

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, October 17, 2013

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

**6:00 p.m. - Middletown Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force
Workshop**

7:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting

WORKSHOP

The workshop was called to order at 6:04 p.m. Administrative staff members present were Andrew Longo, Donna Chelf, Linda Beaupre, Gail Abromitis, Michelle Fonseca, and Stephen Ponte.

Lori Verderosa, Coordinator, Middletown Prevention Coalition, and John Mattson, Consultant, discussed the results of the Youth Substance Abuse Survey, which is conducted annually at Middletown High School and Gaudet School. Students were surveyed at Gaudet School in November 2012 and at the high school in April 2013. The survey is approved by RIDE. Of the students surveyed, 51% indicated they were aware of the chemical health policy and 19% said it would deter substance abuse. Data is collected in four areas; tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drugs.

The perception of parent disapproval is very high, but the

perception of peer disapproval drops significantly through high school.

Students get alcohol from friends, by giving money to someone to purchase it, and from a party without adult supervision. Students get marijuana from strangers, friends, and by giving somebody money to purchase. Compared to last year, the use of marijuana has risen 2% at the high school, which is lower than the State data.

A community forum will take place on November 8th at Salve Regina University. There will be speakers from the R.I. Attorney General's Office and the Drug Policy Institute.

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chairman Theresa Spengler. Administrative staff members present were Andrew Longo, Donna Chelf, Linda Beaupre, Gail Abromitis, Michelle Fonseca, and Stephen Ponte.

Members Present:

Theresa Spengler, Chairman

Kellie Simone, 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

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES

•Student Council – The Student Council President spoke about Spirit Week activities. Some of the activities include the Powder Puff Football Game, Pajama Day, Decade Day, Twin Day, Blue and White Day, as well as the Pep Rally, Homecoming Parade and Game.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

- Student of the Week**
- School Bus Safety Week**
- Community Outreach Coordinator**

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Newport County Regional Special Education Program Update”

Dr. Rachel Santa reported on the “Newport County Regional Special Education Program”. The program covers Middletown, Portsmouth, Little Compton and Tiverton. The goals of the program are: 1) To provide high quality, specialized services for students with special needs, 2) To increase consistency of legal procedures and communications, 3) To Exercise fiscally responsible practices, and 4) To support continuous academic and emotional growth in-line with district goals.

Special education is specialized instruction based on disability.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Newsletter from STEM**
- Letter from insurance company regarding safety surveys**
- Thank you letter from Heather Abbott**
- Information from Commissioner Gist regarding group homes**

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for October 17, 2013.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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AMENDED MOTION: 1) Kellie Simone, 2) Liana Fenton. To approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of the monthly vouchers. Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Kellie Simone, 2) Liana Fenton. To approve the minutes of the September 19, 2013 School Committee Meeting. Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Kellie Simone, 2) Liana Fenton. To approve the vouchers. Motion passed 4 to 1.

Yay: Nay:

Theresa Spengler Paul Mankofsky

Kellie Simone

Liana Fenton

William O'Connell

MOTION: 1) Kellie Simone, 2) Liana Fenton. To approve the Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel. Motion passed 4 to 1.

Yay: Nay:

Theresa Spengler Paul Mankofsky

Kellie Simone

Liana Fenton

William O'Connell

- Approval of Minutes of September 19, 2013 School Committee Meeting**
- Approval of the following vouchers:**

Voucher Number	Date	Total
1085	10/7/2013	\$1,360.00
1084	10/7/2013	\$3,347.86
1083	10/7/2013	\$40,821.75
1082	10/7/2013	\$510.01
1081	10/4/2013	\$95,110.10

1074 9/26/2013 \$1,361.76

1073 9/26/2013 \$110,304.12

1072 9/25/2013 \$18,942.39

1065 9/19/2013 \$129,727.48

1064 9/19/2013 \$819.02

1063 9/19/2013 \$8,896.00

1062 9/17/2013 \$1,850.00

1061 9/17/2013 \$300.00

1060 9/17/2013 \$25.00

1059 9/13/2013 \$289,826.47

1058 9/12/2013 \$493.20

1057 9/12/2013 \$535.15

1056 9/12/2013 \$11,398.82

1055 9/10/2013 \$62,013.58

\$777,642.71

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENTS

**Melissa Taurisano Art Teacher, MHS (Long Term Substitute),
effective September 5, 2013**

Megan Sparadeo English Teacher, MHS, effective October 10, 2013

Samantha Hines Head Content Teacher, 9-12 ELA, MHS, effective October 17, 2013

Patricia Jenkins Head Content Teacher, 5-8 ELA, J.H. Gaudet, effective October 17, 2013

Laurie Oliveira Head Content Teacher, K-4 Social Studies, effective October 17, 2013

Dr. Martha Ullman School Physician, effective October 17, 2013

Dr. Hakan Durudogan School Dentist, effective October 17, 2013

Mary Ann Dischert Grade 6 Science, J.H. Gaudet, (Long-Term Substitute), effective

September 5, 2013

RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT ON THE 91ST DAY OF THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR

Elizabeth Ward Grade Four Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

FALL COACHING APPOINTMENT AS OF AUGUST 19, 2013

David Pritchard Junior Varsity Volleyball Coach

CLARIFICATION OF FALL COACHING APPOINTMENT AS OF AUGUST 27, 2013

Leah Rosin-Pritchard From Girls' Junior Varsity Volleyball Coach to Girls' Varsity Volleyball Coach

WINTER COACHING APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 2, 2013

Raleigh Brennan Boys' Assistant Varsity Basketball

Charles Russ Boys' 6/7/8TH Grade Basketball

Michael Yates Girls' Varsity Basketball

David Pritchard Girls' Assistant Varsity Basketball

Keith Holubesko Girls' 6/7/8TH Grade Basketball

Andrew Bulk Varsity Wrestling

Richard Francis Assistant Varsity Wrestling

Rebecca Duggan Varsity Swim

Theresa DiGiovanni Assistant Swim

Shannon Farrell Varsity Gymnastics

Jessica Daniels Competition Cheerleading

Ben Welch Hockey – Volunteer Coach

Christopher Winnes Varsity Hockey

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MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL ADVISOR APPOINTMENTS AS OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2013

Kim Pine Student Activities Director

Gail Abromitis Student Government

Eric Wright Sophomore Class Advisor

Jennifer Haskell Model United Nations Advisor

Susanne Suprock Tempo Art Co-Advisor

Melissa Taurisano Tempo Art Co-Advisor

Gail Abromitis Academic Decathlon Advisor

Lee Ann Wells National Honor Society Co-Advisor

Pamela Souza National Honor Society Co-Advisor

J.H. GAUDET ADVISOR APPOINTMENTS

Heidi Gauch Student Council, effective upon her return from Maternity Leave

Gilda Bullard Student Council, effective October 18th

ACTION ITEMS

FACILITIES USE POLICY - REVISION

MOTION: 1) Kellie Simone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the revisions to Facilities Use Policy #9000. Unanimous vote.

VOLUNTEER POLICY – 1ST READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie Simone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Volunteer Policy, 1st Reading. Unanimous Vote.

This policy is a result of the BCI process that volunteers are legislatively required to have. There was discussion if volunteers should complete the national and state, or just the state.

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1) Kellie Simone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve home schooling 13-14-02, 13-14-03, and 13-14-04. Unanimous vote.

NOMINATE ONE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER TO THE RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN ADVISORY GROUP

Mr. O'Connell nominated Mr. Mankofsky.

Mrs. Simone seconded.

Mr. O'Connell nominated Mrs. Spengler as an alternate.

Mrs. Simone seconded.

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MOTION: 1) Kellie Simone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee appoint Paul Mankofsky to the Recreation Facilities

**Master Plan Advisory Group, with Theresa Spengler as an alternate.
Unanimous vote.**

**APPOINT TWO SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO THE
EXPLORATORY MIDDLETOWN UNIFIED HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING
COMMITTEE**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie Simone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School
Committee appoint two members to the Exploratory Middletown
Unified High School Planning Committee.**

**Mrs. Spengler said that the Town Council will review a presentation at
their October 21, 2013 Meeting, at 6:30 p.m.**

**A parent who had attended the Core Committee Meeting spoke
regarding the Unified High School Planning Committee. She asked
that the committee keep the community informed.**

Mrs. Spengler nominated Mrs. Simone and Mr. O'Connell.

Mrs. Fenton seconded. Unanimous vote.

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School
Committee appoint Kellie Simone and William O'Connell to the
Exploratory Middletown Unified High School Planning Committee.
Unanimous vote.**

POLICE SURVEY

MOTION: 1) Kellie Simone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the administering of the police survey with select students. Unanimous vote.

Rhode Island Law requires School Committee vote on any kind of survey to be distributed to students. The Middletown Police provided the questions they would be asking. This could be done through the students advisory. The survey is in conjunction with the Salve Regina University Criminal Justice Department. There was discussion about the confidentiality of student's identity.

OLD BUSINESS

- Wachusett Regional School District Data – Mrs. Kraeger is compiling this data.**

NEW BUSINESS

No “New Business” for October 17, 2013.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

• CURRICULUM – Mrs. Savastano reported that NECAP Testing is winding down. NWEA benchmark assessments will wrap up the end of November. Feedback is currently being gathered from teachers on the K-8 Standards Based Report Card. The drafts will be shared with the School Committee at a later date. Grade 7-10 teachers are working on ELA units. A \$20 million bond was passed to give all schools across the state wireless access. We will submit who we think the best vendor will be, then RIDE will allocate the funds. More information will be available the beginning of November.

MOTION: 1) Kellie Simone, 2) Liana Fenton. To extend the meeting past 9:00. Unanimous vote.

• FINANCIAL – Ms. Pellerin will be presenting to the International Association of School Business Officials regarding UCOA, as well as the investment in Science and the link to test scores. Ms. Pellerin has spoken to Lynn Dible regarding a revenue manual. Preliminary data will be presented in December. At the December meeting, there needs to be discussion regarding plans for the FY15 budget.

- **FACILITIES** – Mr. Collins reported that snow plow bids are due next week. None of the current vendors are able to get a carrier for insurance. If we are not able to obtain a vendor, we will have to approach the Town to see if they can assist.

The Core Facilities Committee will have a formal report by November. The committee is still gearing towards a high school on the Drive-In Property and the renovation of the Middletown High School to accommodate all elementary schools. There needs to be a consensus with the Town.

A resident spoke about the Town's partnership with Salve Regina University.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

- Mrs. Fenton and Mrs. Simone attended a technology conference last Sunday.
- Mrs. Spengler attended a R.I. Early Childhood Conference.
- Mrs. Spengler attended a Common Core Conference. There was discussion about how standards were developed. Middletown has already moved in the right direction with the implementation of

standards and the PARC Assessment.

• The November School Committee Meeting will be moved to Tuesday, November 12th at 6:00 p.m.

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ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie Simone, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 9:26 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk