

**Middletown Public Schools**

**Middletown, Rhode Island**

**February 11, 2010**

**MICHAEL S. PINTO CONFERENCE ROOM**

**Members Present:**

**Michael F. Crowley, Jr., Chairman**

**Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair**

**Kellie M. DiPalma**

**Liana F. Fenton**

**Member Absent:**

**William R. O'Connell**

**Also Present:**

**Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools**

**Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent for Academic and  
Technology Services**

**Raquel Pellerin, Director of Finance**

**Edward Collins, Director of Facilities**

**6:00 p.m. Budget Workshop**

**7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting**

**Budget Workshop was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chairman Michael Crowley. Administrative staff member present was Vincent Giuliano. Mrs. Kraeger reviewed the goals and objectives of the workshop. The proposed FY 10-11 budget goals are:**

- Align our resources with the learning goals that are consistent with our Strategic Plan, Basic Educational Plan and federal/state requirements.**
- Maintain the level of service supported in the FY09-10 budget.**
- Develop a budget that complies with Rhode Island Senate 3050 statute.**
- Identify and pursue new revenue sources.**
- Maximize resources and efficiencies in the district.**
- Conform to the new Uniform Chart of Accounts reporting system.**
- Utilize the stimulus dollars to maximize teaching and learning opportunities.**

**Mrs. Kraeger discussed the General Fund Revenues. The School Department is requesting a 4.5% tax appropriation increase from the Town. State revenue is down 2.77%. General Fund Expenses are increased by 2.27%. The health care increase is 12.7%.**

**All employees have made collective bargaining concessions.**

**Many classrooms have overages. In grades K-2, there are 11 classes with 1 student over 20. In grades 3-4, there are no classes with overages. In grade 5, 2 classes have 1 student over 25. In grade 6, 5 classes have 1-3 students over 25. In grades 7-8, there are no classes over 25 and in grades 9-12, there are 21 classes with 1-3 students over 25.**

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**Miss Pellerin discussed the Uniform Chart of Accounts. The objective is to meet RIDE's financial reporting requirements. UCOA allows for transparency and uniformity and provides consistency with the same rules, district by district.**

**Budget Subcommittee meetings will be set up shortly. The next budget workshop is scheduled for February 25th, followed by March 11th, if needed, and budget adoption on March 18th.**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the Budget Workshop at 7:00 p.m. Unanimous vote.**

**The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. All School Committee Members were present, with the exception of Mr. O'Connell. Administrative staff members present were Vincent Giuliano, Steven Ruscito, Stephen Ponte, Michelle**

**Fonseca, and Gail Abromitis.**

## **PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS**

**Student awards were presented to the FIRST Lego League Tournament – “The Traffic Patrol Robotics Team”.**

## **SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**“Technology in the Middletown Public Schools”**

**Mr. Ron Dumais and Mrs. Janice O’Donnell presented an overview of the RIDE Technology requirements for certified staff.**

**The State requires each district to submit a Technology Plan and also report:**

- The number of computers available to students with internet access**
- 8th grade technology literacy exam.**
- Personnel skilled in technology based on a set of technology standards.**
- Evidence of a Technology Integration Model.**

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**No “Student Activities” for February 11, 2010.**

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## **INFORMATION**

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

- **“Good Deeds at Forest Avenue School” newsletter**
- **Program of Studies final copy**
- **COZ mid-year report**
- **New Basic Education Program regulations**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**No “Correspondence” for February 11, 2010.**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTON: 1) Theresa spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.**

**•Approval of Minutes of December 17, 2009 School Committee Meeting**

**•Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 19, 2010, in the amount of \$254,648.72**

**•Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 22, 2010, in the amount of \$6,186.89**

**•Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 25, 2010, in the amount of \$5,544.31**

**•Approval of Invoice Register, dated February 2, 2010, in the amount of \$316,229.15**

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

### **RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT**

**Ellen O'Connor School Nurse Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School**

### **RETURN TO FULL TIME POSITION AT THE START OF THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR**

**Maureen Sullivan Multi-Age Teacher, Forest Ave School**

**David Pritchard ALP, Middletown High School**

**Cynthia Tanguay Literacy Coach, Gaudet Learning Academy**

**RETURN FROM LEAVE AT THE START OF THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR**

**Jamie Sheridan Grade Eight Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School**

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**ACTION ITEMS**

**REDUCTION IN FORCE**

**MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the Superintendent's Report be accepted and adopted and the necessary letters sent out. Unanimous vote.**

**The School Department must comply with R.I. Law and send out letters by March 1st.**

**Mrs. Kraeger recommended the following list of teachers and substitute teachers:**

**Category 1, Teachers A-E**

**Category 2, Teachers A&B**

**BUDGET GOALS**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the 2010-2011 Budget Goals. Unanimous vote.**

**BUS TRANSPORTATION BID**

**MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee award the Bus Transportation Bid to Ocean State Transit. Unanimous vote.**

**RHODE ISLAND EDUCATOR CODE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY POLICY – 1ST READING**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the Rhode Island Educator Code of Professional Responsibility Policy, 1st Reading.**

**RHODE ISLAND PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS POLICY – 1ST READING**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve the Rhode Island Professional Teaching**

**Standards Policy, 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.**

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY – REVISION**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa spengler, 2)Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the revised Affirmative Action Policy. Unanimous vote.**

**EMPLOYEE SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY – 1ST READING**

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

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**BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION CHECK POLICY – 1ST READING**

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

**JOB DESCRIPTION CATALOG POLICY – 1ST READING**

**MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School**

**Committee approve the Job Description Catalog Policy, 1st Reading.  
Unanimous vote.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**•H1N1 UPDATE – 1978 students (83% of population) was inoculated. Mrs. Kraeger thanked the number of volunteers, Mrs. Savastano for making sure all details were covered, Mrs. Geer for organizing the volunteers, Mr. Collins for organizing the logistics, the Middletown Police and Fire Departments, and the school nurse teachers.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL CAPSTONE DAY – Ms. Abromitis presented a PowerPoint Presentation with information on MHS's Capstone Day, which will be held on May 4th. There are so many students presenting Capstone Projects, that a half-day presentation needs to be organized. Invitations are being sent to student and parents.**

**Underclassmen will observe to get an idea of what is expected of them. Mrs. Spengler asked about students who come in from other states or countries. Ms. Abromitis said that this is a state requirement and there is a Capstone Class and other support to help**

**them complete the project.**

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS**

**•CURRICULUM – Mrs. Savastano gave a presentation on the NECAP scores. This test was administered to students in grades 3-8 and 11 for reading and math. Writing was administered to grades 5, 8, and 11. Students are assessed on grade level and grade span expectations taught during the previous year.**

**School Committee Members felt that the State needs to be encouraged to administer testing in the spring so results are available in the fall, giving districts more time to work on the material.**

**Mrs. Kraeger said that the year testing was done in the spring, Middletown did not receive the results until December or later.**

**In 2008, Middletown's reading score was at 76%. This year it was at 72%. The State average was 70%. In 2008, Middletown's math score was at 72%. This year it was at 68%. The State average was 54%.**

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**•FINANCIAL – There was a question at the Budget Workshop about**

the increase in the telephone line item. Mrs. Kraeger said that this line item is for eRate (Federal funds). The entire amount is put into the budget, with the hope that all or part will be reimbursed. Miss Pellerin has begun inputting the 09-10 budget into the UCOA format. Budget Workshops will be held on February 25th, March 11th and March 18th at 6:00p.m. Mrs. Kraeger will attend the Impact Aid Conference in early March.

•FACILITIES – Mr. Collins reported that on February 7th, the Town had an H1N1 clinic for the general public, which went very well. The gas contract ends in April and there will be a small rate increase. The school department is in the process of having National Grid do an energy audit of all buildings and is leaning towards renewable energy. Mr. Collins said that he investigated the idea of a wind turbine, but was only approved for a height of 100 feet. The turnaround would not be feasible. Solar panels are also an option. National Grid has offered to turn this into a learning opportunity for students.

Bus Bid – A committee reviewed the two bids based on criteria, which is how the recommendation was made for the contract. Ocean State Transit presently operates in East Providence and Exeter/West Greenwich. Busses will be housed off property.

**MOTION:** 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School

**Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.**

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

**Mr. Crowley reported that on March 1st there will be a county-wide School Committee Meeting. Mr. David Abbott from the R.I. Department of Education will be in attendance.**

## **ADJOURN FROM MEETING**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 8:46 p.m. Unanimous vote.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk**