

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

January 21, 2010

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

5:30 p.m. Parent/Community Chat

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

The topic for the second Parent/Community Chat was “Health and Nutrition – Our School Lunch Program”. Mrs. Kraeger reviewed the guidelines for the Parent Chat.

Karin Wetherill, Kids First Healthy Schools Coordinator, reviewed the new nutrition regulations as they relate to the School Lunch Program.

A “Healthy Snack and Beverage Law” was recently passed that removed the junk food and sodas from school machines. A law was also passed that requires all school departments to form a Wellness Committee. Mr. Ponte, Principal of Forest Avenue School, has chaired such a committee for over ten years. The Rhode Island Nutrition Regulations required that bread products, pizza crust and wraps are all whole wheat. Other regulations include lowering the sodium in foods and offering a greater variety of fruits and vegetables.

Nancy Roberts, Chartwells Nutritionist, reviews all menus to assure that they meet the Rhode Island Nutrition Regulations. Chartwells has partnered with schools for “Walk to School Day”.

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, Gail Abromitis, Stephen Ponte, Vincent Giuliano, and Michelle Fonseca. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

Mrs. Kraeger acknowledged members of the School Committee as part of School Board Recognition month. Each member was presented with an engraved pen.

•Student Awards –

oNewport Daily News Athlete of the Week

A short break was taken.

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SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Technology in the Middletown Public Schools”

This presentation will take place at a future meeting.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for January 21, 2010.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger highlighted items of information:

•Letter from JAM Construction regarding snow removal services.

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for January 21, 2010.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of Minutes of December 17, 2009 School Committee Meeting**
- Approval of Minutes of December 17, 2009 Executive Session**
- of Invoice Register, dated December 21, 2009, in the amount of \$372,610.32**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 5, 2010, in the amount of \$470,121.13**

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENT

Raquel Pellerin Finance Director/Business Manager

Colleen Larson Community Service Coordinator

Leigh Voute .4 Guidance Counselor (Pending Certification) (OYO)

TRANSFER

**James Williams From Grade Six Teacher, JHG to
Full-Time Guidance Counselor, MHS**

**Heidi Gauch From .6 Social Studies Teacher, JHG to
Grade Six Teacher, JHG**

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RESIGNATION (For Information Only)

**Gisele Boog Teacher Assistant, Newport County Regional Special
Education**

**Mrs. Kraeger introduced Miss Raquel Pellerin, newly appointed
Finance Director/Business Manager. Miss Pellerin brings a unique
set of skills from both the school side and municipal side of Fall River
finance departments.**

ACTION ITEMS

GREEN CLEANERS POLICY – 2nd READING

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

Unanimous vote.

PARENT/COMMUNITY CHAT POLICY – 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the Parent/Community Chat Policy, 2nd Reading.

Unanimous vote.

SNOW REMOVAL BID AWARD

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee award the snow removal bid to Mello Construction.

Unanimous vote.

RACE TO THE TOP

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee support the Memorandum of Understanding for Participating in the Race To The Top Grant Application. Unanimous vote.

Over 40 states have applied for the grant. All districts with the exception of two have applied. The grant can be accessed on the R.I. Department of Education website.

OLD BUSINESS

•**H1N1 UPDATE** – The second clinic for all students will be held on Tuesday, January 26th from 4-8 p.m. at Gaudet School. Over 700 students are expected to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

•**MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES** – Mr. Ruscito presented the Program of Studies changes. Changes include:

- Offering a 1 semester Economics Class.
- Addition of Level 4 French and Spanish.

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•Dropped Advanced Physics and added AP Physics B and C.

Mrs. Kraeger said there is more rigor in the courses. Mrs. Spengler asked when middle school starts foreign language. It now starts at grade 8.

•**BUDGET WORKSHOP DATES** – Workshops will be held prior to School Committee Meetings. The February 8th Town Council/School Committee retreat will be postponed until the fall. At the February 11th Budget Workshop, the goals will be established. Other dates are February 25th at 6:00 p.m., March 11th at 6:00 p.m., if needed, and

March 18th at 6:00 p.m., prior to the regular School Committee Meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

•FINANCIAL – Mrs. Kraeger reported that the School Department continues to move towards the Uniform Chart of Accounts. The 2010-2011 budget will begin shortly. Mrs. Kraeger will request a Town Council Member to sit on the Budget Subcommittee. The goals will be developed at the February 11th meeting. There are not many surprises this year. Staff has already been cut as much as possible. Many classes are at the maximum or are over by 1 or 2 students. There will not be many recommendations for layoffs. The Impact Aid application will be submitted at end of the month. The “A” student count is down, but the “B” count is up slightly. This will translate into less Impact Aid funds.

•CURRICULUM – Mrs. Savastano reported that the curriculum initiatives started at the beginning of the year are still underway. This year, East Bay comes to Middletown to work on projects with us. This has allowed us to better utilize our resources. The Math Task Force has been meeting once per month. Each Thursday a group of teachers meet on math curriculum writing. This will be in a draft form during the spring.

•FACILITIES – Mr. Collins reported that as part of the Chartwells bid

for food service they were required to upgrade the service lines in our schools. They completed the High School and Gaudet projects.

During the month of December, 317 events occurring after school hours. The buildings are servicing the town. Facilities staff is on “flex shift” during the school year. This allows the department to complete projects and maintain the buildings while keeping the buildings open to the public.

Energy use graphs showed how there was a drastic drop in utility usage when Kennedy School was closed. The Robotics Program is at Kennedy School.

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

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REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mr. Crowley reported that there is a chairs meeting on Saturday at Building 6 at R.I. C. The topic will be the Governor’s Supplemental Budget.

This year’s annual NSBA Conference will be held in Chicago.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 7:39 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk