

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

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

Members Present:

Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair

Kellie DiPalma

Liana Fenton

William O'Connell

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent

Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. Administrative staff member present was Stephen Ponte.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) William O'Connell. To move "New Business" on the agenda. Unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

•REARDON DRIVE – Miss DiPalma was contacted by residents of Reardon Drive wishing to voice their concerns after hearing of parking lot renovations to to Middletown High School. Dennis Sagamang, 19 Reardon Drive, said that many students that are driven to and from the high school has resulted in congestion at Valley Road. This causes parents to drop students off at the end of Reardon Drive, frequently parking on resident's lawn and in their driveways. Residents have witness drinking, fighting and marijuana use. There is increased valdalism and littering. The residents propose:

•Publically announcing that Reardon Drive is not to be used for drop off and pick up. (An announcement went out in September regarding this)

•Replacing "No Parking" signs.

•Installing a "No Thru Traffic" sign at the top of Reardon Drive.

•Installing an "Emergency Use Only" signed.

•Requesting the Middletown Police monitor "No Parking" and speed limit signs.

•A police detail for 20 minutes on Valley Road at the entrance to the school in the morning and the afternoon.

•As a last resort, fence off Reardon Drive from the high school. A

contractor has estimated \$17,700 to fund a 588 foot fence.

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Mrs. Kraeger suggested having a meeting with the Town Council, Police Chief and school administration. Some of the suggestions presented are out of the control of the school department. Ms. Abromitis sent out a notice that Reardon Drive is not an official drop off and pick up. A meeting needs to be set up with student leaders to discuss this issue. Students could perform community service cleaning up litter.

Roger Miller, 10 Reardon Drive, said that students and parents are exceeding the speed limit in the neighborhood. Mrs. Spengler said that a yellow line needs to be painted down the middle of the road.

A short recess was taken.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Opening of School 2012-2013”

The total enrollment has increased by 44 students. Enrollment is as follows: 782 at the High School, 891 at the Middle School, 375 at Forest Avenue School, and 393 at Aquidneck School. There are

overages in classrooms. The contract states that in grades K-2, there should be no more than 20 students “whenever possible”. In grades 3-12, 25 students “wherever possible”. All War College students are now at their neighborhood schools to level out enrollments. The administration is doing due diligence regarding residency by identifying students who do not reside in Middletown. At the elementary schools, requests are receive to go to other schools and these have been honored over the years.

By the third day, busses were on time. Mr. Collins said that there was a little trouble in the afternoon. When busses are late at Gaudet, it trickles down from there. By the 3rd day, schedules were where they should be after 3 weeks. Mrs. Kraeger said that working with Ocean State Transit has been a good partnership.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

No “Proclamations and Awards” for September 20, 2012

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Senior Class President Zoe Simanski and Vice-President and Treasurer Ella Miller gave an update on the Senior Class activities and student government. The students are using parliamentary procedure to run the meetings. They submit ideas as “Bills”. Student elections are run like campaigns. Each candidate made a video to be shown to students. School Committee members are

invited to their meetings.

Spirit Week begins on October 8th. Activities include painting the driveway, color day, teacher/student volleyball game, teacher pick theme day, cookout, America themed day, powderpuff game (which includes a teacher/faculty team), blue & white day, parade, pep rally, golf ball drop, and the homecoming dance.

Communication Plan – They are looking for a way to keep students/parents in the loop. Student email is used and a weekly email will go out every Friday after it has been approved. Seniors must complete community service before homecoming.

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INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Homeless Grant in the amount of \$32,000 has been approved. This is used to support summer school, bussing and after school intervention programs.**
- Information regarding volunteers**
- Thank you from a former senior regarding a scholarship award**
- Planetarium Family Fun Night**

- Photos of “Opening Day” at all schools.

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for September 20, 2012.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) William O’Connell. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Minutes of August 17, 2012 School Committee Meeting
- Approval of Minutes of August 23, 2012 Executive Session
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 30, 2012, in the amount of \$1,000.00
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 15, 2012, in the amount of \$24,750.00
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 15, 2012, in the amount of \$357,746.76
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 15, 2012, in the amount of \$78,784.80
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 17, 2012, in the amount of \$36.36
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 24, 2012, in the amount of \$200.00
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 24, 2012, in the amount

of \$1,500.00

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 27, 2012, in the amount of \$1,500.00

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 29, 2012, in the amount of \$6,528.00

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 29, 2012, in the amount of \$121,740.00

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 29, 2012, in the amount of \$27,556.33

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 31, 2012, in the amount of \$1,246.51

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated September 7, 2012, in the amount of \$193,184.87

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated September 7, 2012, in the amount of \$221,986.77

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated September 11, 2012, in the amount of \$12.39

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated September 11, 2012, in the amount of \$110.00

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENTS AS OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2012

Karen Potter Data Support Teacher Assistant

Terri Ponte Data Support Teacher Assistant

Pamela Souza Data Support Teacher Assistant

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Kathryn Joslyn Bus Monitor

APPOINTMENTS AS OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2012

Edwidge Victor Spanish Teacher (One Year Only), Middletown High School

APPOINTMENTS AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2012

Denise Rochefort School Nurse/Teacher

ADVISOR APPOINTMENTS AS OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2012

Jonathan Paquette J.H.G. Art Club

Ronald Dumais J.H.G. Computer Club Advisor

Heidi Gauch J.H.G. Student Council Advisor

Joshua Beagan J.H.G. Tech Ed/Robotics Club Advisor

Joshua Beagan J.H.G. Yearbook Advisor

TRANSFER AS OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2012

Lori Call

From Multi-Age, Forest Avenue School, to Kindergarten, Aquidneck School

Diane Lukowicz

From Kindergarten, Aquidneck School, to Grade 2, Aquidneck School

Deanne Reilly

From Grade 4, Gaudet Learning Academy, to Multi-Age, Forest Avenue School

RESIGNATION

Cynthia Tanguay Literacy, J.H. Gaudet School

Colleen Larson Dean, Middletown High School

Alana Robles .5 Art, Elementary

Tara Manion Library/Media Specialist

Lisa Carr 4-Hour Teacher Assistant

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR

Donna Chelf English Language Arts, J.H. Gaudet School, to serve as District Evaluation ISP and Student Services Manager

FACILITIES DEPARTMENT POSITION CHANGES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2012

Dan Toner

From Groundskeeper Level One to Skilled Maintenance Technician

Chris Smith

From Custodial Two to Lead Night Custodian/Middle-High School

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ACTION ITEMS

STRATEGIC PLAN ACTION STEPS

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) William O'Connell. That the School Committee approve the Strategic Plan Action Steps. Unanimous vote.

This has been done in a collaborative fashion. A group was brought together in May and completed the Action Items. This year a District Communication Plan and a Guidance Department Comprehensive Plan will be developed.

APPOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER TO AUDIT COMMITTEE

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) William O'Connell. That the School Committee appoint Liana Fenton to the Audit Committee. Unanimous

vote.

APPOINT MEMBER TO SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) William O'Connell. That the School Committee request the Town Council appoint an individual to fulfill the School Committee term of Michael F. Crowley, as stated in Town Charter Article VIII, Sec. 803 "Filling Vacancies". Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Spengler requested that Mrs. Kraeger submit a letter on behalf of the School Committee to submit suggestions to work with the Town Council on this process.

Mrs. Kraeger said that when there is a vacancy, it needs to be filled at the next regular meeting until the next general election. A reorganization will be done at the November School Committee Meeting.

ELECT CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

MOTION: 1) William O'Connell, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee appoint Theresa Spengler as Chairman of the Middletown School Committee until the next General Election, as stated in School Committee Policy #1031. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Spengler said that she has big shoes to fill and thanked all for their support.

MOTION: 1) William O'Connell, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee appoint Liana Fenton as Vice-Chairman of the Middletown

School Committee, until the next General Election, as stated in School Committee Policy #1031. Unanimous vote.

SERVICE ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS POLICY – 1ST READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) William O’Connell. That the School Committee table the Service Animals in Schools Policy – 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

Mr. O’Connell believes this is covered by Federal laws. Mrs. Kraeger said the policy is required by State law.

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DISTRICT EVALUATION ISP AND STUDENT SERVICES MANAGER JOB DESCRIPTION – 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) William O’Connell. That the School Committee approve the District Evaluation ISP and Student Services Manager Job Description – 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Spengler said that this is a great position that has been developed to support teachers during the evaluation process. It is funded through Race To The Top.

HEAD CONTENT TEACHER JOB DESCRIPTIONS – 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) William O'Connell. That the School Committee approve the Head Content Teacher Job Descriptions – 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

DATA SUPPORT TEACHER ASSISTANT JOB DESCRIPTION – 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) William O'Connell. That the School Committee approve the Data Support Teacher Assistant Job Description – 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

EMPLOYEE TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND USE POLICY – 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) William O'Connell. That the School Committee approve the Employee Telecommunications Equipment and Use Policy – 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) William O'Connell. That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 12-13-02, 12-13-03, 12-13-04 and 12-13-05. Unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

•CHARTER CHANGES – The School Committee needs to be updated on the new Open Meeting Laws and open records. Attorney Scungio can attend a meeting on Wednesday, October 10th at 4:30 p.m. This

would be followed by a 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. “Meet the Candidates” where there would be discussion regarding the Charter Changes. The objectives of this would be to provide the information on the Strategic Plan, talk about district initiatives, share test scores, budget presentation, BEP, align accounting system with UCOA, charter changes view.

•ALUMNI ASSOCIATION – Mrs. Kraeger has met with a core group. Emails have been received for people who have joined the association. A meeting will be held at Middletown High School at 6:30 p.m. on September 27th. Miss DiPalma said the Homecoming Game is a good time to get people to join. It would be announced on the PA.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

•CURRICULUM – Mrs. Kraeger thanked the School Committee for attending the retreat on Tuesday with Cassie Erkins. Mrs. Savastano said the work with the Professional Learning Community is grounded in research, using assessment to strengthen teaching and learning. There was good feedback from the September 11th

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Professional Development Day. Elementary teachers worked in the afternoon around the science curriculum. Mrs. Spengler said it is good we are demonstrating as a district how we work as a team. Science scores are embargoed, but Middletown High School looks good. Middletown is listed at 15/40 ranking in the State. The drop-out rate is a big factor. There are a number of regional students that take longer to graduate, which affects the ranking. The NECAP scores will be rolled-out at the next meeting.

•FINANCIAL – The 1st quarterly report is due next month. The format has changed to align flow with the Town and schools. An audit kickoff meeting is next Thursday. Fieldwork will start October 15th. The data was uploaded ahead of time. Ms. Pellerin attended a RIDE meeting regarding state-wide budgeting. The 2014 budget will meet the criteria of 2015 and will align more to the Strategic Plan and BEP. The budget will be more narrative to identify Strategic Plan to budget. Mrs. Kraeger will be attending the NAFIS Conference in Washington, DC this weekend. There will be discussion around sequestration.

•FACILITIES – Mr. Collins discussed the energy charts. Regarding facilities use, there were 151 events in the buildings in August and 292 scheduled for October.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mrs. Spengler attended an Audit Meeting on September 27th.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) William O'Connell. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 8:28 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk