

**Middletown Public Schools**

**Middletown, Rhode Island**

**Thursday, November 17, 2011**

**Michael S. Pinto Conference Room**

**7:00 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**

**Edward Collins, Director of Facilities**

**Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager**

**The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Vice-Chairman Theresa Spengler. Administrative staff members in attendance were Stephen Ponte, Linda Beaupre, and Gail Abromitis.**

## **SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING**

### **“Fielding Nair MHS Art Studio”**

**A PowerPoint Presentation outlining plans for the Middletown High School Art Studio was shown by Mr. Collins. The current green panels on the windows will be removed when the project is completed to let in more light. There will be a Ceramic Studio on one side and a raised platform for art area and Drawing Studio on the other side. The area below the raised platform will serve as storage area. There will be a type of garage door that blocks off the ceramics area from the Common Learning Area. The platform is not ADA accessible on top, but all learning activities that are offered on the top level will also be offered on the bottom level. This area will be wheelchair accessible. The area is scheduled to be completed by February 1, 2012. Lockers that are not being used are being removed and replaced with display cases.**

## **PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS**

•**Astronomical Society of Southern New England – Mr. Bruce DiDucca presented a plaque to the School Committee which will be placed at the Planetarium in honor of Mr. Kenneth Conca, J.H. Gaudet School Teacher who recently passed away. The society also donated books to the Gaudet School Library. Mr. DeDucca said that Mr.**

**(Minutes of November 17, 2011 School Committee Meeting, Page Two)**

**Conca founded the society in 1995. Mr. Conca’s wife and son accepted the proclamation.**

•**Student Awards – Awards were presented to a Newport Daily News “Student of the Week” and “Athlete of the Week”**

\***American Education Week – This year’s theme is “Great Public Schools – A Basic Right and our Responsibility”. Steve Fagan accepted proclamation on behalf of Middletown Teachers.**

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

•**MHS Student Council – Middletown High School student Katie**

**Benson and Erin Traeger shared the Spirit Week activities with the School Committee. Activities included Dress-Up Week, Girls' Powder Puff Football Game, pep rally, Homecoming Parade and Game and the Homecoming Dance. This year's goals are 1) to continue promoting school spirit, 2) having another Spirit Week in the Spring for Spring sports, and 3) keeping all activities positive.**

**Mrs. Kraeger suggested getting together with the State student council organization. The students are currently teaming up with Portsmouth for an event to unite the island. Mrs. Kraeger congratulated the students on a wonderful spirit week. A DVD, put together by Mrs. Geer, was shown highlighting the week's activities.**

## **INFORMATION**

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

- Town Council proposed meeting dates, including January 9th (School Committee Pre-Budget Presentation), April 9th (School Committee Budget), May 14th and May 23rd (Public Hearings) and June 4th (Budget Adoption). All dates are tentative.**
- Veterans Day Walk – Over 50 parents, students, and teachers participated in the walk from Gaudet School to Miantonomi Tower in Newport.**
- Cybersmart Parenting Workshop being held at Middletown High School.**

- Letter to Shawn Brown congratulating him on RIPEC award.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**No “Correspondence” for November 17, 2011.**

**(Minutes of November 17, 2011 School Committee Meeting, Page Three)**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Approval of Minutes of October 20, 2011 School Committee Meeting
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated October 28, 2011, in the amount of \$329,186.54
- Approval of Quarterly Financial Report, dated October 31, 2011.

## **SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL**

## **APPOINTMENTS**

**Sonya Silvia 3-Hour Teacher Assistant, Forest Avenue**  
**Rurainy Sirois 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School**  
**Bryan Alexander Part-Time Custodian**  
**Emanuel Almeida Part-Time Custodian**

## **RESIGNATION**

**Margaret Glorch 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Middletown High School,**  
**As of November 10, 2011**

## **RECALL**

**Tara Sweeney Grade 5 Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School**

## **MATERNITY LEAVE REVISION**

**Tara Sweeney Grade 5 Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School**  
**From approximately November 21, 2011 to approximately January 30,**  
**2012 using approximately 38 to 41 sick days**

## **TRANSFER**

**Lisa Wood Grade 7 Math Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School to**  
**Math Specialist, J.H. Gaudet School**  
**Angela Kelley Grade 5 Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School to Grade 7 Math,**

**J.H. Gaudet School**

**FALL COACHING APPOINTMENTS**

**Ryan McCormack Assistant Freshman Football Coach**

**(Minutes of November 17, 2011 School Committee Meeting, Page Four)**

**WINTER COACHING APPOINTMENTS**

**Michael Yates Girls' Varsity Basketball Coach**

**Terri DiGiovanni Assistant Varsity Swim Coach**

**Tim Anderson Swim Coach**

**Jay Punsky Varsity Hockey Coach**

**Eric Godin Assistant Varsity Hockey Coach**

**Charles Russ Gaudet Boys' Basketball Coach**

**Keith Holubesko Gaudet Girls' Basketball Coach**

**Kevin Lendrum Boys' Varsity Basketball Coach**

**Andrew Bulk Boys' Varsity Wrestling Coach**

**Carlton Brietzke Assistant Varsity Wrestling Coach**

**Shannon Farrell Gymnastics Coach**

**Jason Smith Rushton Gaudet Wrestling**

**Robyn Ramey Girls' Junior Varsity Basketball Coach**

**Raleigh Brennan Boys' JV Basketball Coach**

**MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL ADVISORS**

**Colleen Larson Community Service Advisor**

**David Fontaine Virtual High School Advisor**

**Philip Statser All-State Band Director**

**Jennifer Vaillancourt All-State Choral Director**

**J.H. GAUDET SCHOOL ADVISORS**

**Joshua Beagan Tech Ed/Robotics Club Advisor**

**Heidi Gauch Student Council Advisor**

**Joshua Beagan Yearbook Advisor**

**Jill Armstrong Art Club Co-Advisor**

**Jonathan Paquette Art Club Co-Advisor**

**Ron Dumais Computer Club Advisor**

**ACTION ITEMS**

**MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O'Connell. To approve the following Advisor/Director Job Descriptions, First Reading. Unanimous vote.**

**•J.H.G. Art Club Advisor**

- J.H.G. Computer Club Advisor**
- J.H.G. Student Council Advisor**
- J.H.G. Tech. Ed./Robotics Club Advisor**
- J.H.G. Yearbook Advisor**
- Academic Decathlon Advisor**
- All-State Band Director**

**(Minutes of November 17, 2011 School Committee Meeting, Page Five)**

- All-State Choral Director**
- Community Service Advisor**
- Flag Team Advisor**
- U.S. FIRST Advisor**
- Virtual High School**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) William O'Connell. To approve the following Advisor/Director Job Descriptions, 2nd 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**

## **HOME SCHOOLING**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 11-12-06. Unanimous vote.**

## **BID**

**MOTION: 1)Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee award the bid for the J.H. Gaudet School Vestibule to Advanced Building Concepts. Unanimous vote.**

**Mr. Collins reported that the Lower Courtyard was unusable because of the smoke doors. The doors swing in and need to swing out per code. Once the project is completed, the courtyard will be fully**

**functional and will complete the greenhouse area.**

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATES**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approved the School Committee Meeting dates for 2012. Unanimous vote.**

**(Minutes of November 17, 2011 School Committee Meeting, Page Six)**

### **AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO APPLY FOR HR6 – TITLE 8 – 874 IMPACT AID**

**MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee authorize the Superintendent to apply for HR6 – title 8 – 874 Impact Aid. Unanimous vote.**

### **JNROTC**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee postpone a decision to develop a JNROTC program until outside funding is raised to support and sustain the program for at least five years. Unanimous vote.**

**Mr. O'Connell requested we reconsider this item in April or May. Mrs.**

**Fenton asked why it can't be an afterschool program and regionalize. Mr. George Wardwell, Navy League of the U.S. New England Region President, spoke and said that part of the criteria for the program is that the hours must be completed during the school day and it is not identified as an afterschool program, possibly because it involves credit. Mrs. Kraeger would like to request from the R.I. Department of Education how credits are applied to Graduation by Proficiency. Are these electives? Mrs. Kraeger said that there are issues with "Highly Qualified" teachers. Information has been shared with the Portsmouth School Department and they are interested in forming an island committee). The item will be placed on the Tiverton School Committee agenda in December.**

## **USE OF FACILITIES - ELECTIONS**

**MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the Town of Middletown utilizing Middletown Public School buildings for the 2012 elections, pending potential closing for district on April 24th and September 11th. Unanimous vote.**

**The request is only for one school on April 24th and September 11th. Mrs. Spengler questioned why we need to close all schools to use only one building?**

## **CONTRACT**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the option for a one-year contract extension for elevator maintenance to Kone Elevator. Unanimous vote.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**No “Old Business” for November 17, 2011.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**•Summit on Giving – A meeting was held two weeks ago, primarily attended by PTG, Band and Chorus Boosters, and principals. Mrs. Kraeger, Mrs. Savastano and Ms. Pellerin discussed the four agenda items, which included, 1) Changes in State Laws,**

**(Minutes of November 17, 2011 School Committee Meeting, Page Seven)**

**Policies and Procedures, 2) Internal Policies, 3) Budgetary Concerns – 5 year Planning, and 4) District Fundraising.**

**\*On The Bus Learning – Middletown has been approached by Rite**

**Solutions, a local company, which offers videos on the elementary school busses for students. The company will come and give demonstration and discuss possible topics. This is the same company that provides GPS on the school busses. The pilot program would be at no cost to the school department. Mrs. Spengler questioned whether if it would raise the noise level on the bus or decrease it and also the issue of students who are only on the bus for five minutes as opposed to students who ride the bus for 30 minutes.**

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS**

**•Curriculum – Mrs. Kraeger reported that Mrs. Savastano was selected to go to Washington, D.C. to attend the Achieve OER Evaluation Training. Mrs. Savastano said that it was a wonderful opportunity. Additionally, she recently sat on a panel with the Regional Laboratory and discussed ELL and interventions the Middletown Public Schools provide and how they connects with our Special Education program.**

**The Math Curriculum is being realigned with the Common Core Standards. Grade Five Geometry has been completed. Algebra and K-4 will be next, followed by World Language in grades 8 - 12. A formal curriculum is being developed.**

**•Financial – At the October School Committee Meeting, the quarterly**

**budget data, as reported in the Municipal Deficit Report, was presented. There are new requirements that once the quarterly reports have been submitted or received by both the Town Council and School Committee, the stamped resolutions will be sent to the Auditor General. The report is a comparison of budget to actuals to make sure we are not operating in a deficit situation. The 2010-2011 budget audit has been completed. The Fund Balance Policy was adopted before end of year. Any donation given to the School Department has to be documented. Mrs. Fenton said that sometimes donations go right to FIRST. Ms. Pellerin would need a letter of acceptance to handle the gift or donation.**

**•Facilities – Mr. Collins reported that a contract was signed with Direct Energy to purchase electricity. We are currently paying .2 under for electricity, saving about \$40K. A memo from O’Deah Engineering was included in the School Committee Package. O’Deah discovered issues at Forest Avenue School, where some of the beams were not shored up correctly when the addition was put on. There is no danger, just the anticipation of the snow load this winter. Temporary jacks will be installed on Saturday. A permanent plan will be in place for this summer. The school department was notified of the Stage II application checklist. We need to give more information to the Department of Education. They will only approve items that are safety issues.**

**(Minutes of November 17, 2011 School Committee Meeting, Page**

**Eight)**

**Mrs. Kraeger attended the MIC3 Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. The conference was more about educating military students rather than finances. The group is researching a nationwide consistency for kindergarten start date. At the conference, Mrs. Kraeger was appointed to the Executive Board and Chair of the PR and Training Committee.**

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

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

**Mr. O'Connell is working on the Oliver Hazard Perry Tall Ship project. He has visited the Allen's Avenue shipyard. He said this is a program we need to consider. The program has a target date of July 4, 2013 and would accommodate 35 students overnight and 75 students on a day trip.**

**Mrs. Fenton attended the Cybersmart Parenting Workshop at Middletown High School and said it is something that all parents should attend. Mrs. Fenton suggested a program at the middle or elementary level.**

**Mr. O’Connell had requested an enrollment update from Mr. Kraeger. There are currently 2431 students. Exactly the same number as last year. The enrollment is as follows:**

<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>LAST YEAR</b>	<b>THIS YEAR</b>
<b>Aquidneck School</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>390</b>
<b>Forest Avenue School</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>370</b>
<b>J.H. Gaudet School</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>923</b>
<b>Middletown High School</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>751</b>

**ADJOURN FROM MEETING**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 8:26 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk**