

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

May 20, 2010

MICHAEL S. PINTO CONFERENCE ROOM

Members Present:

Michael F. Crowley, Jr., Chairman

Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair arrived at 5:50 p.m.

Kellie M. DiPalma

Liana F. Fenton arrived at 6:05 p.m.

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

Ed Collins, Director of Facilities, arrived at 6:40 p.m.

5:30 p.m. Parent/Community Chat

The Parent/Community Chat began at 5:40 p.m. Administrative staff

members present were Vincent Giuliano and Steven Ruscito.

The topic of the Parent/Community Chat was the Middletown School Budget. Before the Chat began, a presentation “Great Things Happen Daily in Middletown Public Schools”, was shown highlighting all the positive things that happen in the Middletown schools. The presentation was compiled by Gaudet Technology Educator Ron Dumais and Technology Specialist Betty Roderiques.

Mrs. Kraeger and Miss Pellerin, Business Manager, provided an overview of the budget process – where do revenues come from to support the budget and how expenses are determined.

The 2010-11 budget is a level service budget; no new programs or staff are added. In order to provide level service, a 4.5% increase needs to be requested. Several scenarios were presented if the Town Council did not fund the School Committee’s request.

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. All members were present. Administrative staff members present were Vincent Giuliano, Steven Ruscito, Michelle Fonseca, and Steve Ponte.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Great Things Happen Daily in Middletown Public Schools”

A presentation “Great Things Happen Daily in Middletown Public

Schools”, was shown highlighting all the positive things that happen in the Middletown schools. The presentation was compiled by Gaudet Technology Educator Ron Dumais and Technology Specialist Betty Roderiques.

Proclamations and Awards were moved on the agenda.

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PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

Student Awards were presented for the following topics:

- Presidents Volunteer Service Award**
- Middletown Geography Bee winners**

“Gaudet School Program of Studies”

Gaudet School Principal Vincent Giuliano and Grade Leader Debra O’Bryan presented a draft Program of Studies for grades 4-8, co-curricular and support services. Mr. Giuliano said they need to include the Grade Level Expectation’s to bring cohesion to the entire document. Mrs. Spengler suggested identifying the co-curriculars for parents. Mrs. Kraeger suggested putting a copy of each report card

in the Program of Studies as well.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for May 20, 2010.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger highlighted items of information:

- Important dates**
- Press Release “Forest Avenue Goes Hollywood”**
- Information from Core Committee Meeting**
- Class size overages**
- Arbitration withdrawal**
- Letter from Aquidneck Grange citing Camille Moy as 2010 Teacher of the Year**
- 2010-2011 School Calendar**
- Resolutions**
- Spring sports**

CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence for May 20, 2010.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of Minutes of April 15, 2010 School Committee Meeting**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated April 9, 2010, in the amount of \$961.65**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated April 13, 2010, in the amount of \$454,417.75**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated April 16, 2010, in the amount of \$1,258.45**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated April 27, 2010, in the amount of \$201,945.48**

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- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 3, 2010, in the amount of \$2,348.30**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 11, 2010, in the amount of \$825,561.54**

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

RESIGNATION

Jaime Sheridan Grade 8 Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

MATERNITY LEAVE - ARTICLE XIV, C, OPTION #1 (NEA/Middletown)

Shannon Dugan Special Education Teacher, Aquidneck School From June 4, 2010 to January 3, 2011.

ACTION ITEMS

CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT POLICY – 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Curriculum Management Policy, 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

STUDENT SERVICES MANAGER JOB DESCRIPTION – 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton . That the School Committee approve the Student Services Manager Job Description, 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

LITERACY COACH JOB DESCRIPTION – 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Literacy Coach Job Description, 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

STUDENT TEACHER POLICY – 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve the Student Teacher Policy, 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

DISSECTION POLICY – 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve the Dissection Policy, 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

TUTORING POLICY – 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Tutoring Policy, 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

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TUTION RATE

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the tuition rate for 2010-2011. Unanimous vote.

AUTHORIZE SUPERINTENDENT TO APPLY FOR CONSOLIDATED RESOURCE GRANT, COZ, AND DOD FUNDING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. That the School Committee authorize the Superintendent to apply for Consolidated Resource Grant, COZ, and DOD Funding. Unanimous vote.

BID AWARD

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee use the option for the second of the two one-year extensions to the "Green Seal" certified paper product contract with Simplex. Unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

•Race To The Top (Round 2) – The School Committee approved Round 1 and we submitted a letter of intent for Round 2. Rhode Island would like to continue work in curriculum, data collection, and

the evaluation piece. These items are part of Middletown's Strategic Plan.

NEW BUSINESS

•Summer School – Mr. Stephen Ponte, Forest Avenue School Principal, gave an overview of the K-12 Summer School Program. Grades K-8 are designed to help students catch up. Grades 9-12 will be evening programs from 6:00 -9:00 p.m. for course credit and enrichment opportunities. Mrs. Fenton asked about virtual courses. This is done on an individual basis. There are also adult enrichment courses. All programs will be held at Gaudet School. Miss DiPalma requested enrollment numbers for the next meeting.

•Regionalization Committee Members – The Town Council recently voted to appoint a regional planning committee to explore the concept of regionalization. Newport has done the same, but Portsmouth has not. The State statute says there needs to be five members, three appointed by the Town Council President and two by the School Committee Chair. Mr. Crowley requested names of people who might be interested. The members will be appointed at the June meeting. The names of candidates will be forwarded to the Superintendent. Mrs. Spengler asked about the ad-hoc committee that meets monthly.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

•CURRICULUM – Mrs. Savastano said that teachers are finishing up on math curriculum and will begin working with K-3 teachers for the implementation piece. Next year the focus will be on ELA and collaboration with EBEC in science. Personal Literacy Plan work is finishing. There has also been work with K-3 teachers to
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review the standards based report cards. The same process will occur at grades 4-8. Mrs. Savastano is in the process of applying for the CRP, which is due next week. June 24th is a professional development day.

•FINANCIAL – There will be a Budget Subcommittee Meeting next week. There are significant challenges. If the Town Council chooses the 0% tax increase, the school department would be allotted \$200,000 and \$700,000 would need to be reduced.

•FACILITIES – National Grid has audited all buildings. The results will be reported in a week or two. The Newport Daily News recently reported that the cost to upkeep J.F. Kennedy School is \$100, 000 per year, which is false information. Mr. Collins said the cost for electricity for the building is approximately \$11,000 per year and \$15-16,000 for gas. The building needs to be kept in good condition

in case the opportunity arises to rent it out.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Miss DiPalma – The Food and Nutrition Committee met recently. Forest Avenue and Aquidneck School are implementing five minute exercise breaks. These breaks help students focus more. The committee also discussed backpack weight. The “Safe Routes to School” grant has been submitted. We will find out in June or July if the grant has been received. Each Forest Avenue School student planted a seedling to take care of until harvest time. In the fall, the produce will be sold to practice math skills.

Mrs. Fenton – Distributed an article on regionalization .

Mr. Crowley – Attended a Race To The Top Steering Committee meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To go into Executive

Session 42-46-5 (a) 1,2,5,8,9 at 8:30 p.m. Unanimous vote.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To seal minutes of Executive Session. Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk