired.

•When does the contract with First Student end? When will a bid be developed? Mr. Collins said that we negotiated two years ago, so we need to go out to bid in December. The bid is almost complete.

•Is First Student supplying a Terminal Manager as the contract requires? Mrs. Kraeger asked that they meet the requirements of the contract and have Mrs. Joslyn in the office.

•What type of credit/compensation will the district receive as a result of these problems? Mr. Roche said that each administrator would get bussing for a field trip at no charge to their school.

Mrs. Spengler asked if another letter will be sent home to parents informing them of the efforts to rectify the situation. Mrs. Spengler also commented that a lot of parents are not utilizing bus transportation because they cannot count on the schedule.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“H1N1 Presentation”

School Nurse/Teachers Ellen O’Connor, Cam Ventura and Donna Byron presented the School Committee with an update on H1N1. Mrs. O’Connor reported that students are contagious one day before symptoms appear, mostly through the time they have a fever. The incubation period is 1-7 days. Symptoms include fever (100° or higher) plus a sore throat, cough, vomiting and diarrhea. This is different from the common flu. Mrs. O’Connor is the liaison for Middletown. If there is an outbreak, the Department of Health would like students to wear masks and be separated from other students

when they go to the nurse's office. Children who are dismissed from school have to be fever free for 24 hours, without Tylenol.

The truancy policy and NECAP testing schedule might have to be adjusted. There will be immunization clinics held after school or on weekends for grades K-5. Grades 6-8 and high school will be held during the day. This will be strictly voluntary. Students ages 9-18 will receive one shot and under age nine will receive two shots. There will be a staff flu clinic on November 18th, but the staff is advised to receive it before that date.

Mrs. Spengler asked about hand washing and the use of gel for students who come from recess directly to lunch. Mrs. Ventura said that at the elementary schools, the students use Purell before they go to lunch.

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No "Student Activities" for September 24, 2009.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of Minutes of September 2, 2009 School Committee Meeting**
- Approval of Minutes of September 2, 2009 Executive Session**
- Approval of Minutes of September 5, 2009 School Committee Meeting**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 28, 2009, in the amount of \$195,080.71**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated September 10, 2009, in the amount of \$220,992.49**

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENTS

Mary Ann Dischert Middle School Science (One Year Only)
Denise McCarthy .5 Guidance Counselor, J.H. Gaudet
(One Year Only)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Janice Roehr Grade Five, JHG

From Sept 16, 2009 through Oct 12, 2009

Colleen Larson Dean of Students

From Sept 22, 2009 through Nov 30, 2009

FALL COACHING APPOINTMENTS

Paula Guarino 6/7/8 Grade Coed Cross Country Coach

Michael Sircello Assistant Freshman Football Coach

Brian Zupan Girls' Junior Varsity Soccer Coach

MHS STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Patrick Aylward Student Activities Coordinator

Michele Smith Senior Class Co-Advisor

Maria Dowler Senior Class Co-Advisor

Renee Brietzke Junior Class Co-Advisor

Marianne Packer Junior Class Co-Advisor

Amanda Jordan Sophomore Class Co-Advisor

Michele Oliveira Sophomore Class Co-Advisor

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Gregory Decoteaux Freshman Class Advisor
Liana Fenton FIRST Team Advisor
Stephen Fagan Math League Advisor
Kevin Zahm Fall Dramatics Directorship
Kevin Zahm Spring Dramatics Directorship
Steven Ruscito Student Council Advisor
Philip Statser Band Director
Jennifer Vaillancourt Choral Director
Samantha Hines Academic Decathlon Advisor
Ramona Bessinger Tempo (Art/English)
TBA Yearbook
Colleen Larson National Honor Society
Timothy Sunn Natural Helpers Advisor
Steven Ruscito Mock Trial Advisor
Kristen Lyon VHS Co-Advisor
Chris Savastano VHS Co-Advisor

CORRESPONDENCE

No "Correspondence" for September 24, 2009.

ACTION ITEMS

POLICY – 3082 “School Committee Duplication of Materials” – 1st Reading

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve Policy 3082” School Committee Duplication of Materials”, 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

POLICY – 3085 “School Committee Fundraising for School Programs” – 1st Reading

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve Policy 3085 ”School Committee Fundraising for School Programs”, 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

POLICY – 3091 “School Committee Grant Procedures” – 1st Reading

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve Policy 3091 ”School Committee Grant Procedures”, 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 09-10-01. Unanimous vote.

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SUBSTITUTE NURSE/TEACHER PAY

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee set the rate for substitute nurse/teachers at \$125 per day. Unanimous vote.

BINDING ARBITRATION

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the resolution regarding mandatory binding arbitration. Unanimous vote.

BID AWARD

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee award the bid for Pest Control Services to Terminex. Unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

No “Old Business” for September 24, 2009.

NEW BUSINESS

•**ENROLLMENT** - Enrollment is reported on October 1st to the State. It is also reported daily. Enrollment is up at Middletown High School. The teachers' contract states that whenever possible, classes do not go above 25 students. There are 1 or 2 classes at Gaudet School with 26 students in a class. The High School is over the limit in many classes. The overall enrollment is up 50 students from last year.

•**COMMISSIONER VISIT** – Commissioner Gist will be visiting Gaudet School on September 29th. She will observe classrooms, visiting with students, teachers, parents and administrators. She will also visit the planetarium.

•**“WALK TO SCHOOL”** – The date is set for October 7th, with a rain date of October 8th. This is a project of the Foods, Nutrition and Wellness Committee. Elementary schools will be participating, with support from the PTG's, Chartwells and FedEx. The students will receive t-shirts.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

•**CURRICULUM** – Mrs. Savastano reported that last year there were revisions done on report card to make sure that the report card reflects the grade level expectation. The report cards will be put on

the website for parents to view. Grade Leaders and leadership teams met over the summer to work on the report cards.

•Mrs. Savastano also discussed the newly released science scores. Grades 4, 8 and 11 tested in science in the spring. The percentage of “Proficient with Distinction”

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increased 9%. Middletown High School had the largest increase of any high school in the state. The addition of Physics First helped some students.

•FINANCIAL – At the October 15th School Committee Meeting, the final budget will be approved. The yearly audit has begun. The Business Office is implementing the Uniform Chart of Accounts. The Finance Director position has been advertised and interviews will take place next week. Mrs. Kraeger will attend the Impact Aid Conference the first week of October.

•FACILITIES – Mr. Collins reported that indoor air quality testing will begin soon. The playground at Gaudet should be completed in 3-4 days. Building inspections have been completed.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School

Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Fenton attended PK-16 meeting and a School Based Coordinators meeting at T.F. green Airport. They will discuss career awareness at the next meeting.

Mr. Crowley attended a steering committee meeting for Rhode Island's proposal for "Race to the Top". They hope to have the proposal in by December. The second round will be held in the spring. Mr. Crowley will be attending the Northeast NSBA Conference from October 2-4 in Providence.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To go into Executive Session 46-42-5 (a) 1,2,5,8,9 at 8:15 p.m. Unanimous vote.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 8:53 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk