

**Middletown Public Schools**

**Middletown, Rhode Island**

**Thursday, February 16, 2012**

**Michael S. Pinto Conference Room**

**5:30 p.m. Budget Workshop**

**7:00 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**

**Edward Collins, Director of Facilities**

**Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager**

**Budget workshop called to order at 5:30 p.m. The Guiding Principle for the budget is to maintain excellence in the schools and be accountable to the community.**

**Facility Requirements – RIDE Stage II Housing Aid Application was submitted and approved. Plans are in the works for the Aquidneck Learning Center. Challenges are aging buildings, buildings at full capacity, future of school buildings, and implementation of the Master Facilities Plan.**

**Curriculum/Instruction – Transition to Common Core Standard. Social Studies and Fine Arts curriculum will be developed in 2012-2013.**

**Budgetary Concerns – Middletown will lose \$108,000 in State Aid and a possible reduction of Impact Aid.**

**Two Budget Subcommittee Meetings have been held and administration has met with the Building Principals.**

**Ms. Pellerin said we prepared a zero-based budget, built at what we need.**

**Mrs. Kraeger said the Budget Subcommittee asked Administration to reduce the budget by another ½ to 1%. Tonight's goal is to show where we currently stand.**

**Mrs. Kraeger said the budget has to be submitted by March 22nd. The School Committee will vote at its March 15th meeting.**

**The Budget Subcommittee Meeting meet on March 2nd at 2:30 p.m., followed by a Budget Workshop on March 8th at 5:30 p.m. Prior to the March 15th School Committee Meeting, there will be a Budget Workshop at 6:00 p.m.**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the Budget Workshop at 6:55 p.m. Unanimous vote.**

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**The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Vice-Chairman Theresa Spengler. Michael Crowley, Chairman, was absent. Administrative staff members in attendance were Michelle Fonseca, Gail Abromitis, and Steve Ponte.**

### **SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**No “Spotlight on Teaching and Learning” for February 16, 2012.**

### **PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS**

**Student Awards were given out in the following category:**

- Newport Daily News Student of the Week**

**A short recess was taken.**

### **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**No “Student Activities” for February 16, 2012.**

## **INFORMATION**

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

- Winter Sports Program**
- The Boys’ Freshman Basketball Team won the R.I. State Championship**
- Information from the Senate coalition regarding Impact Aid budget appropriations**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**Letter from Thomas Landry, Assistant Executive Director, NEARI, requesting that NEA Middletown/NEARI meet and confer for the purpose of negotiating a successor agreement, which expires in 2012.**

**MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee receive the communication. Unanimous vote.**

**Letter from Erin Donovan, Executive Director, Ocean State Tall Ships, requesting the use of Middletown Public School properties for public parking for the Ocean State Tall Ships Festival to be held July 6 – July**

**8, 2012.**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the communication. Unanimous vote.**

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**The Gaudet and High School lots will be used and the elementary lots will be used if necessary. Cars will only park in lots, not on fields. Mr. Collins will meet with Ocean State Tall Ships Committee.**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Approval of Minutes of January 19, 2012 School Committee Meeting**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 11, 2012, in the amount of \$38,656.05**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 13, 2012, in the amount of \$108,564.60**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 23, 2012, in the amount of \$200,108.60**

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

### **RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT**

**Nancy Adams Grade Eight Math Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School**

**Barry Hoglund Grade Eight Math Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School**

**Joan Whitty Grade One Teacher, Aquidneck School**

### **INFORMATIONAL RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT**

**Marla Schreffler Regional School Psychologist**

### **RETURN FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Dana E. Ramey Spanish Teacher, Middletown High School**

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **REDUCTION IN FORCE**

**MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the Superintendent's Report be accepted and adopted and the necessary letters sent out. Unanimous vote.**

**Mrs. Kraeger said that we do not have a clear picture on what the**

numbers are at this time and we do not know what the Governor will appropriate. By law, teachers must be notified by March 1st. There is currently legislation to change this early date, which causes undue stress to all involved. The reductions prepares for the worse possible scenario. The administration has worked with the union to make it a less formal process.

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**Mrs. Kraeger recommended layoff notices to the following list of teachers and substitute teachers:**

**Category 1, Teachers 1-6**

**Category 2, Teachers 7-12 (See Attached)**

**Mr. O'Connell said that he hopes to bring back all teachers and keep staff at a level to provide for the best programming. Mrs. Spengler said that the whole committee feels the same way and they do not want this to have any impact on students.**

## **HOME SCHOOLING**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve Home Schooling #11-12-08. Unanimous vote.**

## **HOME SCHOOLING POLICY – 1ST READING**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Home Schooling Policy – 1st Reading. unanimous vote.**

**Miss DiPalma questioned why science is not listed. Mrs. Kraeger said it is not required by the State for home schooling. For the review process, Mrs. Kraeger meets with the families to discuss the home schooling curriculum.**

## **SCHOOL CALENDAR**

**MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the 2012-2013 School Calendar. Unanimous vote.**

**All districts in the state have the same February and April vacation. There has been discussion in the state about having one vacation in March, instead of February and April breaks.**

## **WORLD LANGUAGE CURRICULUM**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the World Language Curriculum. Unanimous vote.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

•NJROTC – The school department will not proceed with the program at this time because of funding reductions. No new ROTC programs will be funded through the Navy.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

No “New Business” for February 16, 2012.

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## **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS**

•Curriculum – Mrs. Savastano reported that the test results released last week have become public. The NECAP is administered to students in grades 3-8 and 11 for reading and math. Writing is administered in grades 5,8,11. Students are scored based on a 1-4. They are assessed in October on material that was learned the previous year. There is “Testing Year” results (students sitting in front of you this year) vs. “Teaching Year” data (students that were taught last year).

There was an increase in “4”’s proficiency at Aquidneck School. Gaudet School has been divided into two schools, the 4th Grade Learning Academy and Grades 5-8. 76% of students are proficient in reading and 76% are proficient in math in grades 5-8. Writing is

**assessed in Grade 5. At the Learning Academy, 66% of students are proficient in reading and 69% are proficient in math.**

**The High School is assessed in reading, math and writing in Grade 11. This is what is taught in grades 9 and 10. 53% of the students are proficient compared to the State average of 30%. In writing, 83% of students are proficient. This score ranked Middletown High School #1 in the state. The state average is 51%. The writing portion was taken on-line.**

**In summary, there has been an increase in the number of students scoring a “4”, proficient.**

**•Financial – Ms. Pellerin reported that the 5-year forecast is due 30 days after the adoption of budget. This is an assumption based on data pulls and data points. Ms. Pellerin collaborated with Lynn Dible, Town Finance Director, regarding this information. Mrs. Kraeger met with Shawn Brown, Town Administrator, and talked about collaboration efforts. There has been good dialogue with the town. A meeting will be held on March 2nd with Shawn Brown and Lynn Dible to develop budget presentation expectations.**

**•Facilities – Mr. Collins reported that the Executive Summary of Stage II Necessity of Construction was sent to the State after being approved by the Building Committee. This will be submitted to the town to bring them up to date on what we want completed over the next three years. A plan needs to be put together that the town can back and we can complete in three years. The school department has**

just entered into a contract for 55 cents for gas, showing a \$43,000 cost avoidance. The Town is not part of the energy portfolio. There was a question about adding Town buildings to the utility portfolio. Mr. Collins would need to speak to the Town regarding this, as well as a painting schedule. A hearing is scheduled with the utilities commission to request no more late fees from National Grid and time to audit bills before the due date.

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

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## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

Mrs. Fenton and Mrs. Spengler attended a seminar regarding public Pre-K. There is \$10 million a year for ten years allocated in the RIDE budget. Commissioner Gist said they want to concentrate on inner cities before the program is expanded.

Miss DiPalma attended a RIDE meeting regarding "Innovation Powered by Technology", which was held at Rhode Island College. There were many panels and presentations. Middletown was well represented on two panels. Miss DiPalma would like to see a committee formed to look at these topics and see where it can go.

**Maine has a program where each student receives a laptop, which costs \$240 for the Apple laptop, warranty and professional development.**

**ADJOURN FROM MEETING**

**MOTION: 1)Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 8:25 p.m. unanimous vote.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk**