

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, January 19, 2012

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

5:30 p.m. Executive Session

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 Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Vice-Chair Theresa Spengler. Administrative staff members in attendance Gail Abromitis and Linda Beaupre.

Mrs. Spengler announced that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To seal the minutes of Executive Session. Unanimous vote.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“MHS Parking Lot”

Mr. Edward Collins introduced Mr. Thomas Payne from Louis Berger to present the Middletown High School parking lot proposal to the School Committee. Mr. Collins said that school administrative staff and the Middletown Police and Fire Departments were all involved in the plan. The goals are to improve the traffic flow, make safety improvements, and optimize parking areas. Currently, there are a total of 290 parking spaces in four parking lots. There are multiple points of entry for students and visitors. Deficiencies are that students have to walk between double parked busses and the pick-up area is the same as the bus area. All students are dismissed at the

same time causing gridlock. Students are extending the parallel parking area by a couple spaces, which inhibits traffic flow.

Proposed improvements include one primary bus loop, widening the access road, eliminating parking spaces on the sidewalk, relocate the dumpster in the back of

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the school to facilitate a turning radius for busses, reconfiguring the parking layout, and installing a stairway to consolidate egress traffic. An emergency access road is proposed off of Reardon Drive. This will be a gated road with keys being held by the school, fire and police departments. The parent drop off area will be reconfigured. Parallel parking will be removed. A dedicated drop off lane for parents will be created, maintaining the one way traffic flow. On the entrance road, a speed platform is proposed. There will be parking reserved for faculty and staff and a lot for visitors, faculty and staff. Another lot will be the primary lot for students and will have ten faculty/staff parking spaces.

The total cost could come close or exceed \$1 million and will have to be completed in phases.

Mrs. Spengler commented that the stairwell is crucial for graduation when people are walking up and down the hill. Also the building is used for many different functions, including voting and community

events, and the parking lot is a safety issue.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

Student Awards were given out in the following categories:

- Newport Daily News Student of the Week
- Newport Daily News Athlete of the Week
- Providence Journal All-State Tennis Team

A brief recess was taken.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for January 19, 2012.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Audit Report
- Revised list of Town Council/Budget meetings
- List of all donations to date

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Anne Huot, President, Newport Council, Navy League of America, requesting the use of the Middletown High School Cafeteria on March 1, 2012 and April 5, 2012 for a meeting to determine the interest of a Navy Junior ROTC Program.

MOTION: 1) William O'Connell, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee receive the communication. Unanimous vote.

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An informal meeting will be held on February 2nd at 6:00 p.m. at the Mainstay Inn to gauge interest. Mrs. Fenton asked about funding the program. A representative from the Navy League said the funding is between the Navy Department and the School Department. Mrs. Kraeger said there would have to be funding from outside sources for the program with the ability to sustain the program.

Mr. O'Connell said if there is a lot of interest, it would take a couple years to institute the program.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

•Approval of Minutes of December 15, 2011 School Committee Meeting

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 6, 2011, in the amount of \$200.00

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 6, 2011, in the amount of \$2,418.65

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 8, 2011, in the amount of \$270,147.08

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 9, 2011, in the amount of \$30,264.56

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 9, 2011, in the amount of \$30,264.56

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 15, 2011, in the amount of \$67,439.13

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 16, 2011, in the amount of \$84,597.04

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 21, 2011, in the amount of \$1,000.00

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 22, 2011, in the amount of \$650,092.19

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 23, 2011, in the amount of \$34,512.96

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 23, 2011, in the amount of \$277.88

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 28, 2011, in the

amount of \$84,656.07

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 29, 2011, in the amount of \$100,868.93

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 29, 2011, in the amount of \$4,449.40

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 3, 2012, in the amount of \$8,110.27

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 4, 2012, in the amount of \$179,821.72

•Approval of School Fund Budget Report

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS

Martha Ullman School Physician

EXTEND FROM .4 TO .8 (One Year Only)

Keith Daniels Computer Science, Middletown High School

RETURN FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE

David Pritchard Science, Middletown High School

RETURN TO FULL-TIME STATUS

Cynthia Tanguay Literacy Coach, J.H. Gaudet School

WINTER COACHING APPOINTMENTS

Kelley Craft Winter Cheerleading Coach

Scott Whitman Freshman Basketball Coach

ACTION ITEMS

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 11-12-07. Unanimous vote.

J.H.G. DRAMATICS DIRECTOR JOB DESCRIPTION - 2nd Reading

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the J.H.G. Dramatics Director Job Description – 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

J.H.G. ASTRONOMY CLUB ADVISOR JOB DESCRIPTION - 2nd Reading

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the J.H.G. Astronomy Club Job Description – 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

TEMPO ART DIRECTOR JOB DESCRIPTION - 2nd Reading

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Tempo Art Director Job Description – 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

BID AWARD

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee award the bid for the Middletown High School roof replacement to All Phase Restoration. Unanimous vote.

The project is already funded through the Town Capital Improvement Plan.

NEGOTIATIONS TEAM FOR TEACHER CONTRACT

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee appoint Michael Crowley, School Committee Chairman, to the negotiation team, with Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair, and Kellie DiPalma as alternates. Unanimous vote.

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OLD BUSINESS

•FY 2012-2013 Budget Update – Budget meetings will be set up with the principals in the next week or two and a meeting will be scheduled with the Budget Subcommittee. The Town told the School Department to prepare for a zero increase. Ms. Pellerin said the Impact Aid application will be finalized tomorrow.

NEW BUSINESS

No “New Business” for January 19, 2012.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

•Curriculum – Implementation of middle school math curriculum will begin. Foreign Language curriculum 8-12 has been completed. Approval will be requested at the February School Committee Meeting. Work on the physical education and health curriculum has begun, hopefully with completion by June. State law requires this to be completed by September 2012. State testing for K-12 ELL students will be this week. This happens over a four week period and is required by R.I. Department of Education.

•**Financial** – Ms. Pellerin reported that revenues and expenditures are on target; revenues 43.2%, and expenses 43.6%.

***Facilities** – Mr. Collins reported that due to a delay in drawings, the completion of the Art Center will be pushed back a few weeks. The students are in a classroom now and can be moved over the weekend when the room is complete. There was a heating issue at Forest Avenue this week. Teachers were given the option to move to the gym and cafeteria as their room was too cold. The issue of the bells at Middletown High School was resolved today.

Mrs. Kraeger reported that there is only one confirmed case of whooping cough/pertussis in the district. All parents were notified by a ConnectEd message. The R.I. Department of Health has forwarded a letter to the Superintendent that will be sent home to all parents of students in the class. Mrs. Kraeger commended Mrs. Fonseca and Mrs. Rosa for how the situation was handled.

MOTION: 1)Liana Fenton, 2) William O’Connell . That the School Committee receive the Superintendent’s Reports. Unanimous vote.

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REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mrs. Fenton attended a State School Committee meeting. There was discussion about Massachusetts governance in schools K-12. Representatives from the R.I. Department of Education discussed the mentoring program.

Mrs. Fenton attended a meeting at CCRI with Dr. DePasquale. There was discussion about a PK-16 pipeline and how to connect all students. Students would attend high school to grade 13 and graduate with an Associate's Degree. There will be a meeting on March 21st at 9:00 a.m. at CCRI for Superintendent's on Aquidneck Island to discuss this initiative.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 8:05 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk