

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

5:00 p.m. – Executive Session

5:30 p.m. – Regular School Committee Meeting

Members Present:

Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair

Kellie DiPalma

Liana Fenton

William O'Connell

Member Absent:

Michael Crowley, 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 5:08 p.m.

MOTION: 1)Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To go into Executive Session 42-46-4 (a) 1,2,5,8 at 5:08 p.m. Unanimous vote.

The meeting was called back to order at 5:45 p.m. Mrs. Spengler announced that no vote was taken in Executive Session.

MOTION: 1)Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To seal the minutes of Executive Session 42-46-4 (a) 1,2,5,8. Unanimous vote.

Administrative staff member present was Gail Abromitis.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“National Youth Leadership”

Ms. Lori Verderosa recruited Middletown students for “National Youth Leadership” retreat held in April at Salve Regina University. Students acquired leadership skills so they could learn to have a voice in the community. Senior Scott Travers, is a member of the district Safety Advisory Committee and is involved with the task force. Students David Flynn and Alexis Simard attended the retreat. Students learned

how to problem solve and created “Youth In Action” plans. The two priorities identified are; 1) alcohol access and availability (providing information, building skills, providing support, access/barriers, incentives/disincentives, physical design, and policy and prevention), and 2) marijuana use in Middletown. With students, there is a low perceived risk of harm in using

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marijuana. The students would like to do two presentations to teachers informing them of warning signs and to students warning them of the negative effects. Another suggestion is to request from the district to have the Chemical Health & Safety Policy summarized. It would be easier for students to understand and this group of students would assist in the presentation.

Mrs. Savastano suggested adding this to their advisory. Mrs. Kraeger suggested that the students meet with the high school and middle school principals and administration to gain input on suggestions.

Ms. Verderosa has spoken to John Underwood who suggested bringing students in to the planning process.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

No “Proclamations and Awards” for July 18, 2012.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No Student Activities for July 18, 2012.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Letter from New England Association of Schools and Colleges regarding Middletown High School’s accreditation. Accreditation will take place in three years.**

CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence for July 18, 2012.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Agenda. Unanimous

- **Approval of Minutes of June 21, 2012 School Committee Meeting**
- **Approval of Minutes of June 21, 2012 Executive Session**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 8, 2012, in the amount of \$450.00**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 8, 2012, in the amount of \$3,865.23**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 8, 2012, in the amount of \$1,571.78**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 8, 2012, in the amount of \$6,800.00**

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- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 11, 2012, in the amount of \$5,344.60**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 11, 2012, in the amount of \$312.00**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 11, 2012, in the amount of \$1,532.00**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 12, 2012, in the amount of \$264,661.20**
- **Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 13, 2012, in the amount of**

\$558.00

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 14, 2012, in the amount of \$10,250.00

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 14, 2012, in the amount of \$986.00

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 14, 2012, in the amount of \$154,904.48

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 14, 2012, in the amount of \$55,250.49

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 14, 2012, in the amount of \$182.50

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 15, 2012, in the amount of \$33,077.90

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 21, 2012, in the amount of \$314.10

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 21, 2012, in the amount of \$3,000.00

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 21, 2012, in the amount of \$431.25

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 21, 2012, in the amount of \$1,699.88

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 21, 2012, in the amount of \$47.96

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 22, 2012, in the amount of \$126,113.79

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 26, 2012, in the amount of

\$14,832.06

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 26, 2012, in the amount of \$8,630.12

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 26, 2012, in the amount of \$616.50

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 26, 2012, in the amount of \$2,533.94

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 26, 2012, in the amount of \$283.94

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 27, 2012, in the amount of \$1,756.00

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 27, 2012, in the amount of \$8,649.47

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 28, 2012, in the amount of \$3,280.24

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 29, 2012, in the amount of \$4,000.00

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 29, 2012, in the amount of \$45,827.36

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 29, 2012, in the amount of \$90.00

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 29, 2012, in the amount of \$1,605.88

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 30, 2012, in the amount of \$99,240.99

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 30, 2012, in the amount of

\$96,615.07

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 30, 2012, in the amount of \$112,471.78

•Approval of Quarterly Budget Report

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENTS AS OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2012

Leslie Gilman Lead Teacher, Aquidneck School

Lori Ann DeResendes Guidance Counselor, MHS, One Year Only

RESIGNATION

C. Christopher Savastano Director of Fine and Applied Arts

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APPROVAL OF JOB SHARE FOR 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR

Kimberly Ceglarski Kindergarten, Forest Avenue School

RECALL

Tara Sweeney Grade Five, J.H. Gaudet School

Joshua Beagan Pre-Engineering/Technology, J.H. Gaudet School

Cyndy Tanguay Grade Two, Aquidneck School

Rachelle Myllamaki .8 Social Studies, MHS

Tara Mellow Grade One, Aquidneck School

TRANSFER

Kristen Lyon Guidance Counselor, MHS, to Spanish, MHS, One Year Only

Cassandra Donoian .8 ELL/.2 Literacy, to K-8 English Language Reading Intervention

David Fontaine Librarian, MHS, to Grades 7-12 Librarian

Christopher Sisson Librarian, J.H. Gaudet, to Grades 3-6 Librarian

Denial for job share and leave of absence for 2012-2013 for Cynthia Tanguay.

ACTION ITEMS

PAVING BID

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee awarded the paving bid to T. Miozzi Paving. Unanimous vote.

Initial meetings have been held and paving will begin tomorrow. The

target date for completion is August 24, 2012. Main lot in front, road in front, stairs, upper lot, and access gate are part of the project. This will allow busses to go up to the top parking lot.

STATE BULLYING POLICY

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the State Bullying Policy, 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

This policy came out of the General Assembly and went into effect on June 30, 2012. The rollout will be critical. The second reading will take place in August. Mrs. Spengler asked about the signature page. Parents should be held accountable.

BUDGET REDUCTIONS

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve reductions in the amount of \$515,731 to balance the budget. Unanimous vote.

Additoinal staff was needed at the high school. Changes in health care, expenditures, proposed staff reductions, and increase in revenue brought the additional

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tax appropriation necessary to balance budget to \$681,296. There was a reduction of 1 guidance counselor, 2 reading specialists, 1 elementary librarian, 1 high school teacher, 4 special education teachers, 1 clerical staff and 1 teacher assistant. Facilities, maintenance, and miscellaneous supplies were also reduced. Mrs. Spengler said all

these positions support students. Capital Improvement projects are funded 60% by the Town/40% funded by school department fund balance.

A Budget Subcommittee Meeting was held to discuss additional reductions based on staffing needs. The original \$231,892 turned into \$515,731 due to additional staffing of .6 PE teacher, 1 social studies teacher, and 1 elementary teacher at Aquidneck School. The high school nurse will teach two classes. Protocols would need to be reviewed as to what happens during an emergency when a nurse is needed. Suggested reductions include:

- Elimination of the Parents as Teachers Program
- 1 Clerical Position
- Utilities/E Rate Savings
- Substitutes
- Legal Expenditures
- Athletic Supplies

There was a question about the 40% reimbursement being returned to

us. How do we know we will receive it? The School Committee requested that Mrs. Kraeger get clarification on this from the Town Administrator. Mrs. Spengler asked what happened to funds designated for Aquidneck School. Could these funds be used for textbooks and resources for the Common Core. Mrs. Kraeger will make a request to the Town Administrator.

BUDGET ADOPTION

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the budget in the amount of \$37,344,834. Unanimous vote.

CONTRACT

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the Teacher Assistant Contract through August 31, 2015. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Kraeger thanked Mrs. Nasser and her team for negotiating a fair and equitable contract.

JOB DESCRIPTION

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the revised job descriptions for Director of Humanities, Director of Science, Math & PE, and Director of Unified

Arts. Unanimous vote.

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These job descriptions needed to be amended due to changes in the new evaluation system. Directors would become complimentary evaluators. World Language would fall under Unified Arts. The title of Director of Fine and Applied Arts would change to Director of Unified Arts. This reduces and spreads out the duties of the Director of Humanities. At the next School Committee Meeting, Content Specialist job descriptions will be approved as a first reading. These will be stipend positions funded through a grant. Miss DiPalma asked what a “Complimentary Evaluator” would cover. These evaluators would cover some of the components of the evaluation, but the building administrator would be primarily responsible.

MOTION: 1)Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the job description for English Language Reading Intervention Teacher, 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

BREATHALYZER

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School

**Committee approve a new Breathalyzer Policy (1st Reading).
Unanimous vote.**

The Breathalyzer Policy dates back to 2001. As a result of input from the Safety Advisory Committee, high school administration, student leaders, and the Middletown Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force, the Alcohol Sensor Device Policy has been developed where every student is tested as they enter school functions. A group will be trained to administer the device. It would be utilized at proms, dances, and also on a case-by-case basis if deemed necessary.

CURRICULUM ADOPTION

**MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the Physical Education & Health Curriculum.
Unanimous vote.**

Physical Education and Health teachers worked two days per week for half a year to build the curriculum. Mission Statement – “The mission of the Physical Education and Health program is to provide a well-rounded education of the highest quality, based on research and best practice. We are committed to empowering our students to maintain physically, emotionally, and socially healthy lifestyles in order to lead productive and fulfilling lives.” A decision-making rubric for each level was developed. All school districts need to adopt the PE and Health Curriculum by September 2012. The

curriculum dovetails nicely with other work going on in the district and involves character development and PBIS.

OLD BUSINESS

- ALUMNI ASSOCIATION – This meeting will be rescheduled.**
- CHARTER CHANGES - Two Charter Changes that will go before voters in November include the consolidation of town departments and contracts being approved by the Town Council. These items could be discussed at “Meet the**

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Candidates Night” sponsored by the School Department prior to the election. A cost analysis should be done if services are shared.

NEW BUSINESS

- SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY CLASSIFICATION – All Middletown schools were labeled as “typical”. To be categorized as “typical”, a school must have an index score between 50 and 70. Fifty-seven**

percent of all schools in Rhode Island fell into this category. Forest Avenue School and Middletown High School scored well in the number of proficient students. By 2013-2014, all school districts must be 100% proficient in reading and math. Mrs. Fenton asked if we are being penalized in NCLB if a student graduates in five years instead of four.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

•**FACILITIES** – Mr. Collins reported that there currently are not a lot of funds available so projects are diminished. Work on the Art Center is concluding. The next section of roofing at the high school will go out to bid soon.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

There were no Reports of Officers and Committee.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1)Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 7:44 p.m. Unanimous vote. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk