

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, October 21, 2010

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

Members Present:

Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair

Liana Fenton

Kellie DiPalma

Members Absent:

Michael F. Crowley, Jr., Chairman

William O'Connell

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

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

Edward Collins, Facilities Director

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice-Chair Theresa Spengler. Administrative staff members present were Vincent Giuliano, Steven Ruscito, and Stephen Ponte.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To move “Proclamations and Awards” before “Spotlight on Teaching and Learning” in the agenda. Unanimous vote.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

•Top Booster Soccer Fundraisers – Mrs. Kraeger introduced Paul Borges and thanked the Athletic Boosters for their hard work, raising over \$20,000. A portion of the proceeds go to the Mia Hamm Foundation. The Foundation provides awareness and raises funds for families needing bone marrow and cord blood transplants. The top five student fundraisers were introduced. Mrs. Kraeger was presented with a framed poster containing signatures of 85 of the participants.

•National School Bus Safety Week – Mrs. Spengler presented a proclamation for National School Bus Safety Week to a bus monitor and bus drive from Ocean State Transit.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To move “Science

NECAP” to the “Spotlight on Teaching and Learning”. Unanimous vote.

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SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Curriculum Process”

Mrs. Savastano introduced Linda Newman, Curriculum Consultant. Mrs. Newman discussed the curriculum process and noted that the most important part is engaging people in the process. There are three parts to curriculum development; process, product, and implementation. Rhode Island utilizes the GSE’s (Grade Span Expectations) and GLE’s (Grade Level Expectations). A set of standards holds everyone accountable. This will result in high expectations for all students. Common Core standards will be used for English Language Arts and Math.

Once curriculum is written, there needs to be an implementation plan. A realistic timeline is three years to see results in test scores.

Mrs. Fenton is concerned about the 2012 deadline for proficiency. Miss DiPalma commented that it is good that teachers are returning to take part in writing other curriculum areas.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

•MHS Student Government – Mr. Ruscito introduced the officers of the Student Government. Their three objectives for this school year are: 1) to create a strong student government that will continue for years to come, 2) to foster an environment where all students are supported academically and emotionally by teachers, and 3) to have a successful Spirit Week. The overall goals this year are to unify the student body and make sure opinions are heard throughout the year. Mrs. Kraeger offered to attend any meetings during the year.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Approval of the majority of grants in the CRP.
- New teacher assistant evaluation
- Middletown Schools E-News
- Fall sports program

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Kathryn M. Crowley, Superintendent of Schools, Little Compton, requesting to meet to discuss the possibility of Middletown Public Schools educating Little Compton High School students.

MOTION: 1)Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the communication. Unanimous vote.

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Mrs. Kraeger will set up a meeting with the Little Compton School Committee and will work with the Middletown High School principals and teachers to develop a presentation.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

•Approval of Minutes of September 16, 2010 School Committee Meeting

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated September 14, 2010, in the amount of \$406,468.61

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated September 17, 2010, in the amount of \$1,431.83

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated September 28, 2010, in the amount of \$260,600.49

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated October 1, 2010, in the amount of \$2,121.03

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated October 12, 2010, in the amount of \$570,706.38

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENT

Colleen Maher 4-Hour Teacher Assistant

Janine DelRoss 3-Hour Teacher Assistant, Forest Avenue Katie

Shanley 3-Hour Teacher Assistant, Forest Avenue Jo Ann

Houle 3-Hour Teacher Assistant, Forest Avenue Megan Sheeler .8

Math to Full-Time Math, MHS

FALL COACHING APPOINTMENTS

Arthur Bell, Jr. Junior Varsity Football Coach

Matthew Leduc Assistant Junior Varsity Football Coach

Thomas Conrad Boys' Junior Varsity Soccer Coach

Brett Tarter Girls' Junior Varsity Soccer Coach

MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Pat Aylward Student Activities Coordinator

Liana Fenton FIRST Team Advisor

Stephen Fagan Math League Advisor

Kevin Zahm Dramatics Directorship

Anita DeLima Student Council Advisor
Philip Statser Band Directorship
Jennifer Vaillancourt Choral Directorship
Samantha Hines Academic Decathlon Advisor
Steven Ruscito Mock Trial Advisor
Colleen Larson National Honor Society
Colleen Larson Community Service Coordinator
Christopher Savastano VHS Site Co-Coordinator

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David Fontaine VHS Site Co-Coordinator
Maria Dowler Yearbook Co-Advisor
Amanda Jordan Yearbook Co-Advisor
Christopher Richards TEMPO Advisor
Lisa Clark The Wave Advisor
Lisa Clark Model UN Advisor
Karin O'Connell Best Buddies Advisor
Gail Abromitis Rachel's Challenge Advisor
Donna Byron GSA (Gay/Straight Alliance) Advisor
Ann Sullivan Leo Club Advisor
Gregory Decoteaux Science Club/Olympiad Team Advisor
Marianne Packer Senior Class Co-Advisor
Renee Brietzke Senior Class Co-Advisor

Amanda Jordan Junior Class Co-Advisors

Michelle Oliveira Junior Class Co-Advisor

Gregory Decoteaux Sophomore Class Co-Advisor

Maria Dowler Sophomore Class Co-Advisor

Michele Smith Freshman Class Co-Advisor

Marybeth Murphy Freshman Class Co-Advisor

ACTION ITEMS

REAFFIRM VOTES

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee reaffirm votes taken at the June 24, 2010 School Committee Meeting. Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee reaffirm votes taken at the September 16, 2010 School Committee Meeting. Unanimous vote.

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve home schooling 10-11-01. Unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

•School Based Clinics – The Flu Clinic will be held on November 4th for students K-8. The State is organizing the event, but

representatives from Middletown will be there to support them. Mr. Collins said that the Wellness Center has toured the site.

•RTTT – The Race To The Top draft is due to RIDE tomorrow. A questionnaire is on the Middletown website asking teachers to respond to adaptive challenges with the implementation of RTTT.

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NEW BUSINESS

•Science NECAP – Mrs. Fenton requested a workshop to discuss the timeline to determine if Middletown is on track. Between now and the November 18th School Committee Meeting, the Science Department at Middletown High School will address the concerns.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee Meeting continue past 9:00 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Spengler was concerned that the article in the Newport Daily News regarding students not ready for college level programs at CCRI was not accurate and generally does not mean that the school department has failed. Some students need a little reinforcement in certain areas. Mrs. Kraeger will set up a meeting with CCRI's

Admission Office.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

•Curriculum – Mrs. Kraeger has spoken to Portsmouth Superintendent Lusi about a STEM (AIMS) Academy. School Committee members feel that this should be a regional venture and Middletown has to be at the table to voice an opinion as to what we would like. Miss DiPalma commented that we should not let this opportunity slip by, but we need to make it clear that our expectations are that this is a planning grant. Mrs. Fenton said that when you read the planning proposal it looks like it has been finalized and will take place at Portsmouth High School. Also, businesses have wanted to fund a stem academy for a number of years, but would like it to be regional. Miss DiPalma said that all aspects of the grant should be up for discussion and asked if Middletown chooses to be part of the planning process, are we committing to be on board? Mrs. Kraeger will send a letter to Superintendent Lusi stating that Middletown is interested, but the expectation is that everything is open for discussion and this should be a regional planning grant.

•Financial – The Business Office is working with the Unified Chart of Accounts and working with the town with New World software. The auditors should be completed by the end of November. The school lunch program is off to a good start. “Walk to School Day” at the elementary schools was very successful.

Mrs. Kraeger said she had a very successful Impact Aid Conference and visit to Capitol Hill. She met with Senator Reed and staffers from Congressman Kennedy and Langevin's Office, as well as a staffer from Senator Whitehouse's office. Prior year payments are being held up. Senator Reed's office has put in a resolution to expedite prior year payments.

•Facilities – Mr. Collins reported that the facilities Status Report will have a new style and focus on work orders. The cost of electricity is less because of the bid process. All buildings just went through an extensive audit. The Energy Star rating is low because of 1960's buildings. Mr. Collins also reported that the rodent activity at Gaudet School is normal for this time of year. The department likes to use less pesticides and more common sense approach.

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The revisions to the parking lot area at Aquidneck School have gone to the Planning Board and a waiver has been granted. Mr. Collins will be meeting with the Tree Commission to see what types of trees could be planted. The feeling in town is that parking lots should not be visible. Mr. Collins is waiting for the Town Engineers approval for the parking lot revisions. Parking issues

began in 1994 when the size of the school was doubled.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mrs. Fenton – Attended a Board of Regents meeting at Middletown High School. Discussion revolved around 2012 graduation requirements and RIDE budget reduction cuts. Mrs. Fenton also attended a Governor's PK-16 meeting regarding transforming education in Rhode Island.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 9:36 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk