

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, January 16, 2014

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

Shawn Brown, Town Administrator

Lynne Dible, Town Finance Director

The Budget Workshop was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

Administrative staff members present were Michael Mancieri, Michelle Fonseca and Donna Chelf.

2011 GASB required each school department and municipality to develop a fund balance policy. Middletown School Committee's fund balance policy states that prior year Impact Aid payments can be designated for one-time expenditures.

Enterprise Funds are funds that provide goods or services to the public for a fee. These funds are camp, summer school funds, and athletic funds.

Capital Improvement Proposed Projects – RIDE states that a Capital Improvement Fund is used to account for and report financial resources. Middletown has three Capital Project Funds; one is funded by the Town's Special Revenue Fund, one by cell tower rentals, and one is funded by Impact Aid prior year payments.

Mr. Brown said that the Fielding Nair numbers are not accurately reflected and asked that they be reviewed. He suggested that the new auditorium cannot be a placeholder if it is an item that needs to be taken seriously. It must be a recommendation by the School Committee that is approved by the Town Council. "Now Sooner Later" needs to be aligned with the CIP list. The updated Fielding Nair Report will be presented to the Town Council on Tuesday. Mr. Brown said they are trying to match up what is presented in the Fielding Nair Report with what is in the Capital Improvement Plan.

Restricted Funds are money given to the School Committee that are restricted by law or given by a private donor. ARRA Funds were not

used for anything that could not be sustained.

The next budget meeting will be held on January 29th at 5:30 p.m.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To close the Budget Workshop at 6:56 p.m. Unanimous vote.

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The School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. All School Committee members were present. Administrative staff members present were Michael Mancieri, Gail Abromitis, Andrew Longo, and Stephen Ponte.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To go into Executive Session 42-46-5 (a) 1,2,5,8,9 at 7:02 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Spengler announced that no vote was taken in Executive Session.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To seal the minutes of Executive Session. Unanimous vote.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“High School State Assessment Waiver”

Ms. Gail Abromitis, MHS Principal, and Mr. Andrew Longo, MHS Assistant Principal, reported on the High School State Assessment Waiver. This is necessary when a student does not reach proficiency on the NECAP exam. School districts develop their own policy with guidance from R.I.D.E. Progress has been made in reducing the number of students scoring “Substantially Below”. Only 22 students in the senior class are listed as “At Risk”. Students must score “Partially Proficient”, which is a 2 out of 4, 1 being the lowest. If students do not demonstrate the specified level of proficiency on the NECAP and they have met all other graduation requirements, they may be eligible for a waiver.

The following is the protocol for a waiver:

- The student must take the NECAP exam at least 2 times.**
- The student must meet all other graduation requirements, including courses, community service, Capstone, and portfolio.**
- The student may apply for the waiver once they are a senior and after they receive their scores for the 2nd NECAP exam.**
- The student must participate in a PLP or PMP.**
- To be considered for a waiver, the student must demonstrate that they are proficient in the areas deficient on the NECAP through other eligible evidence that is aligned to 9-10th grade standards.**

To demonstrate proficiency, students must meet the requirements in at least two types of evidence. Once the student fills out the waiver, a team is formed for a recommendation and forwarded to the Superintendent for approval.

The appeals process is not specific to the waiver policy. Students and families retain the right to appeal overall graduation decisions in accordance with the Middletown Public Schools High School Graduation Requirements Policy. Appeals encompass all components of the state graduation requirements as well as any local graduation requirements. This is different from the waiver process, which is only applied to the state assessment component of the high school diploma requirements.

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PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

No “Proclamations/Awards” for January 16, 2014.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for January 16, 2014.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Registration is open for February Vacation Camp.**
- The Moon Rocks have arrived. A celebration will be held on February 10th. Family Fun Moon Rock Nights will be held on January 31st, February 28th, and March 13th.**

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for January 16, 2014.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of Minutes of December 12, 2013 School Committee Meeting**

- Approval of the following vouchers:**

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- Approval of Superintendent’s Recommendation on Personnel**

APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 5, 2013

Kayla Parker Forest Avenue Intervention Teacher

Jennifer Pesare Forest Avenue Intervention Teacher

Renee Fagan Forest Avenue Intervention Teacher

Kristen Gill Forest Avenue Intervention Teacher

Dena Silvia Forest Avenue Intervention Teacher

APPOINTMENT

Deanna Guy Bus Monitor, effective January 13, 2014

**RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT AS OF
JANUARY 17, 2014**

**Bernadette Moniz District/School Administrative Support Personnel
(217 Days)**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY

Meredith Frederick Art Teacher, Middletown High School

Extension of Leave of Absence until April 7, 2014.

ACTION ITEMS

WAIVER FOR THE STATE ASSESSMENT GRADUATION REQUIREMENT WAIVER (1st READING)

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Waiver for the State Assessment Graduation Requirement Waiver Policy, 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

For the second reading, Mr. Mankofsky suggested adding a paragraph before “L-6-3.3”. This will be reviewed.

CONCUSSION POLICY (1ST READING)

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the concussion policy, First Reading. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Kraeger will check with Attorney Scungio to see if we can legally mandate a base-line test for all student athletes. Ms. Abromitis, who is on the RIIL Principals Committee, said that some districts in Rhode Island require a base-line test, but no districts have an actual policy. Presently, students and parents must sign a booklet from RIIL indicating that they have received information regarding the dangers of concussions.

Mrs. Spengler would like the policy to read that the students are mandated to participate in the screening. This policy will be reviewed.

PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATION

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the Pre-Budget Consultation. Motion passed 3 to 2.

Yay: Nay:

**Theresa Spengler Paul Mankofsky
Kellie Simone William O'Connell
Liana Fenton**

This document is required by law.

OLD BUSINESS

•COZ – Mrs. Kraeger will be meeting with EBCAP. This group operates the Newport COZ.

•VOLUNTEER POLICY – This policy is still being developed.

•AP PROGRAM – A representative for the program has met with Ms. Abromitis and Mr. Longo. Mrs. Kraeger will follow up on this.

NEW BUSINESS

No “New Business” for January 16, 2014.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

•CURRICULUM – The ELA curriculum is being completed. K-2 is still in progress. A task force meeting was held today. Math units are next. PARCC will begin next school year. The State wants Middletown to participate in a pilot program the last week of March, but not every student. Some of the pilot program will be on paper and some will be one line. The end of year test will take place in May. Every district in the state is participating in the pilot program. There will be a conference call tomorrow with RIDE regarding wireless infrastructure. This will give us a better idea of the allocation for the wireless infrastructure.

•FINANCIAL – The Governor released his budget plan on Tuesday. According to the funding formula, Middletown will be losing approximately \$144,000. The data pull will be in March so State Aid dollars are not released until the end of April.

•FACILITIES – Mr. Collins reported on the electric rates. While electric rates are increasing, Middletown is at the lowest we have

been in 8 years due to locking in a price.

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

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REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mrs. Spengler attended an Open Space Meeting, which was also attended by Mr. Mankofsky and Mr. Collins.

The updated Fielding Nair report will be presented to the Town Council at a meeting on January 21st at 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Simeone attended a meeting with Newport regarding the unified high school The next meeting will be Thursday, January 23, 2014.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 8:44 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk