

**Middletown Public Schools**

**Middletown, Rhode Island**

**December 17, 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**

**The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Michael  
Crowley.**

**MOTION: 1)Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To go into Executive Session at 6:00 p.m.. Unanimous vote.**

**Mr. Crowley announced that two votes were taken in Executive Session. The first was to support the Superintendent's recommendation on student disciplinary action. The second was to deny class size grievances based on the district's financial constraints.**

**MOTION: 1)Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To seal the minutes of Executive Session. Unanimous vote.**

**The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Michael Crowley. Administrative staff members present were Steven Ruscito, Michael Mancieri, Gail Abromitis, Stephen Ponte and Michelle Fonseca. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

## **PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS**

**•Student Awards –**

**oNewport Daily News Student of the Week**

**A short break was taken.**

**SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**“Commissioner’s Review – Middletown High School”**

**The Commissioner’s Review is part of an accountability process to assure all high schools are meeting the Graduation By Proficiency requirements. Miss Abromitis gave an overview of the high school in regards to enrollment, graduation rate, sports participation, courses, SAT and NECAP scores. Mr. Ruscito and Mr. Zahm talked about the components MHS had in place to support the Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements system. Mrs. Yentsch talked about Common Planning Time. Mr. Savastano spoke about the role that technology plays. TieNet can be accessed by both students and faculty. The state wants each school system to disaggregate their information. TieNet houses the portfolio system where students upload their portfolio tasks. Starting this year, TieNet will house all Capstone documents. Schools are required to have students fill out an Individual Learning Plan once a year.**

**Mr. Ruscito talked about the next steps that need to be developed:**

- Individual Learning Plan.**

- Articulation with the Middle School.**
- Advisory program is mandated at high school and middle school.**
- Curriculum alignment, which is also part of NEASC recommendations.**
- Defining proficiency – what is a proficient student?**

**Mrs. Fenton asked how we track students who graduated from MHS. Mrs. Kraeger said that we use to conduct a five-year follow-up, but the information was not received and response was limited.**

**Mrs. Kraeger asked what recommendations will be made to the School Committee. Mr. Ruscito said that the School Committee has approved a policy regarding graduation, but will be asked to revise the policy. Mrs. Kraeger also said that many of high school directors have served on visiting committees for other districts. Mr. Crowley and Mrs. Spengler requested a glossary of all the acronyms used that could be available on-line.**

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**No “Student Activities” December 17, 2009.**

## **INFORMATION**

**Mrs. Kraeger highlighted items of information:**

- **Providence Journal article regarding Mr. Dana Ramey, Rhode Island Teacher of the Year.**
- **Commissioner's Decision regarding the closure of Kennedy School.**
- **New implications of the Basic Education Plan.**
- **Minutes of Island School Committees Workshop.**

**(Minutes of December 17, 2009 School Committee Meeting, Page Three)**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**No "Correspondence" for December 17, 2009.**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

• **Approval of Minutes of November 19, 2009 School Committee Meeting**

• **Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 13, 2009, in the amount of \$402,428.82**

- Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 30, 2009, in the amount of \$610.61
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 24, 2009, in the amount of \$545,372.96
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 8, 2009, in the amount of \$700,220.26
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 9, 2009, in the amount of \$1,126.16

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL**

### **RESIGNATION**

**Peter N. Wood, Jr. Director of Technology**

### **RECALL**

**Cyndy Tanguay Literacy Coach**

## **APPROVAL OF JOB SHARE FOR 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR**

**David Pritchard .6 ALP, Middletown High School**

**Megan Sheeler .4 Math, Middletown High School (OYO)**

**Cyndy Tanguay .5 Literacy Coach**

### **EXTENTION OF POSITION**

**Megan Sheeler From .4 to .6 Math, Middletown High School**

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **GREEN CLEANERS POLICY – 1ST READING**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Green Cleaners Policy 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.**

**Mrs. Kraeger said that this is required for RIDE.**

**(Minutes of December 17, 2009 School Committee Meeting, Page Four)**

### **CHEMICAL HEALTH & STUDENT SAFETY POLICY – 2nd READING**

**This motion is being tabled.**

### **PARENT/COMMUNITY CHAT POLICY – 1ST READING**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Parent/community Chat Policy, 1st Reading.**

**Unanimous vote.**

**The topic for the next Parent/Community Chat will be “Food and Nutrition”.**

#### **SCHOOL ELEVATOR MAINTENANCE BID**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee award the school elevator maintenance bid to Kone Elevator. Unanimous vote.**

#### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATES**

**MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the School Committee Meeting Dates for 2010. Unanimous vote.**

**Thursday, January 21, 2010**

**\*Thursday, February 11, 2010**

**Thursday, March 18, 2010**

**Thursday, April 15, 2010**

**Thursday, May 20, 2010**

**Thursday, June 17, 2010**

**Thursday, July 15, 2010**

**Thursday, August 19, 2010**

**Thursday, September 17, 2010**

**Thursday, October 16, 2010**

**Thursday, November 18, 2010**

**Thursday, December 16, 2010**

**All meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month, with the exception of the February 11th meeting. The annual list of meeting dates is posted in the Newport Daily News.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**•H1N1 UPDATE – Mrs. Kraeger reported that over 75% of students have been inoculated. Over 100 volunteers assisted at the clinics. Thank you notes are being sent to all. Mrs. Kraeger thanked Mrs. Savastano, Mr. Collins and Mrs. Geer for their attention to detail. Middletown has been commended by the State such well organized clinics. The clinic for the second dose will be held in January. All students could possibly be inoculated at one clinic.**

**(Minutes of December 17, 2009 School Committee Meeting, Page Five)**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**•DEPARTMENT OF NAVY SCHOOL LIAISON – Mrs. Kraeger introduced Mrs. Janet McCarthy from Child and Youth Education Services (CYES). The role of the SLO is to bridge the gap of the needs of military families as they transition in and out of the community. The six core duties are communication, school transition services, deployment support, partnerships in education, home school support, and post-secondary preparation. The services are available to any branch of service anywhere in the state. Newport County has the highest military population in the state. An education summit will be held in early March. There will be teams from many communities attending to look at issues that need further studying or assistance.**

## **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS**

**•CURRICULUM – Mrs. Kraeger met all Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents in the State as the Commissioner rolled out “Race to the Top”. Awards in “Race to the Top” will go to states leading the way with plans for implementing education reform. Rhode Island was one of eight states invited to Washington last week to discuss their plan. The Commissioner would like all districts to be actively involved in the process. A Special School Committee Meeting might be needed the second week of January to approve Middletown’s involvement. There might be substantial amounts of money**

available. Mrs. Kraeger will check with the legal department to see if a formal vote is needed before submission.

•**FINANCIAL** – Middletown is looking at about a \$300,000 shortfall in State Aid. A productive meeting was held with the Town Council. The school department Business Office and the town Business Office have been working together on the Uniform Chart of Accounts. After the holiday, the budget process will begin. A Town Council member will be invited to sit on the Budget Subcommittee.

•**FACILITIES** – Mr. Collins discussed gas graphs from the last four years. The large spike at the high school was caused by inaccurate readings by National Grid. An average of 1700 work orders are submitted each year. The bus bids are in and numbers have been tallied. Mr. Collins will form a committee to make recommendation.

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

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

Mrs. Fenton attended a Career Pathways and STEM meeting and also attended a Brown University "Best and Brightest" meeting.

**Miss DiPalma attended a Nutrition and Wellness meeting. The very successful “Walk To School” was discussed. The committee would like to solicit more members for the committee. Mrs. Kraeger said that principals will send a request for participants on their list serve. One or two high school students would be a good addition to the committee. This could be a topic for a Capstone Project. Mrs. Spengler asked who creates the lunch menus and if we monitor what goes in the trash.**

**ADJOURN FROM MEETING**

**MOTION: 1)Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 8:45 p.m. Unanimous vote.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk**