

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

Members Present:

Theresa Spengler, Chairman

Kellie DiPalma Simeone, Vice-Chairman

Liana Fenton, left at 4:36 p.m.

William O'Connell

Member Absent:

Paul Mankofsky

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent

Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager

Edward Collins, Director of Facilities

The School Committee Meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m. All School Committee members were present, with the exception of Mr. Mankofsky. Administrative staff members present were Gail Abromitis, Michael Mancieri, and Linda Beaupre.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To go into Executive Session 42-46-5 (a) 1,2,5,8,9 at 3:05 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Return from Executive Session at 4:30 p.m. Mrs. Spengler reported that no votes were taken.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To support the Superintendent's recommendation regarding student graduation academic requirements. Unanimous vote.

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

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To move "Action Items" up on the agenda. Unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS

EXTEND EARLY RETIREMENT

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee extend Early Retirement to August 1, 2014. Unanimous vote.

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BID AWARD

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee award, after July 1, 2014, the MHS Roof Replacement bid to Quality Improvements, LLC. Unanimous vote.

EXTEND CONTRACTS

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee extend the Superintendent of Schools contract through June 30, 2017. Unanimous Vote.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee extend the Assistant Superintendent of Schools contract through June 30, 2017. Unanimous Vote.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee extend the Business Managers contract through June 30, 2017. Unanimous Vote.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee extend the Director of Facilities contract through June 30, 2017, which includes the amendment reflecting duties and activities of the Newport School Department. Unanimous vote.

RECALL TEACHERS

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee authorize the Superintendent to recall teachers based on enrollment, need, and funding. Unanimous vote.

IMPACT AID FUNDS

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee commit prior year Impact Aid funds for the Middletown Public Schools Digital Transformation Project. Unanimous vote.

Under this project, all staff will receive laptops.

FY14 LINE ITEM BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee authorize the Superintendent to make line item adjustments to the FY14 budget. Unanimous vote.

A brief recess was taken.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- **Middletown COZ Afterschool Enrichment Program. A sample of programs was introduced at Forest Avenue School.**
- **Donation letters**
- **MHS Humanities Department Newsletter**

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CORRESPONDENCE

Received a letter from Kathryn Crowley, Superintendent, Little Compton School Department, regarding a potential settlement of issues raised by the Portsmouth Chairperson concerning the Newport County Regional Collaborative's formula for allocating costs and expenses among member districts.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) William O'Connell. That the School Committee receive the communication. Unanimous vote.

This is the first formal correspondence that we have received regarding this. The letter discloses that Little Compton does not want

to settle the issue.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) William O'Connell. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Minutes of May 15, 2014 School Committee Meeting**
- Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel**

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT

Mary Colaneri Elementary Teacher, Forest Avenue School

Catherine Milone Foreign Language Teacher, Middletown High School

Deborah Circosta Special Education Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

OLD BUSINESS

- Cross Country Co-op – The Rhode Island Interscholastic League has denied this co-op. We are awaiting the reason. It is possible that Middletown did not have the correct number of students participating.**

NEW BUSINESS

•**Impact Aid – There was discussion about what Impact Aid payments Middletown would receive. Ms. Pellerin stated that Mrs. Kraeger spoke to her contacts in Washington, D.C. regarding projections for prior year payments that will be received in the upcoming year. The National Impact Aid Office (NAFIS) estimates that the school department could receive 2 prior year payments in the FY 14/15 school year. We are estimating a prior year payment from FY11, which moves the LOT from 90% to 96%, approximately \$47,000. A prior year payment from FY12 moves the LOT from 85 to 92%. Approximately \$77,512. The total estimate for prior year payments is \$125,466. There will be a meeting with the Town Finance Director next week to discuss the suggested amendment to the FY 14/15 budget.**

•**Box Truck – The Town Council requested that the Town mechanic look at the truck to determine if it is worth fixing. He spoke to the School Department mechanic who agreed that another \$4,000 would be needed to get it running. To date, \$11,000 has been spent on the vehicle. It is becoming too expensive to maintain.**

•**FY 15-16 Calendar Vacation Changes** – The State Superintendents Association is recommending abolishing the February break. Cumberland has already implemented this. The idea is to have a 4 day weekend by taking the Friday off before Presidents' Day. Discussion needs to begin in September or October. A survey could be sent to parents to get their opinion. Mrs. Spengler suggested taking the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and the Friday before Presidents Day off.

•**Collaborative Pre-School Program** – Talks are just beginning. A letter of support has been sent to R.I. Department of Education regarding working with Newport and EBCAP.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

•**CURRICULUM** – This will be discussed at the next meeting.

•**FINANCIAL** – This will be discussed at the next meeting. Budget amendments from FY13-14 will be addressed, as well as reconciling the FY14-15 budget with the bottom line and making adjustments.

•**FACILITIES** – This will be discussed at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on June 23, 2014.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

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ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1)Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) William O'Connell. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 5:03 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk