

**Middletown Public Schools**

**Middletown, Rhode Island**

**Thursday, October 20, 2011**

**Michael S. Pinto Conference Room**

**7:00 p.m. Regular School Committee Meeting**

**Members Present:**

**Michael Crowley, Jr., Chairman**

**Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair**

**Liana Fenton**

**Members Absent:**

**Kellie DiPalma**

**William O'Connell**

**Also Present:**

**Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools**

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

**Edward Collins, Director of Facilities**

**Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager**

**The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Michael Crowley. Administrative staff members in attendance were Stephen Ponte, Michael Mancieri, and Gail Abromitis.**

**MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. To move “Proclamations and Awards” up in the agenda. Unanimous vote.**

## **PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS**

**•National School Bus Safety Week – Observed annually during the month of October. This year’s theme was, “Be Aware – Know the Danger Zone”. Bus driver Joanna Bowman and bus monitor Trish Ferrebee accepted the proclamation on behalf of all drivers and monitors.**

## **SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING**

### **“Educator Evaluation”**

**The R.I. Department of Education has implemented a new teacher evaluation system. Mrs. Kraeger and Mrs. Savastano presented this**

**to all teachers. The ultimate goal for RIDE is to provide teachers and administrators with clear, common expectations for educator quality. RIDE expects all districts to have full implementation in place for 2012. This year as a result of collaborating with our teachers union, we will be piloting the new evaluation. Student learning rating, professional practice rating and**

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**professional responsibilities rating will all be combined to produce a final, summative evaluation rating. Each teacher is expected to set two goals around student growth. Teachers participate in three conferences each year (beginning, mid and end of year).**

**School Committee members voiced concern about the time involved for administrators in this process.**

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**•MHS Student Council – Student Government will report at a later date.**

## **INFORMATION**

**Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:**

- Any organization that donates an item to the school department sends a letter and it is recognized at the School Committee Meeting. Aquidneck School donated a number of items to the playground. Forest Avenue School PTG donated tables to Grade 3.
- Minutes of the Middletown Public Schools Food, Nutrition and Advisory Board Meeting.
- Mrs. Kraeger, Mrs. Savastano, and Ms. Pellerin met with the MEC Grant Committee.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**No “Correspondence” for October 20, 2011.**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Approval of Minutes of September 15, 2011 School Committee Meeting

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL**

### **APPOINTMENTS**

**Jeannine DelRoss**

**From 3-Hour to 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Forest Avenue School**

**Lori-Ann DeResendes**

**Full-Time Guidance Counselor, Middletown High School, (OYO)**

**Kate DiNoto**

**Full-Time Guidance Counselor, Middletown High School, (OYO)**

**Dena Silvia**

**.5 Kindergarten Teacher – Job Share (OYO), Forest Avenue School**

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**Luis Oliveira**

**Interim Director of Fine and Applied Arts**

### **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Luis Oliveira**

**Spanish Teacher, Middletown High School**

**For the duration of tenure as Interim Director of Fine and Applied Arts**

## **FALL COACHING APPOINTMENTS**

**Stephen C. Ponte Asst. Varsity Football**

**Charles Russ JV Football Head Coach**

**Dustin Almeida Asst. JV Football**

**Luis Oliveira Boys Varsity Soccer**

**Tom Conrad Boys JV Soccer**

**David Kolator Girls Varsity Soccer**

**Kristen Seyster Head Varsity Cross Country**

**Paula Guarino Gaudet Cross Country**

**Marianne Packer Girls Varsity Tennis**

**Karen Massaro Girls Varsity Volleyball**

**Brian Crea Girls JV Volleyball**

## **MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL ADVISORS**

**Philip Statser Band Director – High School**

**Jen Vaillancourt Choral Director – High School**

**Michelle Oliveira Senior Class Co-Advisor – High School**

**Amanda Jordan Senior Class Co-Advisor – High School**

**Maria Dowler Junior Class Co-Advisor – High School**

**Gregory Decoteaux Junior Class Co-Advisor – High School from approximately November 9, 2011 to end of the 2011-2012 school year**

**MaryBeth Murphy Sophomore Co-Class Advisor – High School**

**Michele Smith Sophomore Co-Class Advisor – High School**

**Amy Kalif Freshman Class Advisor – High School**  
**Kevin Zahm Fall/Spring Dramatics Director – High School**  
**Steve Fagan Mathematics League Advisor – High School**  
**David Fontaine Mock Trial Advisor – High School**  
**Colleen Larson National Honor Society Advisor – High School**  
**Lisa Clark Newspaper Advisor – High School**  
**Anita DeLima Student Council Advisor – High School**  
**Christopher Richards Tempo Advisor – High School**  
**Maria Dowler Yearbook Advisor – High School**

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## **ACTION ITEMS**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To approve the following Advisor/Director Job Descriptions, First Reading. Unanimous vote.**

- Band Director**
- Choral Director**
- Class Advisor**
- Debate Team**
- Fall/Spring Dramatics Director**
- Mathematics League Advisor**

- Mock Trial Advisor
- Model Legislature Advisor
- National Honor Society Advisor
- Newspaper Advisor
- Student Activities Coordinator
- Student Council Advisor
- Tempo Advisor
- Yearbook Advisor

#### **TEACHER ASSISTANT NEGOTIATIONS**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee direct the Superintendent to meet and confer for the purpose of negotiating a successor collective bargaining agreement to the current contract which expires August 31, 2012. Unanimous vote.**

#### **SPF SIG SURVEY**

**MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve the administration of the Health and Wellness Survey for grades 7-12. Unanimous vote.**

**In the past, the SALT Survey that RIDE used served as a data source for MSAPTF. The Task Force would use the data to submit for grants and programming. Since the SALT Survey no longer exists, the Task Force developed a survey to administer in grades 9-12 during an**

**advisory period. Lori Verderosa said this is now called “Health and Wellness Survey”. There is a parent/guardian refusal form so parents can opt out if they wish. Questions were added about Chemical Health Policy.**

## **CONTRACTS**

**MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. 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.**

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**Carmela Geer Community Outreach Director**

**Elizabeth Gill District Technology Specialist**

**Russell Kruse Network Administrator, IT**

**Elizabeth Roderiques District Technology Specialist**

**Michael Yates Student Attendance Facilitator**

## **HOME SCHOOLING**

**MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School**

**Committee approve Home Schooling 11-12-05. Unanimous vote.**

## **BID**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee award the bid for District-Wide Pest Control to Terminex. Unanimous vote.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**•NJROTC – At the last meeting, Mrs. Kraeger was asked to investigate the possibility of a NJROTC program in Middletown. A meeting was held with the Navy League. 10%, or 72 students at MHS would need to participate. In the past several years, 29 JROTC programs have been closed, including Durfee High School. The school is responsible for providing classroom space. Two to three classrooms would be required in Middletown. Phone, electricity, Internet access and furniture would need to be supplied by the school department. Instructors receive the same benefits as teachers; sick, vacation, holiday and pension. Funding would need to come from the General Fund. The estimated cost would be from 65K to 200K.**

**The idea of a regional programming is interesting. If it was housed in Middletown, we would charge tuition to other districts. Transportation would need to be factored in. The impact of students**

from other districts on classroom size would need to be reviewed. The ROTC program is not linked in the BEP. How can this program be justified? Mrs. Spengler is concerned about investing the money when we are not able to fund what is required by RIDE and we are already cutting back in other areas. The start-up time would be 18 months to two years. The school would need to be inspected to see if the program can be supported.

Town Councilman Semonelli said that some instructors also teach classes and that the military provides state of the art computer equipment. Funding has been requested from Senator Reed. Mrs. Kraeger asked why we would want to duplicate the Rogers JROTC program. Mr. Semonelli said that it is not the same as the Rogers program. He requested that we reach out to neighboring communities to see what the interest level would be. Mrs. Spengler said that we do not know ahead of time what grade level incoming military students will be and questions if the program will be sustainable financially.

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Mr. Crowley suggested getting feedback from Portsmouth and Tiverton. Mrs. Kraeger will reach out to other Superintendents and

share her research. Mrs. Spengler asked Mrs. Kraeger to check the trend of interest level over the past five years at Rogers. Currently no Middletown students attends the program at Rogers High School.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

•Task Force Youth Subcommittee – Mrs. Kraeger said that students need to be encouraged to be on the Task Force Youth Subcommittee. Leadership training is provided. Ms. Verderosa said the Youth Leadership Training Model goals are aligned with the vision and mission of the task force.

## **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS**

•Curriculum – Mrs. Savastano shared the recently released science scores. Grades 4, 8 and 11 were tested. Grade 4 was at 38% proficient, down from 45%; and grade 8 was 37% proficient, up from 44%. Middletown High School was cited as a district with an overall significant increase in test scores, 24% to 44% proficient. Mrs. Spengler asked what was done differently to bring scores up. A lot of work has been done around the inquiry piece. Kits were changed at the elementary level because they were not aligned

•Financial – Municipal deficit reports were filed. Currently, 15% of the

**budget has been expended; about \$5.3 million. The UCOA revised equalized expenditures are \$13,756. The State average is \$15,013. RIDE has provided a data pull for all districts based on everything staying the same for each. The military survey went out this week. Mrs. Kraeger and Ms. Pellerin attended the Impact Aid Conference in Washington, D.C.**

**•Facilities – The conceptual drawings have begun for the High School Art Room. 3D drawing will be available for review at the November or December School Committee Meeting. Work will begin in February. Another meeting needs to be scheduled regarding Aquidneck School. There are still issues with National Grid billing correctly. Bills are being received late, but include late fees. Bills will not be paid until they are correct. Senator DiPalma is stepping in to assist with this issue. Bills are being reviewed line by line to check for accuracy.**

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

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

**Mrs. Fenton attended a STEM meeting. The State has done a lot of investment in STEM for improvement of the economy. Mrs. Fenton also attended at RISD STEM Summit with Congressman Langevin. They would like to have more arts within the STEM program. STEM**

**would become STEAM.**

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**Liana Fenton**

**Members Absent: Kellie DiPalma**

**William O'Connell**

**Also Present: Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools**

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

**Edward Collins, Director of Facilities**

**Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager**

**The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Michael**

**Crowley. Administrative staff members in attendance were Stephen Ponte, Michael Mancieri, and Gail Abromitis.**

**MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. To move “Proclamations and Awards” up in the agenda. Unanimous vote.**

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## **SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING**

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**we will be piloting the new evaluation. Student learning rating, professional practice rating and**

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**professional responsibilities rating will all be combined to produce a final, summative evaluation rating. Each teacher is expected to set two goals around student growth. Teachers participate in three conferences each year (beginning, mid and end of year).**

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## **APPOINTMENTS**

**Jeannine DelRoss From 3-Hour to 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Forest**

**Avenue School**

**Lori-Ann DeResendes Full-Time Guidance Counselor, Middletown High School, (One Year Only)**

**Kate DiNoto Full-Time Guidance Counselor, Middletown High School, (One Year Only)**

**Dena Silvia .5 Kindergarten Teacher – Job Share (One Year Only), Forest Avenue School**

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**Luis Oliveira Interim Director of Fine and Applied Arts**

## **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

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with Congressman Langevin. They would like to have more arts

**within the STEM program. STEM would become STEAM.**

**ADJOURN FROM MEETING**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Michael Crowley. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 8:31 p.m. Unanimous vote.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk**

**ADJOURN FROM MEETING**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Michael Crowley. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 8:31 p.m. Unanimous vote.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk**