

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Tuesday, August 25, 2011

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

5:00 p.m. Regular School Committee Meeting

Members Present:

Michael 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 for Academic and
Technology Services**

Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Chairman Michael

Crowley. All School Committee Members were present. Administrative staff members in attendance were Michelle Fonseca, Steve Ponte, Gail Abromitis and Michael Mancieri.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Summer Camp Program”

The Summer Camp Program was very successful. There were a total of 54 registered campers. The average number of participants each week was 33. Students could attend the program each day after summer school. A February and April vacation week camp will be held. Advertising for next summer’s camp will begin after the first of the year. A video of the Summer Camp Program was shown to the School Committee. Each Town Council member will receive a copy.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

No “Proclamations/Awards” for August 25, 2011.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for August 25, 2011.

(Minutes of August 25, 2011 School Committee Meeting, Page Two)

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Letter from Tim Brown, Fundraising Committee Chair, regarding MHS Freshman Boys Basketball.**

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for August 25, 2011.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 2, 2011, in the amount of \$177,410.54**

- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 5, 2011, in the amount of \$323,552.19
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 10, 2011, in the amount of \$155,775.41
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 12, 2011, in the amount of \$14,145.49

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENTS

Gail Abromitis Interim Principal, Middletown High School

C. Christopher Savastano Interim Associate Principal for Teaching and Learning, Middletown High School

Linda Beaupre Assistant Principal, J.H. Gaudet School

Dawn McGill School Nurse Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

Amy Kalif .8 Spanish Teacher, Middletown High School

Richard Sweetman Chemistry Teacher, Middletown High School

Rachelle Myllymaki .8 Social Studies Teacher, Middletown High School

Joanne Houle 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Forest Avenue School

Pamela Souza 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Middletown High School

Karen Potter 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, J.H. Gaudet School

RESIGNATION

Steven S. Ruscito Principal, Middletown High School

Lauren Ferreira 3-Hour Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School

(Minutes of August 25, 2011 School Committee Meeting, Page Three)

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

Alison Belcher Grade One Teacher, Aquidneck School

From approximately September 6, 2011 to March 1, 2012

RECALL

Julie Braga Spanish, Middletown High School (One Year Only)

Tara Mellow Reading Specialist, Aquidneck School

ASSIGNMENT

Joan Whitty From Literacy Coach, Aquidneck School to

Grade One, Aquidneck School

Mrs. Kraeger said that she was presented with the High School

Principal's resignation in late-August. Ms. Abromitis and Mr. Savastano will be a perfect team to lead the school.

Mrs. Beaupre is a Guidance Counselor at Tiverton Middle School. She is a perfect match for the middle school and a great compliment to the leadership team.

ACTION ITEMS

CHEMICAL HEALTH POLICY REVISIONS – 2nd Reading

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the revisions to the Chemical Health Policy – 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

STEM COUNCIL

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) William O'Connell. That the School Committee approve the formation of a STEM Council and solicit names. Unanimous vote.

One School Committee Member and one alternate will be on the committee. An ad will run in the newspaper to solicit names. An advisory committee will then be formed.

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School

**Committee approve Home Schooling 11-12-02 and 11-12-03.
Unanimous vote.**

OLD BUSINESS

No “Old Business” for August 25, 2011.

(Minutes of August 25, 2011 School Committee Meeting, Page Four)

NEW BUSINESS

•Enrollment Update – Mrs. Kraeger reported that 90 students are scheduled to register before the opening of school. The enrollment projection total should be approximately 2390. The increased number of students in 2nd Grade at Aquidneck School is a concern. There is the possibility of adding an additional 2nd grade class. 54 students from the War College registered last night and there are 8 more that still need to register. Another group is arriving on November 1st. Middletown High School and Gaudet School have increased number of students.

•NWEA Assessment – The NWEA local assessment is used to screen students in the fall and spring for math, reading and language use. The RIT scale is used to chart a student’s academic growth from year to year. NWEA is used in respect to growth. The goal is not

necessarily to compare with the previous year. Mrs. Fenton asked about students with special needs. These students are included in the grouping. Tests are adaptive and un-timed so they are appropriate for students with special needs. Teachers can log in the day after the test to see the results. AP data will be shared with the School Committee at a later date.

•Chemical Health Presentation – This is the second year for the implementation of the Chemical Health Policy. Initial presentation is August 31st for coaches, advisors, student leadership and fall athletes and extra-curricular activities. Presentations will be held from September 12-15 for Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors. This year’s topic is “The Neurological Effects of Marijuana”. These are mandatory sessions that must be attended by each student and parent. All students are educated at the beginning of the school year. Students can practice, but they cannot play until the student attends a session. A spring presentation will be held for new students and students who were unable to attend in the fall and who will be participating in a spring sport or extracurricular activity. Ms. Verderosa said that a team from Middletown visited Orlando, Florida, to speak at a National Conference. Middletown was invited because it has a best practices policy.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

•Curriculum – The topic for the September 1st Professional Development Day is “Supporting Differentiating Instruction: A Professional Learning Community Approach”. This is based upon the four critical questions of a professional learning community: 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? The Three Big Ideas from Our Professional Learning Community are Ensuring that all students learn, the culture of collaboration and focusing on results. Mrs. Fenton suggested a webinar or DVD made available to new teachers.

•Financial – Mr. Kraeger reported that the School Department is very close to adopting the budget and closing the approximate \$384,000. We are waiting on the final new hires and class changes. The budget will be approved in September. There are still a few open positions and contractual agreements need to be finalized.

(Minutes of August 25, 2011 School Committee Meeting, Page Five)

•Facilities – Mr. Collins reported that the department is moving along on readying the buildings for school. The Facilities Department hung and did all conduit work for the flat screen televisions in the

classrooms.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

There were no Reports of Officers and Committees.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk