

**Middletown Public Schools**

**Middletown, Rhode Island**

**Thursday, December 12, 2013**

**Michael S. Pinto Conference Room**

**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**

**The Budget Workshop was called to order at 5:35 p.m. Administrative staff members present were Linda Beaupre, Michelle Fonseca, Donna Chelf, Andrew Longo, and Gail Abromitis.**

**Ms. Pellerin reviewed information in the Budget Workshop binder. March 22nd is the date the budget needs to be submitted, by Charter. Budget Committee Dates are set for January 8, 16, 29, February 13, and 27th. Last year's budget goals were reviewed. There was discussion regarding adding the words "affordable education" to the Budget Goals. It was decided to put this on hold.**

**Ms. Pellerin reviewed the Revenue Manual. For the Pre-Budget Consultation, the same format as last year will be followed. By law, the Town Council needs to be provided both the projected staffing, enrollment, revenues, and expenditures.**

**The Legislative Agenda Meeting is scheduled for January 6th at 5:30 p.m. We need to have our list of agenda items to the Town Administrator by December 24th.**

**The next budget meeting will be held January 8th at 5:30 p.m. The Capital Improvement Budget and Enterprise Fund Budget will be presented.**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To close the Budget Workshop at 6:53 p.m. Unanimous vote.**

**The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Theresa Spengler. Administrative staff members present were Linda Beaupre, Michelle Fonseca, Donna Chelf, Andy Longo, Gail Abromitis, and Steve Ponte.**

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

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## **PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS**

**•Student Awards – Awards were presented to students for Newport Daily News Athlete of the Week and Newport Daily News Student of the Week.**

## **SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**“Program of Studies – Middletown High School”**

**Principal Gail Abromitis introduced Richard Sweetman, Luis Oliveira, and Christopher Richards who discussed the changes to the Middletown High School Program of Studies. AP Physics is undergoing a re-design by the College Board. There are no new math courses. There are no new Physical Education courses. Health 11 has been added to address the remainder of the Health Standards as aligned in the curriculum work. This will be a one-semester course.**

**In Unified Arts, there are no changes in Applied Arts, Career Education, Visual Arts, or World Languages. Marketing and Accounting are now semester courses. A goal is to maximize staff. One change is that Java Programming has been changed from grades 9-12 to grades 10-12.**

**In the Humanities Department, Writing 104 is a growing course with 23 students. Students will earn 3 transferrable college credits from the University of Rhode Island for only \$190. The teacher has to meet rigorous requirements to be eligible to teach a class where a student receives college credits. The Social Studies pathway is as follows, World History II, U.S. History I, U.S. History II, and the electives are Sociology, Contemporary World History, and Psychology.**

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**No “Student Activities” for December 12, 2013.**

## **INFORMATION**

**Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:**

- Family Fun Moon Rock Night – January 31st, February 28th, and March 13th. State dignitaries will be invited to the opening.**
- List of concert dates.**

- Thank you to the Facilities Staff from the Middletown Historical Society.
- Thank you from student who went to Nashville, TN.
- Letter from the Fire Marshall stating all schools meet fire safety codes.

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## **CORRESPONDENCE**

No “Correspondence” for December 12, 2013.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Approval of Minutes of November 12, 2013 School Committee Meeting

- Approval of the following vouchers:

**December Meeting Vouchers**

**Voucher Number Date Total**

1160	11/1/2013	\$20,608.71
1159	11/1/2013	\$337,337.23
1165	11/7/2013	\$96.00
1164	11/7/2013	\$29.00
1163	11/7/2013	\$66.00
1144	11/7/2013	\$358,703.74
1148	11/8/2013	\$785.00
1147	11/8/2013	\$413.26
1146	11/8/2013	\$5,865.00
1145	11/8/2013	\$3,277.64
1149	11/12/2013	\$89,224.73
1162	11/14/2013	\$20.00
1158	11/14/2013	\$3,275.00
1157	11/14/2013	\$147,452.15
1166	11/19/2013	\$667.23
1161	11/19/2013	\$12,326.90
1168	11/21/2013	\$3,291.00
1167	11/21/2013	\$6,590.25
1169	11/22/2013	\$91,860.83
1172	11/25/2013	\$1,380.00
1171	11/25/2013	\$21,122.50
1170	11/25/2013	\$5,042.20
1173	11/26/2013	\$175.00
Total		\$1,109,609.37

•Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel

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**SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL**

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Jennifer Pesare Grade 3 Teacher, Forest Avenue School, as of December 13, 2013**

**Caitlin Coyne Grade 4 Teacher, J.H. Gaudet Learning Academy, as of December 17, 2013**

**Joshua Bucci Full-Time Night Custodian, as of December 16, 2013**

**Melissa Morris Bus Monitor, as of January 2, 2014**

**Nadine OBrion Competitive Cheer Coach, as of December 2, 2013**

**RESIGNATION AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2013**

**Jessica Daniels Competitive Cheerleading Coach**

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY**

**EXTENSION OF SICK LEAVE BANK FOR AN ADDITIONAL 17 DAYS**

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- No “Action Items” for December 12, 2013.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

•**Middletown Public Schools Sports – Mrs. Karen Massaro, Athletic Director, provided an update on indoor track. The six students raised enough funds to compete. They are practicing and competing with the Portsmouth team. Mrs. Massaro also discussed students having a baseline concussion test. All participants in winter sports will have a baseline test. Middletown will develop a concussion policy for student/athletes.**

•**Volunteer Policy – This policy is still being developed. There is a question as to whether to require a national or state BCI check. A resident spoke against the national check citing the \$35 annual cost being prohibitive to some. He also feels that retired Middletown teachers should be excused from getting the BCI. Mrs. Kraeger said that this can be brought up to the legislators. Mrs. Spengler feels that if people are in a building with children, we need the national check. Mrs. Kraeger suggested a tiered process for volunteers.**

•**Shared Services – Mrs. Kraeger met with the Superintendent and Facilities Director in Newport. There was discussion about shared service concepts. The conversation will continue with the new Superintendent in Newport.**

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## **NEW BUSINESS**

•**Forest Avenue School Improvement Report – Mr. Ponte reported on 2009, 2010, and 2011, Forest Avenue School NECAP scores as well as data gathered from various assessments, teachers are constructing units and common assessments. Everyone on staff is involved in the committee work. Intervention groups are being implemented. Staff is very involved in Personal Literacy Plans and Personal Math Plans. There is a PBIS Committee that celebrates student accomplishments. Some challenges that were faced included transitioning from GLE's to the Common Core State Standard. According to this year's data, out of 86 grade 3 students, 47 have been at Forest Avenue School since Kindergarten. Mrs. Spengler thanked Mr. Ponte and the teachers for all their hard work.**

•**AP Project – Mrs. Kraeger was approached by an organization called**

**National Math and Science Initiative to discuss implementing an AP Project at Middletown High School. The program is fully funded for at least one year, and could possibly be for three years. Middletown was selected because of its status as a highly military impacted district. The Director will be conducting a site visit.**

**•COZ – Mrs. Kraeger has met with East Bay Community Action Program, who operates the COZ program in Newport. There are possible opportunities to utilize them for a COZ Program.**

**•School To Career – Ms. Abromitis and Mrs. Kraeger met with the principal from Rogers High School and the Newport Superintendent to discuss a shared School-To-Career Program.**

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS**

**•CURRICULUM – Mrs. Savastano reported that the ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies curriculums have been aligned with the CCSS. The goals of the standards based report cards K-8 have not changed. The report cards have been revised to better reflect the Common Core State Standards for ELA and Math. Parents will receive brochures to improve communication and help them better understand the reporting changes. Mrs. Savastano thanked the principals for their assistance and support in implementing this. More information is available on the website at**

[www.mpsri.net/sbreportcard](http://www.mpsri.net/sbreportcard).

•**FINANCIAL** – This was reported in during the Budget Workshop.

•**FACILITIES** – Mr. Collins reported that with the School Department's position in the market, there was a cost avoidance of \$117,000 from 2009 to the present. By contract, we pay 6.5 cents for a unit of electricity. In regards to gas consumption, from 2009 to the present there has only been one month where we have not been ahead. There was a cost avoidance of \$57,000 in one account and \$77,000 in the other.

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

**MOTION:** 1) Kellie Simeone DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To extend the School Committee Meeting past 9:00 p.m. Unanimous vote.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

**Mrs. Simeone attended a Middletown Prevention Coalition Community Forum at Salve Regina University which focused mainly on marijuana usage. There was a speaker from the R.I. State Attorney General's Office who discussed the local data. There will be more collaboration with the military community. Mrs. Simeone would like to have a meeting with the military community to share ideas. Mrs. Spengler and Mr. Mankofsky also attended.**

**Mrs. Fenton attended a Governor's Workforce meeting. They continue to develop 8 or 9 career pathways and how they connect to workforce. A key question is "what do we need in the field of education to change or not change the constitution"? Another meeting will be held in January to discuss the possibilities.**

**Mrs. Fenton also attended a Massachusetts STEM Conference at Gillette Stadium. There was discussion about a defense industry partnership.**

**Mrs. Spengler left at 9:04 p.m.**

**ADJOURN FROM MEETING**

**MOTION: 1) William O'Connell, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 9:05 p.m. Unanimous vote.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk**