

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

5:00 p.m. Regular School Committee Meeting

Members Present:

Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair

Kellie DiPalma

Liana Fenton

William O'Connell

Member Absent:

Michael Crowley, Jr., Chairman

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

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

Edward Collins, Facilities Director

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Vice-Chair Theresa Spengler. All School Committee Members were present with the exception of Chairman Michael Crowley. Administrative staff members in attendance were Steven Ruscito, Michael Mancieri, and Stephen Ponte.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

No “Spotlight on Teaching and Learning” for August 9, 2011.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

No “Proclamations/Awards” for August 9, 2011.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for August 9, 2011.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Letter from Commissioner Gist thanking the Middletown Public Schools for coordinating her recent visit to Middletown.
- Letter from R.I. Department of Education School Construction Coordinator notifying Middletown that the deadline was met for the Stage 2 Necessity for School Construction. Mr. Collins said that we need to base projects on health and safety only. A meeting will be held with the Building Advisory Committee to develop a list of projects, which will then be forwarded to the School Committee and Town Council.

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CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for August 9, 2011.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 30, 2011, in the amount of \$58,661.69

- Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 30, 2011, in the amount of \$87,649.73
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated July 15, 2011, in the amount of \$12,011.77
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated July 25, 2011, in the amount of \$598.00

APPOINTMENTS

Debra O'Bryan Grade 4/5 Grade Leader, J.H. Gaudet School

Donna Murphy Grade 6 Leader, J.H. Gaudet School

Denise McCarthy Grade 7 Leader/Guidance Counselor, J.H. Gaudet School

Mary Nassaney Grade 8 Leader, J.H. Gaudet School

Mary Colaneri Lead Teacher, Forest Avenue School

Leslie Gilman Lead Teacher, Aquidneck School

Cheryl Welch Clerk (217 Days) (Category A) Middletown High School

Thomas Capparella Full-Time Math Teacher, Middletown High School

Paul Pignatelli Full-Time Math Teacher, Middletown High School

BUS MONITOR APPOINTMENTS

Rose Alvernaz

Joyce Ardito

June Brandt

Brian Carlisle

Caroline Conway

Jessica Ferrell
Patricia Ferrebee
Karen Kotze
John Mancini
Alejo Manglicmot
Dana McFann
Alec Milliken
Kathleen Moore
William Paradise
Charles Peladeau
Roberta Settle
Debbie Smith

**RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT AS OF
NOVEMBER 1, 2011**

Emma Coupal AV/IT Clerk, J.H. Gaudet School

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RECALL

Leigh Voute .6 Guidance, Middletown High School

ACTION ITEMS

FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT POLICY – 2ND READING

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

The policy was revised so that all high school students are eligible.

TRUANCY COURT

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the withdrawal of the Middletown Public Schools from the local Truancy Court program. Unanimous vote.

Mr. O'Connell commented that he is disappointed by the reason Middletown is withdrawing from the program. Mrs. Kraeger said that we could rejoin when claims are settled. We also need to look in-house as to what outreach we can do. Mrs. Spengler said if we are able to deter 10-12 students that is good

CHEMICAL HEALTH POLICY REVISIONS – 1ST Reading

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the revisions to the Chemical Health Policy – 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Kraeger said that there were a number of substantive changes in policy that warranted the revisions. This will be distributed to all involved. Mrs. Kraeger has met with coaches and the Athletic Director. Workshops with athletes and students involved in activities need to be scheduled. Mrs. Kraeger, Mr. Ruscito, Mrs. Geer, Mrs. Larson and Ms. Verderosa recently visited Lake Placid, New York, for a presentation regarding the policy and the issue Middletown had with violations. Mr. Ruscito and Mrs. Larson will be traveling to Orlando, Florida, for the National Conference.

BASKETBALL PROGRAM

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approved the parent/community funded MHS Freshman Boys' Basketball Team. Unanimous vote.

The fundraising goal is \$6,000, which will cover transportation and the coaches salary. The Gaudet team is getting new uniforms. The Freshman team will be using the Gaudet teams uniforms.

CONTRACTS (CLERICAL)

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the hiring of the individuals listed on the attached schedule for the positions adjacent to their names based on the attached salary schedule and the terms and conditions listed in the attached individual model contract and that the Chair be authorized to execute said contracts on behalf of the Committee. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Kraeger said that this is a follow-up of other areas of reorganization of the clerical staff.

OLD BUSINESS

No “Old Business” for August 9, 2011.

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NEW BUSINESS

No “New Business” for August 9, 2011.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

***Curriculum – The full report will be given at the August 25th School Committee Meeting. Mrs. Savastano said they would like to have the Science and ELA Curriculums approved. There will also be an update of the September 1st Professional Development Day. There are still a number of positions open.**

•Facilities – Mr. Collins said that the department is working on the high school project. The metal shop has stripped out. A sound wall has been constructed between the metal and wood shops. The

Fielding Nair project will begin shortly after school starts.

Mrs. Kraeger reported that the Summer Camp Program has been outstanding. There is a different theme each week, as well as a surprise guest. Rolling admission helps with enrollment. Advertising for next summer's program will begin in January.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mrs. Fenton said she would like to start a Newport county STEM academy. This would be a Pk-16 pipeline similar to robotics and connected to R.I. Department of Education's 16 career clusters. It would begin with robotics, engineering and marine trades, then move on to bioscience and biotech with the universities. At the next meeting, Mrs. Fenton would like the School Committee to vote to begin a STEM Council that would explore options and grant dollars. The Council would be 12+ member council. There would be activities for students in evenings, afterschool and summer. Mrs. Kraeger will meet and discuss what types of individuals should sit on the Council.

A representative from the Oliver Hazard Perry Tall Ship would be beneficial.

Mrs. Fenton also attended an Access to Public Records meeting as

well as a Joint Legislative Commission Meeting to study the purchase of textbooks and laptops.

There was discussion regarding the paperless School Committee Package.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 5:47 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk