

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Monday, March 25, 2013

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

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

Members Present:

Theresa Spengler, Chairman

Kellie DiPalma, Vice-Chairman

Liana Fenton

Paul Mankofsky

William O'Connell

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent

Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager

Edward Collins, Director of Facilities

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:00

p.m. Administrative staff members present were Gail Abromitis, Michelle Fonseca, Michael Mancieri. Stephen Ponte arrived at 7:16 p.m.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To move proclamations and awards up on the agenda. Unanimous vote.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

- Student Awards – Student Awards were presented to the Newport Daily News Athlete of the Week.**
- Boys’ and Girls’ Swim Division III Champions – The Boys’ and Girls’ Swim Team won the Division III State Championship. The School Committee has donated \$10 per athlete towards the purchase of championship jackets.**
- Youth Art Month**
- April 2013 Month of the Military Child – A Letter to the Editor will run in the Newport Daily News and Navallog.**

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“STEM Education”

Mr. Josh Beagan, STEM Educator at J.H. Gaudet School, gave a

presentation on the STEM Education Program. This is the second year of the program, which was recently featured in the Newport Daily News. This program keeps students interested in science and math.

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Grade 5 is working on bridge design and testing, which utilizes geometry and measurement and uses West Point Bridge Designer. Grade 6 is working on the introduction to Mobile Robotics. There is a lot of math involved at this grade level. Grade 7 is working on mobile robotics, using less direction and has a huge integration of Microsoft Office Suite. Grade 8 is working on mobile robotics with a heavy emphasis on computer programming. They are learning Robot C, which is industry standard C programming that provides excellent transition to high school programming courses.

Future plans include a “Mars Yard” testing platform to run certain scenarios. Students would run tests on water samples, magnets, etc. This is a real world scenario for students.

Mr. Beagan thanked Gaudet School and district Administration for supporting the program.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for March 25, 2013.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- NAFIS Newsletter – Mrs. Kraeger met with Secretary of Education Duncan regarding sequestration**
- School Department audit for UCOA**
- Grants and donations**
- List of Town Council Meetings from April through May. The School Committee is scheduled to meet on April 8th at 6:00 p.m. Public Hearings are scheduled for May 22nd and May 29th at 6:00 p.m.**
- Summer camp brochures.**

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for March 25, 2013.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Agenda.

- **Approval of Minutes of February 26, 2013 Budget Workshop and School Committee Meeting**
- **Approval of Minutes of February 28, 2013 School Committee Meeting**
- **Approval of the following vouchers:**

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February 20, 2013 to March 20,2013

Voucher Number Voucher Date Voucher Total

1278 2/20/2013 \$174,553.49

1283 2/26/2013 \$2,295.84

1282 2/26/2013 \$193,264.73

1281 2/26/2013 \$9,591.00

1280 2/26/2013 \$610.00

1279 2/26/2013 \$17,524.38

1284 2/28/2013 \$3,154.04

1287 3/1/2013 \$1,884.00

1286 3/1/2013 \$8,398.08

1289 3/5/2013 \$329,885.59

1288 3/5/2013 \$22,233.73

1290 3/6/2013 \$1,389.41

1297 3/7/2013 \$34,467.01

1301 3/8/2013 \$723.00
1300 3/8/2013 \$53,575.08
1299 3/8/2013 \$3,002.68
1298 3/8/2013 \$8,205.30
1302 3/13/2013 \$1,143.50
1304 3/15/2013 \$141,524.21
1303 3/15/2013 \$400.00
1309 3/20/2013 \$831.68
1308 3/20/2013 \$16,074.23
1307 3/20/2013 \$10,524.25
1306 3/20/2013 \$986.00
1305 3/20/2013 \$150,066.08
Total \$1,186,307.31

AMENDED MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To approve the Consent Agenda except for February 20 through March 20th voucher list. Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To approve the vouchers from February 20, 2013 through March 20, 2013. Motion passed 4 to 1.

YAE – Theresa Spengler NAY – Paul Mankofsky
Kellie DiPalma
Liana Fenton
William O’Connell

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SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

SPRING COACHING APPOINTMENTS AS OF MARCH 14, 2013

Harrison Barlow 6/7/8th Grade Baseball Coach

Jamie Degidio Junior Varsity Baseball Coach

Harry Eng Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach

Jacquelyn Farrell Varsity Girls' Lacrosse Coach

REVISION TO SPRING COACHING APPOINTMENT AS OF MARCH 14, 2013

Christine Elliott Assistant Varsity Softball Coach

(Appointed in February as Varsity Softball Coach)

SPRING COACH RESIGNATION AS OF MARCH 14, 2013

Christopher Bowley Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

ARTICLE XIV, C OPTION #1

Kimberly Pearce

Grade Three, Aquidneck School

**From Approximately May 13, 2013 to the first day of the 2013-2014
School Year**

ACTION ITEMS

HOME SCHOOLING

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

2013-14 SCHOOL CALENDAR

**MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School
Committee approve the 2013-2014 school calendar. Unanimous vote.**

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School
Committee approve the Capital Improvement Projects. Unanimous
vote.**

In the past, the Capital Improvement was included in the budget. It is separate this year because the majority of capital improvement projects are funded through the Town's Special Revenue Fund. By law, we have to adopt the final budget 30 days after the Town gives us the final figure.

The FY 2014 budget request is for another \$687K, \$553K coming from the Town Capital Improvement fund and \$63K through cell tower rentals.

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When the projects at Middletown High School are complete, Housing Aid funds could be released. This is roughly 40% of 1.9 million.

RESOLUTIONS

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the June 1st Layoff Notice Date, Binding Arbitration, and Contract Continuation Resolutions and forward to all cities and towns in Rhode Island requesting support. Motion passed 4 to 1.

YAE – Theresa Spengler ABSTAIN – Paul Mankofsky

Kellie DiPalma

Liana Fenton

William O'Connell

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee endorse the Binding Arbitration and Contract Continuation resolutions passed by the Town Council. Unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

•SAFETY UPDATE – In conjunction with the Middletown Police Department, walkthroughs are being completed during school lockdown drills. The easier items are being addressed. Other issues need more discussion. When all schools are completed, the findings will be presented.

Two quotes have been received for the Forest Avenue and Aquidneck School PA Systems. Badges have been issued to all employees. Quotes have been received for a swipe card system; one is without labor because the facilities staff can do much of the work in-house.

The Safety Advisory Committee has met. Focus group questions are being revised.

•REVISED 2012-2013 SCHOOL CALENDAR – The 2012-2013 school calendar needed to be revised due to two hurricane days and two snow days. June 25th is now the last day of school. The Graduation date of June 15th remains the same.

NEW BUSINESS

•**KEY COMMUNICATOR PROGRAM** – Mrs. Kraeger would like to start a Key Communicator Program. This would align with the Strategic Plan and is in place in a number of districts. A number of families would be engaged and they would be key communicators, getting information out to others and correcting incorrect information.

•**SHARED SERVICES** – Mrs. Kraeger would like to have a conversation with other Superintendents in our area about what we could possibly share. A subcommittee would be developed. The primary focus should be with other school districts. In the

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past, we shared the cost of curriculum for the Alternate Learning Program with Newport.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

•**CURRICULUM** – The Social Studies Curriculum is continuing. Work will begin on the elementary focus of Social Studies. RIDE will be

calculating our accountability on NECAP results.

•FINANCIAL – This was another profitable month for school lunch. Middletown was randomly selected to go through the U.S. Audit for School Lunch. The first phase will determine if free and reduced students are classified correctly. The UCOA audit had no findings.

•FACILITIES – Due to weather conditions, it has become challenging to get the fields ready. Teams will start practice next week. The snow fence has been removed, fields have been edged, and the batting cage has been rebuilt.

There was discussion about including the budget summary in the minutes. Are there other ways to share this information? There is concern that the information might be misinterpreted without the background information. Discussion on this will continue in April.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. 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 was an update from Chartwells. Middletown received a Bronze Level Award, which came with a small financial award.

Miss DiPalma also attended a Safety Advisory Committee Meeting. The focus group questions are being reviewed.

Mrs. Fenton attended the Governor's Workforce Meeting. There was discussion about internships. There are internships for entry level jobs and at the college level. There is now work on internships for high school students. There is a partnership with Electric Boat to get students into the workforce.

Mrs. Fenton will attend a Defense Industry Partnership Meeting at the Chamber of Commerce tomorrow. There will be discussion about how to get more internships into grants.

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Mrs. Fenton will also attend a Funding Formula Meeting at Brown University. There will be discussion about how the funding formula was developed.

Mr. Mankofsky met with Town Council President Chris Semonelli and members of the Air Force Association. The U.S. Air Force is sponsoring a nationwide competition called CyberPatriot – National High School Cyber Defense Competition. There is a \$375 sign up

cost per team. The students would simulate a computer network. There is possibly money available for an after-school program.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 8:37 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk