

Middletown Public Schools

Budget Workshop

February 7, 2013

3:15 p.m.

Members Present:

Theresa Spengler, Chair

Kellie DiPalma, Vice-Chair

Liana Fenton arrived at 3:45 p.m.

Paul Mankofsky

William O'Connell

Also Present:

Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager

Edward Collins, Director of Facilities

Rachel Santa, Regional Director of Special Education

Gina Augustus, Special Education Business Manager

The Budget Workshop was called to order at 3:21 p.m. by Chairman Theresa Spengler.

A Town Council/School Committee Meeting will be held regarding the budget on April 8th at 6:00 p.m. Budget adoption is scheduled for February 28th.

There was a question regarding overtime and why we have it. Mr. Collins said that one reason is because our buildings are community buildings that are used until 10:00 p.m. in some cases. There is overtime for alarm callbacks and emergency heating issues. The current “flex shift” alleviates some overtime. The Facilities Department has also been covering the Police Department.

There was also discussion about the substitute teacher line item and what the rate of teacher absence is. When a teacher is absent due to Professional Development, some of the funds are reimbursed through grants.

Central Office Presentations:

•Facilities – Mr. Collins reported on the Facilities Department. The Facilities Use Policy needs to be revisited. The current hourly rental rate is \$50 and \$100 per hour for the rental of the football field. There is an issue with users cleaning up after events. In 2008, the department had 28 staff members. There are now 24. The buildings are in constant use during the summer, so we do not have the ability to close down the buildings for two months to clean. With the constant cleaning that the buildings receive, they do not

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get overly dirty and require heavy duty cleaning. The current staff is needed to maintain the current level of the buildings.

•Special Education – Mrs. Rachel Santa, Director of Special Education, and Mrs. Gina Augustus, Business Manager, reported on the Special Education Program. In the four towns, there are 7254 students PK-12; 1,308 receive special education services. There are a number of different eligibility categories. To be eligible for services, a student must meet three components; 1) one eligibility criteria, 2) test below 10th percentile, and 3) require specialized services. It is a requirement of Federal and State law to provide students ages 3-21 with services. Child Find is important for early intervention. Being proactive is much more cost efficient. Every three years a student is evaluated to determine if they are still eligible for services. If a student carries an Individualized Education Plan from another district they are automatically eligible.

Regarding funding, it was cost efficient to regionalize. The Special Education Board is looking into whether they should pay on actuals or not. Would it be more efficient to charge tuition? Since this past summer, group homes have been taking in students who need more services. The school department only receives \$15,000 per student in reimbursement.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the

Budget Workshop at 5:15 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk