

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, August 23, 2012

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

5:00 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

Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager

The meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m. Administrative staff members present were Michael Mancieri and Michelle Fonseca.

There was a moment of silence in memory of School Committee Chairman Michael Crowley, who passed away on August 22, 2012.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Opening of School 2012-2013”

A New Teacher Orientation will be held on August 31st. September 4th is Teacher Orientation Day and students will return on September 5th.

“Enrollment”

Enrollment at the schools is as follows:

389 - Aquidneck School

375 - Forest Avenue School

167 - Gaudet Learning Academy

717 – Gaudet Middle School

793 – Middletown High School

More detail will be available after school opens on September 5th.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

Mrs. Kraeger, Ms. Pellerin and Mr. Godin met with the Athletic Boosters regarding funding for school sports. Mr. Tim Brown and Ms. Shannon Lewis represented the Athletic Boosters. Their mission is to raise and manage funds. There is a funding need for transportation and supplies. The Boosters donated a check for \$22,500, which includes funds for soccer uniforms. They also made a donation of \$3,842.00 to be designated to the freshman football program for equipment. The Boosters will work closely with the newly formed Hall of Fame committee. The banners in the gymnasium will be for sale, as well as “Spirit” t-shirts.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for August 23, 2012.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

•All student athletes and students involved in extra-curricular activities are invited to a mandatory Chemical Health Policy presentation on Tuesday, August 28th at 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The Chief of Police will be in attendance. The new breathalyzer policy will be discussed.

•“Middletown Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force” Issue Brief.

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for August 23, 2012.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

•Approval of Minutes of July 18, 2012 School Committee Meeting

•Approval of Minutes of July 18, 2012 Executive Session

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 30, 2012, in the amount of \$57,562.90

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 30, 2012, in the amount of \$2,210.64

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

\$146.00

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 30, 2012, in the amount of \$19,180.98

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 30, 2012, in the amount of \$557.84

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 30, 2012, in the amount of \$6,559.42

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated July 13, 2012, in the amount of \$7,572.90

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated July 19, 2012, in the amount of \$151,031.80

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•Approval of Invoice Register, dated July 19, 2012, in the amount of \$19,833.56

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated July 20, 2012, in the amount of \$192.00

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated July 20, 2012, in the amount of \$43.96

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated July 23, 2012, in the amount of \$1,700.00

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated July 24, 2012, in the amount of \$4,000.00

- Approval of Invoice Register, dated July 26, 2012, in the amount of \$5,000.00
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 1, 2012, in the amount of \$6,000.00
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 2, 2012, in the amount of \$110.00
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 2, 2012, in the amount of \$24,709.32
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 2, 2012, in the amount of \$3,302.83
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 2, 2012, in the amount of \$1,000.00
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 3, 2012, in the amount of \$200.00
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 3, 2012, in the amount of \$435.00
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 15, 2012, in the amount of \$5,465.66
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 16, 2012, in the amount of \$106,182.86
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 16, 2012, in the amount of \$472.60
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 16, 2012, in the amount of \$508.00
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 16, 2012, in the amount of \$1,000.00

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENTS AS OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2012

Laura Yentsch Director of Humanities, Middletown High School

Paige Kirwin-Clair Dean of Students, Middletown High School

Michael Kerrigan Full-Time Mathematics Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

Eric Godin Athletic Director

APPOINTMENTS AS OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2012

Douglas Paquin Bus Monitor

John Leathem Bus Monitor

FROM .8 TO FULL-TIME AS OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2012

Rachelle Myllymaki Social Studies Teacher, Middletown High School

RESIGNATION

Dawn McGill School Nurse Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

TRANSFER AS OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2012

**Donna Byron School Nurse Teacher, Middletown High School to
School Nurse Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School**

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FALL COACHING APPOINTMENTS AS OF AUGUST 24, 2012

Stephen Turcotte Girls' JV Soccer Coach

Shannon Farrell Fall Cheerleading Coach

Carlton Brietzke Assistant Freshman Football Coach

Paula Guarino 6th/7th/8th Grade Coed Cross Country Coach

ACTION ITEMS

STATE BULLYING POLICY – 2ND READING

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

ENGLISH LANGUAGE READING INTERVENTION TEACHER K-8 JOB DESCRIPTION – 2ND READING

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

Committee approve the English Language Reading Intervention Teacher K-8 Job Description - 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

PROCEDURES FOR USE OF ALCOHOL SENSOR DEVICE POLICY – 2ND READING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approved the Procedures for Use of Alcohol Sensor Device Policy - 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

Chief of Police gave recommendations for revisions to the policy, which include:

- The policy says; “Such students may be tested both at the time of entry to the school event or during the school event”. He suggested adding “and when leaving the event” to help in preventing impaired students from getting into vehicles and driving.**

- The policy states that the Middletown Police can “safekeep” a student if a parent has not arrived before the event end. The Chief would like to make it very clear that “the student is not in the custody of the officer and we would not have legal right to detain the student unless it was obvious that they were about to drive a car or if they posed a danger to themselves or others”.**

- If an event is held in another jurisdiction, Middletown can’t send an officer to keep a student safe until parents arrive. He suggested the addition of “or another municipal police officer”, be present.**

Mrs. Spengler said that it is good that a Principal or Assistant Principal administer the breathalyzer. Mrs. Kraeger said that the police cannot administer it. Mrs. Fenton asked if the use of the breathalyzer will be listed on the permission slip when students attend field trips. An adult attending the field trip would have to be trained.

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**DISTRICT EVALUATION ISP AND STUDENT SERVICES MANAGER
JOB DESCRIPTION – 1ST READING**

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the District Evaluation ISP and Student Services Manager Job Description – 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

An appointment was made at the August 17th School Committee Meeting. A large part is paid through Race To The Top funds.

HEAD CONTENT TEACHER JOB DESCRIPTIONS – 1ST READING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the Head Content Teacher Job Descriptions – 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Fenton asked why they are not K-12 positions. Mrs. Savastano said it is because when there is work on curriculum it is done with elementary, middle and high school teachers. Grants dollars are used for stipends teachers are paid.

DATA SUPPORT TEACHER ASSISTANT JOB DESCRIPTION – 1ST READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Data Support Teacher Assistant Job Description – 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

EMPLOYEE TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND USE POLICY – 1ST READING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the Employee Telecommunications Equipment and Use Policy – 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Fenton asked about employees using too many minutes. Mrs. Kraeger said the records are reviewed and if the minutes used are out of the normal range, the employee is questioned regarding that.

There was a question about the legal responsibility. This has been reviewed by the School Department Attorney. It blends well with the Computer Use Policy. Mrs. Kraeger said that Mrs. Savastano did a

great job researching policies across the country.

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 12-13-01. Unanimous vote.

SEQUESTRATION RESOLUTION

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the Sequestration Resolution. Unanimous vote.

Congress will have to make a 9-10% cut if the budget cannot be settled. When Mrs. Kraeger visited Washington, DC, this was a critical topic that affects Impact Aid

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and programs like Title 1, English Language Acquisition, and Special Education. There will be across the board cuts. This resolution has been sent to the Town Administrator for the Town Council to approve. Mrs. Fenton asked if we have a Plan B if these reductions are made. Mrs. Kraeger said that is when we need to look at fund balance.

CONTRACTS

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the contracts of Michelle Fonseca, Aquidneck School Principal, Stephen Ponte, Forest Avenue School Principal, Gail Abromitis, Middletown High School Principal, and Andrew Longo, Middletown High School Assistant Principal. Unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

•CHARTER CHANGES – This item will continue to be put on the School Committee agenda. Talking points need to be developed. Mrs. Fenton would like to have a workshop to discuss the issue with legal counsel. Mrs. Spengler said that all of our contracts have been fair and equitable. If a different Town Council gets elected, they might not be in favor of this. Mrs. Kraeger would like to meet with the School Committee and invite unions that would be impacted. It is important to get all facts together. Mrs. Spengler suggested having the October School Committee Meeting at Gaudet School and invite the Town Council and families.

NEW BUSINESS

•RETREAT – Mrs. Kraeger would like to recommend a retreat on

September 18th. Cassandra Erkens, a nationally speaker will be in Middletown that day to work with staff and is willing to work with administration to discuss what it means to be a professional learning community. We need to schedule a retreat regarding Open Meetings.

•ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS – New regulations are out. Attorney Scungio will update us.

•ALUMNI ASSOCIATION – Another meeting will be held on August 31st. Newport Daily News reporter will attend. Mrs. Fenton suggested keeping in touch with alumni by email to see what they are doing after graduation.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

•CURRICULUM – Mrs. Savastano gave a summary of professional development. Visual Arts, Music, and Social Studies will be worked on. The Common Core Standards will be used to work on curriculum framework. The Standards Based Report Card will need to be revamped. Discussion will begin around standards

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based grading. Cassie Erkens will be working with teacher leadership on September 18th and on September 19th she will meet with the School Committee and Administrators. Discussion will be around summative assessment and professional learning communities. Mrs. Kraeger will get information as to how many teachers have websites for students/parents.

NWEA Math Assessment results are in. NWEA is a local assessment given to students in K-11 in the fall and spring. In the high school level, the winter scores are only given to special education students. Expected growth will vary for each child. NWEA says you should expect a 50% growth. Teachers receive data the next day.

- FINANCIAL** – The 2012-2013 budget summary is included. The five-year forecast was completed and sent in.

- FACILITIES** – Heavy paving at the MHS parking lot will take place tomorrow. The roofwork has begun. There are not a lot of special projects taking place because of lack of funding. The buildings look great. There was discussion about J.F. Kennedy School and the cost to maintain it annually, which is \$12,000. \$190,000 has been received from rent. There needs to be a discussion with the School Committee and the new Town Council as to what to do with the building. The south section of the building is currently rented out to the Adult Learning Center. Mrs. Spengler said it will be hard to give up the building with the idea of public PK looming. Mrs. Kraeger said it could be packaged with Salve Regina University for a project. Mrs.

Fenton would like to begin discussion at the September 13th workshop.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mrs. Fenton attended a meeting regarding Open Meetings Law and brought back information for the Committee.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 6:35 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk