

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, May 19, 2011

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

Members Present:

Michael F. Crowley, Jr.

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 meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Administrative staff members present were Michelle Fonseca and Vincent Giuliano.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

•**Student Awards – Student Awards were given out in the following categories:**

o**Middletown High School Girls' Varsity Basketball State Champions**

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Strategic Plan”

The Strategic Planning group is a large cross-section of very committed community members. The kickoff leadership breakfast was held on February 4, 2011 and attended by over 80 people. The committee met again on February 10th, 28th, March 15th and 31st. Dr. Mary Canole facilitated the process.

The first step was to review the vision, mission, goals and strategies. The action plan steps were reviewed, along with longitudinal student data. Key reports were reviewed, including NEASC, School Support Visit, and previous SALT reports. A self-assessment was completed. The beliefs are similar, but a few words were changed to make it bolder. The group reaffirmed the current mission. A panel of students gave their impression of what it was like going through the Middletown Public Schools. Strengths and weaknesses were

identified. The group then came to a consensus on priorities. The key goals tell what you want to happen and strategies tell how to make it happen. The new Vision Statement reads – “Ensuring success for every student”.

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Mrs. Kraeger said that the Strategic Plan is about student achievement. The four key questions are; 1) What is it we want all students to learn?, 2) How will we know if and when they’ve learned it?, 3) How will we respond when some students don’t learn?, and 4) How will we enrich and extend the learning for students who are already proficient.

•**Goal 1: By 2016, 100% of Middletown Students will achieve their targeted growth expectations in the areas of math, science, and literacy using multiple measures.**

Mrs. Linda Savastano reported on Goal 1.

•**Strategy 1.1: Each school will identify/define multiple measures of student growth and establish a protocol for implementation after district review.**

•**Strategy 1.2: Ensure the faithful implementation of research-based interventions and progress monitoring.**

•**Strategy 1.3: Develop a viable and guaranteed curriculum aligned to**

the Common Core that is accessible to all learners.

•Strategy 1.4: Ensure Professional Learning Communities drive student growth through a collaborative process of data informed decision-making.

•Goal 2: By 2016, all students will learn in a student centered, supportive environment that focuses on educational, social, and emotional needs measured in multiple ways.

Mrs. Michelle Fonseca and Mr. Ron Dumais reported on Goal 2. This goal talks about individualizing learning for each student:

***Strategy 2.1: Provide academic supports and interventions for all students.**

•Strategy 2.2: Provide a safe, supportive and nurturing school community.

•Strategy 2.3: Create personalized learning environments to optimize learning.

•Strategy 2.4: Develop and maintain a comprehensive school guidance program.

•Goal 3: By 2016, Middletown Public Schools will ensure that all educators'/staff's professional growth is aligned to and supportive of student achievement as measured by performance evaluations and student achievement data.

Mr. Ron Dumais reported on Goal 3. The goal ensures that teacher development is focused on student achievement and student growth. All of the things that are at the core of the PLC (Professional Learning Community).

- Strategy 3.1: Recruit, support, and retain highly effective staff.**
- Strategy 3.2: Implement a rigorous, performance-based educator/staff evaluation system.**
- Strategy 3.3: Provide on-going professional development based on research based educational practices, focused on evaluation information from educators, staff, and students.**
- Strategy 3.4: Provide innovative options and differentiated supports for individuals to demonstrate proficiency in their field.**

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•Goal 4: By 2016, Middletown Public Schools will maximize its communication efforts in order to increase/achieve universal participation in all schools.

Mrs. Carmela Geer reported on Goal 4. Parent participation has an active level (Parent/Teacher Conferences) and a passive level (parents go on website to get information and become more involved).

- Strategy 4.1:** Develop and implement a targeted, multi-faceted communication plan to fully inform all district staff, parent, guardians, students and the community about the goals, program opportunities, achievement and needs of all of our schools.
 - Strategy 4.2:** Increase parent participation in supporting student learning.
 - Strategy 4.3:** Increase the community participation rate (including higher education and business partners) to ensure a community investment in student learning.
- Goal 5:** By 2016, Middletown Public Schools will expand its resources through innovation and efficiencies so that all students are adequately and equitably funded to attain national benchmarked standards for college and career readiness.

Mr. Ed Collins reported on Goal 5. We need to continue collaboration with local colleges, as well as music and sports boosters, Pop Warner, etc. The Master Plan and the Facilities Plan is continually being updated.

- Strategy 5.1:** Leverage strategic partnerships with community organizations to increase funds.
- Strategy 5.2:** Continually assess the quality of systems and programs and improve through efficiencies and cost reduction.
- Strategy 5.3:** Identify correlations between investments and

increases in student achievement.

•Strategy 5.4: Identify resource gaps between facilities and student populations.

•Strategy 5.5: Maintain liaison with elected officials to fully support high quality education for all students.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for May 19, 2011.

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INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger listed items of information:

•Upcoming Senior Activities

•The GMH Lease for property behind JFK School.

•Statewide student transportation system. District will realize a cost savings of \$14,000. Need to submit a waiver annually.

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for May 19, 2011.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O’Connell . To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Minutes of April 14, 2011 School Committee Meeting**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated April 12, 2011, in the amount of \$208,343.94**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated April 12, 2011, in the amount of \$1,495.20**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated April 26, 2011, in the amount of \$394,871.98**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated April 29, 2011, in the amount of \$747,995.98**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 2, 2011, in the amount of \$11,128.45**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 6, 2011, in the amount of \$670.05**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 10, 2011, in the amount of \$266,102.77**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 12, 2011, in the amount of**

\$1,219.30

•Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

RESIGNATION

Megan Sheeler Math Teacher, Middletown High School

FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE

Annette Nedeau Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School

From May 3, 2011 through approximately May 13, 2011

Kathleen Edwards Teacher Assistant, Forest Avenue School

From June 8, 2011 to the end of the school year

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Laura Pasyanos Multi-Age Teacher, Aquidneck School

From May 11, 2011 to the end of the school year

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

Alison Belcher Grade One Teacher, Aquidneck School

From approximately October 1, 2011 to March 1, 2012

SPRING COACHING APPOINTMENTS

Robert Weaver Assistant Varsity Boys Lacrosse

Kathryn Tajima Assistant Varsity Girls Lacrosse

ACTION ITEMS

BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee appoint Edward Brady, Edward Collins, Ned Draper, Rosemarie Kraeger, Frank Lawrence, William O'Connell, Raquel Pellerin, Steven Ruscito, Linda Savastano, Timothy Sheely, Antone Viveiros, and Art Weber to the Building Advisory Committee. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Collins said that to be eligible for State reimbursement, the district now needs to go through a 3 stage process. The first stage has been approved. There is not much time to submit for stage 2. An extension could be requested. The School Committee would need to make a formal request.

REQUEST EXTENSION FROM RIDE (PHASE I CONSTRUCTION)

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. That the School Committee request the R.I. Department of Education approve an extension for Phase I Construction, if needed. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Kraeger said you have a year to complete Phase 2 after Phase 1 is approved. The deadline is August 1st.

TUITION RATE

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve the tuition rate for 2011-2012. Unanimous vote.

The tuition rate was kept the same as last year in the best interest of the economy and the rate mirrors the core instructional costs in the funding formula.

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J.F.K. SCHOOL

Town Administrator Shawn Brown suggested this motion be tabled until we have more of a plan. There are renters in the building now.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. That the School

Committee table the motion on J.F.K. School. Unanimous vote.

STRATEGIC PLAN

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the goals of the Strategic Plan. Unanimous vote.

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

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee authorize the Superintendent to apply for Consolidated Resource Grant, COZ, and DOD Funding. Unanimous vote.

CONTRACT

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee extend the contract of the Business Manager through June 30, 2014. Unanimous vote.

FUNDRAISING AND FLYER DISTRIBUTION POLICY, 1ST READING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the Fundraising and Flyer Distribution Policy, 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

Mr. O'Connell asked if we already have a policy. In 2009, the School Committee approved Policy #1325 and #1326. This new policy would update these policies. This must be done because of UCOA and

RIDE.

RESOLUTION

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the “Contract Continuation Resolution” and forward to every School Committee and Town Council member in the State. Unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

•Regionalization – At Monday’s Town Council Meeting, the Council supported looking into a regional committee as long as other communities agree. Mrs. Kraeger will inform all as meetings are announced.

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NEW BUSINESS

•Art Show – The Art Show has been held at Aquidneck School in the past. This year, it was decided to reach out to the community. The show will be held at the Greene Lane Community Center on June 1st and 2nd this year.

•New Registration – Central Office is actively registering new

students. To date, 87 students K-12 have registered. This number is up ten students from this date last year.

•Summer Program – Middletown will be running the Summer Camp Program, formally run by the Town Recreation Department, and is running in conjunction with the Extended Learning Opportunities Program.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

CURRICULUM – Mrs. Savastano reported that ELA and Science curriculum development is coming to a close. Professional Development activities include DRA 2 - Diagnostic Reading Assessment. This helps teachers guide their instruction. Steve Pearce, from Solution Tree, is working with leadership teams at MHS and Gaudet School and has met with elementary principals.

Specific information about all special education students has to be uploaded. This includes transition goals, all evaluations, how many times per week the student receive services, who does the service, IEP meeting dates and who attended IEP meeting.

FINANCIAL – Ms. Pellerin Raquel reported that for the next ten years, State will be reduced by \$108,944. Middletown is considered an “overfunded district”. In 2013, the plan is that we lose the Jobs Bill, but the money is replaced in State Aid.

FACILITIES – Mr. Collins reported that 615 events were held in the schools last month. 150 work orders were issued, with two thirds being at MHS and JHG. The State did an inspection of public meeting areas. Assisted listening devices need to be installed. Hopefully they will have by the next School Committee Meeting.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mrs. Fenton attended a Rhode Island STEM Center Conference. There is a 3-year grant from the Defense Department to look at science, technology, engineering, and math.

Mrs. Fenton also attended a Board of Regents meeting in Tiverton.

Miss DiPalma attended a Safety Advisory Committee Meeting. The meeting was attended by Retired Providence Police Lieutenant John Reis who spoke about bullying and social networking. He has a program that could possibly be brought to Middletown in the fall. There

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is a student and parent portion. Mrs. Kraeger said we are working on a grant to bring Mr. Reis in to talk to teachers, parents, and students.

Mr. Crowley attended a RIASC Meeting. He will be attending a leadership program at Bryant University in June.

Mrs. Kraeger said there is a Public Hearing on the budget Monday, May 23rd.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 9:13p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk