

**Middletown Public Schools**

**Middletown, Rhode Island**

**Thursday, March 8, 2012**

**Michael S. Pinto Conference Room**

**5:30 p.m. – Executive Session**

**6:00 p.m. Budget Workshop**

**Members Present:**

**Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair**

**Kellie DiPalma**

**Liana F. Fenton**

**William O'Connell**

**Member Absent:**

**Michael F. Crowley, Jr., Chairman**

**Also Present:**

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

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

**Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager**

**Edward Collins, Facilities Director**

**The Budget Workshop was called to order at 5:35 p.m.**

**MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To go into Executive Session 42-46-4 (a) 1,2,5,8,9 at 5:35 p.m. Unanimous vote.**

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

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

**As a result of discussion with the Town Administrator and Finance Director, the School Department budget will be listed by object code and major categories, following the format similar to the Town budget.**

**We need to wait and see if the Governor's proposed meal's tax comes to fruition. If approved, this would mean a slight State Aid increase for Middletown. Budget reductions are built by looking at needs for staffing, supplies and expenses. Most of the reductions were in Facilities, totaling \$273,240. After these reductions, layoffs were considered.**

**Administration has met with the Budget Subcommittee who requested to come in with a budget under \$700,000.**

**Mrs. Fenton asked if it is mandatory to have librarians. If the elementary librarian is eliminated, it does not mean the elementary library services would be eliminated.**

**Currently, there is a Math Specialist at Gaudet School. None at the High School or elementary schools. It is mandatory to have a Reading Specialist at the high school.**

**Health and dental rates came in much lower than anticipated and saved \$239,000. Medical was 12% and is now 4%. Dental was 3% and is now -8%. These rates are due to being part of the Interlocal Trust and should only last a couple years.**

**There is a decrease in the MET School because there is a five-year transition beginning with \$5,000 per student, followed by \$7,000 and \$9,000.**

**As a result, the Budget Subcommittee asked us to come in under \$700,000. The proposed budget is \$681,296, which is 2.96%. Mr. O'Connell asked how many more years our obligation is to retirees to cover medical/health. Ms. Pellerin said that some retirees pay 0%, some pay 3%, depending on which contract they retired under.**

**Mrs. Kraeger recommends that coming in at \$681K is fair, but we are concerned about reduction in services. The budget has to be approved by March 15th to submit to the Town by March 22nd. Mrs. Spengler agrees that there is nothing left to cut.**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from Budget Workshop at 7:07 p.m. Unanimous vote.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Rosemarie K. Kraeger**

**Clerk**