

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chairman Theresa Spengler. Administrative staff members present were Michael Mancieri, Gail Abromitis and Stephen Ponte.

Members Present:

Theresa Spengler, Chairman

Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 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

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

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

•American Education Week – November is American Education Week. Proclamation was read by Chairman Spengler and accepted by J.H. Gaudet School Principal Michael Mancieri.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for November 12, 2013.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Correspondence from Town Clerk regarding a meeting with the Town Council on Monday, January 6th at 6:00 p.m. Revenue projections will be available at that point.**
- Memorandum of Agreement with the Middletown Police Department regarding school resource officers.**
- New Coach Evaluation Form.**

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- Info regarding bringing lunar rocks and meteorites to the planetarium.
- Town requesting an appointment of two members to the Committee for the Arts.

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for November 12, 2013.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

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

- **Approval of Minutes of October 17, 2013 School Committee Meeting**
- **Approval of the following vouchers:**

November Meeting-Vouchers

Voucher Number Date Total

1086 10/8/2013 \$3,774.11
1087 10/9/2013 \$3,896.62
1088 10/10/2013 \$95.00
1089 10/15/2013 \$460,902.27
1091 10/16/2013 \$1,612.70
1090 10/16/2013 \$2,107.10
1096 10/17/2013 \$274.00
1095 10/17/2013 \$55,335.96
1094 10/17/2013 \$1,531.55
1093 10/17/2013 \$96,923.00
1092 10/17/2013 \$1,650.00
1104 10/21/2013 \$135,128.40
1117 10/22/2013 \$25,978.96
1118 10/24/2013 \$68,710.41
1124 10/28/2013 \$277.90
1123 10/28/2013 \$4,332.80
1122 10/28/2013 \$1,141.38

1121 10/28/2013 \$5,272.52
1120 10/28/2013 \$61,769.59
1119 10/28/2013 \$1,343.55
1126 10/29/2013 \$133,907.65
1133 10/30/2013 \$636.78
1132 10/30/2013 \$69.42
1131 10/30/2013 \$69.41
1129 10/30/2013 \$45,847.06
1135 10/31/2013 \$5,797.03
1134 10/31/2013 \$1,665.04
1130 10/31/2013 \$230.22
\$1,120,280.43

- Approval of Quarterly Report
- Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel

APPOINTMENTS

Kelly Young

.4 Physical Education Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School, as of October 25, 2013

Connie Welles

Bus Monitor, as of November 7, 2013

Paula Bailey

.4 Math Teacher, Middletown High School, (One Year Only) as of

November 6, 2013

ADVISOR APPOINTMENT

Liana Fenton

U.S. FIRST Advisor (Middletown High School), as of November 13, 2013

RESIGNATION

Michael Rodrigues

Custodian, Facilities Management Department, as of October 16, 2013

Dana McFann

Bus Monitor, as of October 21, 2013

Rose Alvernaz

Bus Monitor, as of October 30, 2013

WINTER COACHING APPOINTMENT

Kevin Lendrum Boys' Varsity Basketball, as of December 2, 2013

Kailey Nash Assistant Varsity Hockey, as of December 2, 2013

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY

MATERNITY LEAVE - ARTICLE XIV, C, OPTION #1 (NEA/Middletown)

Camille Guerin Grade One, Forest Avenue School

From approximately December 16, 2013 to April 28, 2013

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To move Old Business before Action Items. Unanimous vote.

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OLD BUSINESS

•Fielding Nair Master Facilities Plan – Two meetings have been held with the Core Committee. There have been slight changes to the plan; 1) Build a new high school to align with the unified high school concept, should that occur, 2) Form a partnership with Salve Regina University and others, 3) Add the 40% reimbursement for construction costs once the moratorium on housing aid is lifted, 4) A stronger statement about athletic fields and Salve, 5) Reference a theater complex, locker room, weight room with Salve, and 6) Updated vision statement.

The School Department realized a savings of over \$1.8 million as a result of the Facilities Department work on projects. All of the “Now”

items in the plan have been completed. We are currently working on the “Soon” items. The Art Center at Middletown High School is complete.

Mr. Collins said that if the plan is approved tonight, it is important that the Town Council make a decision about what will be done with the current school buildings. All of the buildings are old, with single-pane windows and old heating systems.

Mr. Mankofsky asked for a total cost. Mrs. Spengler said that at several Town Council Meetings, Councilman Long requested that the plan be revised. The Master plan was developed in 2007. We were asked to go back and take a look at it. There cannot be a price tag until is determine what is needed.

•Wachusett Regional School District Data – Mrs. Spengler researched the Wachusett Regional School District data and found a number of concerns with the data presented at an earlier School Committee Meeting.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Concussion in Sports”

Mrs. Karen Massaro, Athletic Director, spoke about concussions.

Coaches are required to take a free on-line course to gain knowledge on recognizing concussion and the after-care. Middletown has been offered the opportunity to do baseline testing on athletes. The testing is free and can be done in school. The post-test is covered by insurance. Physical Education and health teachers would help administer the test. It needs to be decided if this would be made mandatory. There are about 200 winter athletes. The test takes 20 minutes. The R.I. Concussion Management Consortium will maintain the results. Parents will also receive the results.

A policy should be developed. In the meantime, we should go forward with the winter athletes and administer a baseline test. Mrs. Kraeger will check with our legal department to see if we can mandate this for all our students.

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ACTION ITEMS

VOLUNTEER POLICY – 2nd READING

The Committee would like to take a closer look at the policy and possibly require volunteers who will be going into the classroom for an extended period of time to obtain a National BCI. The National BCI

is \$35. A tiered policy could also be developed.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) William O'Connell. That the School Committee table the Volunteer Policy until a later date. Unanimous vote.

SNOW REMOVAL BID

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee award the snow removal bid to All Island Landscaping. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Spengler recused herself from the vote. Mr. Collins reported that the rate is close to what we were paying.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the School Committee Meeting Dates for 2014. Unanimous vote.

FIELDING NAIR MASTER FACILITIES PLAN

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Fielding Nair Master Facilities Plan. Motion passed 4 to 1.

Yay: Nay:

Theresa Spengler

Paul Mankofsky

Kellie Simone

Liana Fenton

William O'Connell

NEW BUSINESS

•Middletown Public Schools Sports – A small group of students recently approached administration regarding starting up an indoor track team. In the past, this process has begun 6 months to a year prior to the start of a new team. Mrs. Kraeger provided information regarding other sports that began as club sports or were funded by private donations. The majority of these sports were eventually fully funded by the school department.

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Parent Geoff Reilly spoke in support of the program. He said they are not looking to start a program. They would like the students to

participate with other schools. The cost would be \$740 total. The group is looking for permission to fundraise.

There was concern among School Committee Members that this is only open to six students and also there is the issue of transportation. Mrs. Massaro said they would have to be assessed as to which division they would be included in for competition. The students must also have a coach representative. Mrs. Kraeger will look into whether this is a contractual issue and have the legal department check into transportation. School Committee Members also feel that a clearer policy needs to be in place which would also include how many months in advance this would need to be presented. Mrs. Simeone said that if all concerns could be resolved, she would like to see it happen. Mr. O'Connell expressed his support. Mrs. Spengler said that if permission to fundraise is granted and it does not go through, they need to have a backup plan as to what to do with any funds collected.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To extend the meeting past 8:00 p.m. Unanimous vote.

A brief break was taken. The meeting was reconvened.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

•**CURRICULUM** – Mrs. Savastano reported that staff are finalizing the

changes in English Language Arts and Math curriculum from GLE to the Common Core. Teachers have been teaching with both sets of standards. Mrs. Savastano has met with all K-8 teachers in the district regarding the report card revisions. There is now a 4-point scale which will be a 5-point scale. We are transitioning to the PARC format to help parents understand.

•**FINANCIAL** – Ms. Pellerin reported a \$9,438 profit for school lunch. Projections for the revenue manual have to be to the Town by early December. Mrs. Fenton asked if Obamacare will affect next year's budget. Ms. Pellerin said it is too early to tell. The School Department will look to The Trust for guidance on this issue.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

•Mrs. Simeone reported on the Exploratory High School Committee. There have been presentations at the Tiverton Town Committee Meeting and the Little Compton Town Council meeting. There will be discussion tonight at the Portsmouth Town Council and tomorrow at the Newport City Council Meeting.

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•Mrs. Fenton attended a conference on concussions at the Brown Medical School.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 8:50 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk