

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

5:30 p.m. – District Reporting Night

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

Members Present:

Michael Crowley, Chairman

Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair

Kellie DiPalma

Liana Fenton

Member Absent:

William O'Connell

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent

Edward Collins, Director of Facilities

Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager

DISTRICT REPORT NIGHT – The R.I. Department of Education requires all districts to present a yearly report night to inform the public of the State NECAP test results. The results presented tonight are from last fall’s test scores, which were released in January. The data will focus on teaching year; students that were in class last year. The scoring is based on a 4-point scale.

At Middletown High School, Ms. Abromitis reported that 53% of students are proficient in math, compared to 30% statewide. In reading, scores have gone from 88% to 83% proficient, with the state at 53%. In writing, MHS went from 67% to 83% proficient, making Middletown High School number one in the State. Challenges are to improve IEP student math scores, obtaining resources, and managing the growing number of students with Personal Literacy Plans. We need to create a document for classroom teachers with reading strategies to support students. Teachers are more committed to co-teach in ELA and math, and having double blocks of Algebra I and Geometry. Last year the failure rate decreased from 30% to 15%.

At J.H. Gaudet School, Mr. Mancieri and Mrs. Beaupre presented the scores. Math scores are in the high 70’s and growth rates have been very good. Writing is a concern. There is high proficiency, but flat or little growth is noted in this area. Challenges include moving student scores that are proficient, building time into schedule for planning, and meeting the requirement of the BEP. To improve, we need to

focus on student achievement by setting goals and building common, formative assessments. For student learning supports, Gaudet is implementing Flex/Ramp-Up time and the (ZAP) Zeros Aren't Permitted. The Targeted Intervention Program is for students who are not getting specialized services for reading and math. These students are seeing double the amount of expected growth.

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Mrs. Beaupre discussed the "Six Pillars of Character" program. Students are recognized for doing good deeds. Anti-bullying assemblies were held.

At Aquidneck School – Michelle Fonseca reported that 70% of third graders and 69% of fourth graders are proficient in math. There are an average of 75 PLP's in the school. Literacy Coach works well with students. Aquidneck School had a great deal of growth in reading. In math and reading, the scores were above the State average. Challenges are space in building and needing support personnel to ensure success with reading and writing.

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Administrative staff members present were Michelle Fonseca, Gail Abromitis, Michael Mancieri, and Linda Beaupre.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. To move Safety Town up on the agenda. Unanimous vote.

SAFETY TOWN – This is a 4-day program for in-coming kindergarten students. The program will be held from August 14 – 17, 2012 at Forest Avenue School. Topics will include Fire Safety and 911 usage, Stranger Danger and Crime Prevention, Bus and Pedestrian Safety, and Water and Pet Safety. Graduation will be held on the final day. There is a morning and an afternoon session.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

No “Spotlight on Teaching and Learning” for May 17, 2012.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

Student Awards were given out in the following categories:

- Newport Daily News Student and Athlete of the Week**
- Scholastic Art Awards**

A short recess was taken.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Class Officers Bailey Rochefort and Katie Benson discussed the

Class of 2012 Senior Activities. Miss Michelle Oliveira is the class advisor. There will be a senior class field trip to High Meadow Resort, paid entirely through fundraising. Events included a mock car crash to show the dangers of distracted driving, Senior Prom, Scholarship and Awards Night, Senior Picnic at Kempenaar's, Class Night, and Graduation. Mrs. Kraeger noted that many of the events this class held were community oriented.

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INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- The WAVE and Spring Sports Program**
- Foods and Nutrition Advisory Committee minutes**
- Planetarium Night**

CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence for May 17, 2012.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of Minutes of February 1, 2012 Subcommittee on Negotiations**
- Approval of Minutes of February 15, 2012 Subcommittee on Negotiations**
- Approval of Minutes of February 17, 2012 Subcommittee on Negotiations**
- Approval of Minutes of February 22, 2012 Subcommittee on Negotiations**
- Approval of Minutes of March 1, 2012 Subcommittee on Negotiations**
- Approval of Minutes of March 8, 2012 Subcommittee on Negotiations**
- Approval of Minutes of March 9, 2012 Subcommittee on Negotiations**
- Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2012 Subcommittee on Negotiations**
- Approval of Minutes of March 12, 2012 Subcommittee on Negotiations**
- Approval of Minutes of April 12, 2012 School Committee Meeting and Executive Session**
- Approval of Municipal Financial Report**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated April 3, 2012, in the amount of \$43,155.18**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated April 5, 2012, in the amount of \$125,565.57**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated April 13, 2012, in the amount of**

\$197,464.06

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated April 12, 2012, in the amount of \$81,311.61

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 7, 2012, in the amount of \$20,086.06

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 7, 2012, in the amount of \$4,379.18

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 8, 2012, in the amount of \$74,532.58

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 10, 2012, in the amount of \$704.04

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 10, 2012, in the amount of \$71.98

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SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT AS OF JUNE 28, 2012

Joyce Reagan

District/School Administrative Support Personnel, J.H. Gaudet School

RESIGNATION

Meggin Smith

4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Middletown High School

EXTEND POSITION FROM 217 DAYS TO 261 DAYS

Cheryl Welch

District/School Administrative Support Personnel, Middletown High School

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR

Dana Ramey

Foreign Language Teacher, Middletown High School

EXTENSION OF JOB SHARE FOR 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR

Kimberly Ceglarski

Kindergarten, Forest Avenue School

SPRING COACHING APPOINTMENTS

Harry Eng Junior Varsity Baseball Coach

Chris Bowley Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach

Chelsea Seyster Assistant Varsity Boys'/Girls' Track Coach

Stephen Ponte Grade 6/7/8 Baseball

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY

EXTENSION OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Joan Whitty Grade One Teacher, Aquidneck School

ACTION ITEMS

DESIGNATE FUNDS

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Theresa Spengler. That under GASB 54 and Middletown Public Schools Spending Policy, any prior year Impact Aid payment in excess of budget amount will be committed to one time expenditure only, such as Capital Improvement Projects, Capital Expenditures, or Technology, and Curriculum. Unanimous vote.

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Mrs. Kraeger said that a prior year Impact Aid payment has been received. She would like to schedule a Budget Subcommittee

Meeting to determine the use of the funds.

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 11-12-10. Unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

No "Old Business" for May 17, 2012.

NEW BUSINESS

•MIDDLETOWN SUBSTANCE ABUSE DATA REPORT – This is provided in the packet this month because there will be a report in June from the Substance Abuse Coordinator.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

•CURRICULUM – Middletown Public Schools will participate in ten days of data professional development. School leadership will then look at the data use. Three of the days will take place this summer. Other trainings will also focus on formative assessment and evaluation training.

•FINANCIAL – The military population is at 29%. Middletown applies for Impact Aid annually. A certain percentage (appropriation) is

received annually and prior year payments are sometimes received. Impact Aid (formally PL874) began in 1950. The program has faced severe cuts and is currently funded at 60% of need. The formula does not take into account the increased cost of education. To be eligible, a school district must have at least 400 Federally connected students in the average daily attendance.

Ms. Pellerin said that all students are surveyed in October. There is a formula to determine the payment for each student. Payments can be made within six years of filing the application and payment cannot be guaranteed that year. If a district is 20% or more Federally connected, they have the right to receive supplemental funds from the DoD. The next steps are to continue to meet with the Congressional delegation. There is a Bill proposed to make the limit for prior year payments three years. The additional funding for prior year payments has been restricted to use for one time items.

•**FACILITIES** – The art and ceramic room has been relocated to the new Art Studio at Middletown High School. The department is preparing for the budget to be approved and move forward with projects. The paving bid be released within a week. Options for the Aquidneck Learning Center are being reviewed. Mrs. Kraeger reported that a resolution was reached with National Grid.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Miss DiPalma attended a Nutrition and Wellness Committee Meeting. There is a possibility that food service might be awarded a bronze medal. Miss DiPalma attended a Safety Advisory Committee Meeting. Students will attend the National Leadership Conference and will do a presentation to the committee in August. Miss DiPalma also attended the NSBA Conference in Boston.

Mrs. Fenton attended the State School Board Association Annual Meeting with Mr. Crowley. Educational goals in Connecticut were discussed and what they are doing for the workforce. Mrs. Fenton attended a conference at Brown University where there was discussion regarding STEM and the Common Core. Mrs. Fenton also attended the Governors Workforce Board Meeting where there was discussion about industry workforce clusters.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To go into Executive Session 46-42-5 (a) 1,2,5,8,9 at 7:54 p.m. Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To seal minutes of Executive Session 46-42-5 (a) 1,2,5,8,9. Unanimous vote.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 9:52 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk