

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

6:00 p.m. Workshop

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

Members Present:

Michael F. Crowley, Jr., Chairman

Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair

Kellie DiPalma

Liana Fenton

William O'Connell

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent

Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager

Edward Collins, Facilities Director

The workshop began at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Ruscito, Middletown High School Principal, presented the Advanced Placement test results. Several School Committee members raised concerns about the consistently “flat” scores. The School Committee requested an action plan that outlines steps that will be taken to improve AP scores.

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Michael Crowley. Administrative staff members present were Vincent Giuliano, Stephen Ponte, Steven Ruscito, and Michelle Fonseca.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

•Student Awards – Awards were presented to one Newport Daily News Athlete of the Week and one Student of the Week.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

No “Spotlight on Teaching and Learning” for December 16, 2010.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger highlighted items of information in the School Committee Package:

•List of graduate courses at the East Bay Educational Collaborative.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Shawn Brown, Town Administrator, regarding the use of the J.F. Kennedy School.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee receive the communication and list as an Action Item next month. Unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Theresa Spengler. To amend the minutes of the November 18, 2010 School Committee Meeting. Unanimous vote.

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

•Approval of Minutes of November 18, 2010 School Committee

Meeting (Amended)

- Approval of Athletic Register, dated November 15, 2010, in the amount of \$1,883.58**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 23, 2010, in the amount of \$76,028.46**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 29, 2010, in the amount of \$1,039.80**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 29, 2010, in the amount of \$5,935.25**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 29, 2010, in the amount of \$75,550.14**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 3, 2010, in the amount of \$1,582.57**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 7, 2010, in the amount of \$409,606.65**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 2, 2010, in the amount of \$801.25**

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL ADVISOR

Frank Lima Color Guard Advisor

ACTION ITEMS

SUBCOMMITTEES

MOTION: 1) William O'Connell, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee Chairman appoint School Committee Members to the following committees: Unanimous vote.

- Budget Sub-Committee – Theresa Spengler and Liana Fenton**
- Career Technical Center Committee – Liana Fenton**
- Policy Committee – Liana Fenton and Theresa Spengler**
- John Clark Scholarship Committee – Kellie DiPalma and Liana Fenton**
- Sick Bank Committee (Certified) – Theresa Spengler and William O'Connell**
- Sick Bank Committee (Council 94) – Michael Crowley and Kellie DiPalma**
- Health and Wellness Advisory Committee – Kellie DiPalma and Liana Fenton (Alternate)**
- Grievance Subcommittee – Michael Crowley, Theresa Spengler and William O'Connell**

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- Open Space Committee – Michael Crowley and Kellie DiPalma**

(Alternate)

- **Facilities Advisory Committee – Theresa Spengler and Liana Fenton**
- **Business Partnerships – Liana Fenton and William O’Connell**

(Alternate)

- **Safety Advisory Committee – Kellie DiPalma**
- **East Bay Educational Collaborative – Rosemarie Kraeger and William O’Connell (Alternate)**

- **Audit Committee – Michael Crowley and Theresa Spengler**

OLD BUSINESS

• **2010-2011 BUDGET TIMELINE – Ms. Pellerin listed the immediate plans for January, which include establishing School Committee Budget Goals and Objectives, developing a budget format and reviewing preliminary data, holding a Budget Workshop with the Finance Sub-Committee, holding budget meetings with central office and school administration, and scheduling additional workshops. Parent and community groups need to be educated on the budget process because it is so different from past years. Understanding the UCOA (Uniform Chart of Accounts) is necessary to understand the budget. With this process, budgets can be compared with other districts and the State. Mrs. Fenton asked how this will be translated to the Town Council. They will need to understand what they are looking at. The difficult part will be to link into function codes. A workshop will be necessary to help the School Committee and Town**

Council understand the process before any meetings are held with the entire Town Council and general public. The budget needs to be linked to the Basic Education Program. We have to do what is mandated. The CRP will be finalized in April. In May, there will be a public question and answer session.

Ms. Pellerin also reported on the recent RIASBO Meeting. Carolyn Dias from RIDE presented “best case” scenarios on the funding formula based on the budget that they presented to the State and they hope to have more information to follow after they meet with the Governor’s transition team. They also stated that we should be aware that we could receive a 5% reduction in State Aid next year, which is the “worst case” scenario. Mrs. Kraeger said that keeping all informed is critical. The data changes every day.

NEW BUSINESS

•STRATEGIC PLAN – The current Strategic Plan expires in 2011. This will be reviewed after the first of the year. The School Committee and Town Council recently met for a retreat to discuss issues within the town. The school department will revise their Strategic Plan and fold it into the towns. A letter will be sent to community members inviting them to participate.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

•CURRICULUM – A notice was received from RIDE regarding the RTTT Scope of Work application. A meeting was held with the Administrative Team to review the pillars of RTTT. Some money from RTTT will come in the form of professional development that is offered. Most of the money will stay at the state level.

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Work continues on the ELA curriculum. Grades 9 and 10 have been completed. Work on grades 5 and 6 will be next. Work on the science curriculum continues, including Physics First grade 9 alignment.

The Title II audit will take place in January. Highly Qualified teacher status will be reviewed and professional development that is used with Title II funds will be monitored.

Report cards in grades K, 1, and 2 were dramatically changed and reflect curriculum alignment with common core standards.

•Financial – Free and reduced lunch applications will go electronically and will link to social services. Hopefully, this will provide more

dollars for the funding formula and reimbursement rate.

•Facilities – Mr. Collins reported that each building is painted every 5-6 years. Work on the high school will begin in January. Hospital grade paint, which is very safe, is used in the schools. We are in the process of the second energy audit. Middletown took advantage of National Grid’s program. Windows are a major problem. Weather stripping on doors needs to be replaced. A roofing plan with Garland Roofing will be implemented. Mr. Collins said that this month’s energy report is positive in all accounts.

The schools are the largest buildings in the town and the most used. There were 313 events held in the schools in December and 248 scheduled for January. The buildings were constructed in the 1960’s and upgrades will need to be addressed.

Due to some complaints regarding the Gaudet School parking lot, Mr. Collins, Mrs. Geer, Mr. Giuliano and Officer Mello met to look at the traffic pattern. Traffic will now be brought in all the way to the gym. The aisle where students cross will be blocked off.

Mrs. Kraeger met with the President of CCRI and received data pertaining to the article that appeared in the Newport Daily News regarding student’s readiness for college. The president will be meeting with the high school principal and guidance staff to work on proactive measures.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Miss DiPalma attended the Safety Advisor Committee Meeting. The group discussed the PBIS regarding discipline and culture changing activities. There was also discussion about the recent Chemical Health Policy violation.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To go into Executive Session 1,2,5,8,9 at 8:00 p.m. Unanimous vote.

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Mr. Crowley announced that no votes were taken.

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

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) Theresa Spengler. To adjourn from

School Committee Meeting at 8:32 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk