

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, December 18, 2014

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

Members Present:

Theresa Spengler, Chairman

Kellie DiPalma Simeone, Vice-Chairman

Douglas Arnold

Liana Fenton

William O'Connell

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent

Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Rosemarie Kraeger, School Committee Clerk. Administrative staff member present were Michelle Fonseca, Gail Abromitis, Steve

Ponte, Linda Beaupre, and Donna Chelf.

This was an organizational meeting. As Clerk of the School Committee, Mrs. Kraeger requested nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Middletown School Committee.

Mrs. Liana Fenton nominated Mrs. Theresa Spengler.

Mrs. Kellie DiPalma Simeone seconded the motion.

No other nominations were made.

MOTION: 1) William O'Connell, 2) Kellie DiPalma Simeone. To close nominations for School Committee Chairman. Unanimous vote.

With the nominations closed, the Clerk cast one ballot for Mrs. Theresa Spengler as Chair of the Middletown School Committee.

Mrs. Kraeger turned the meeting over to Mrs. Spengler. Mrs. Spengler thanked everyone for their confidence and support.

Mrs. Spengler called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Middletown School Committee.

Mrs. Liana Fenton nominated Mrs. Kellie DiPalma Simeone.

Mr. William O'Connell seconded the motion.

No other nominations were made.

MOTION: 1) William O'Connell, 2) Liana Fenton. To close the nominations for Vice-Chairperson and elect Mrs. Kellie DiPalma Simeone as Vice-Chairperson of the School Committee. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Spengler called for nominations for Clerk of the School Committee.

(Minutes of December 18, 2014 School Committee Meeting, Page Two)

Mrs. Simeone nominated Mrs. Rosemarie Kraeger.

Mrs. Fenton seconded the motion.

No other nominations were made.

All School Committee members voted in favor.

Mrs. Spengler cast one ballot for Mrs. Kraeger to continue as Clerk of the School Committee.

Mrs. Kraeger welcomed Mr. Douglas Arnold as new school committee member. Mrs. Spengler said it has been a pleasure working with the School Committee and there is a lot of work ahead, including accreditation at the high school. The School Committee will collaborate with the Town Council to make the town a better place.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

No “Spotlight on Teaching and Learning” for December 18, 2014.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

- **Student Awards – Jennifer Woehl was introduced as the Newport Daily News Athlete of the Week.**

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for December 18, 2014.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- **The Wave**
- **Volvo Ocean Race Newport**
- **Sports Awards Banquet**
- **Athletic Hall of Fame**
- **Information from Chartwells**
- **Donation letters**
- **Letter from NAFIS thanking Mrs. Kraeger for her recent attendance at the Fall Conference.**

Three)

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Jennifer Azevedo, Esq., Assistant Executive Director, NEARI, notifying the School Committee that NEA Middletown wishes to meet for the purpose of negotiating a successor agreement to the current contract, which expires August 31, 2015.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the communication. Unanimous vote.

Letter from John Burns, Senior Staff Representative, AFSCME Rhode Island Council 94, notifying the School Committee that R.I. Council 94, on behalf of Local 1823, wishes to meet for the purpose of negotiating a successor agreement to the current contract, which expires June 30, 2015.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the communication. Unanimous vote.

Email from Maureen Maurer, Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator, regarding the painting a center line on the driveway of

Middletown High School, improving the safety for 2-way traffic.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the communication. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Kraeger said there is a faded center line. We will have to wait until next spring to paint.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

•Approval of Minutes of the October 16, 2014 School Committee Meeting

•Approval of the following vouchers:

Voucher Summary October-November

Voucher Date Amount

1115 10/2/2014 \$19,938.16

1114 10/2/2014 \$316,321.01

1090 10/2/2014 \$390,604.97

1089 10/2/2014 \$3,487.60

1088 10/2/2014 \$3,992.30

1091 10/3/2014 \$2,520.00

1116 10/6/2014 \$195.48

1101 10/6/2014 \$968.00
1112 10/7/2014 \$122,035.44
1111 10/7/2014 \$9,310.20
1113 10/9/2014 \$133,702.85
1150 10/15/2014 \$174.06
1148 10/15/2014 \$24,942.79
1128 10/17/2014 \$12,475.27
1127 10/17/2014 \$4,979.10
1126 10/17/2014 \$3,502.00
1125 10/17/2014 \$62,891.62
1129 10/21/2014 \$101,377.81
1130 10/23/2014 \$138,740.01
1138 10/27/2014 \$1,368.68
1137 10/27/2014 \$3,778.25
1131 10/27/2014 \$2,199.00
1136 10/29/2014 \$194,480.64
1134 10/29/2014 \$4,937.30
1133 10/29/2014 \$295.00
1132 10/29/2014 \$50,266.69
1147 10/30/2014 \$2,289.80
1154 11/4/2014 \$19,966.34
1153 11/4/2014 \$317,852.70
1152 11/4/2014 \$1,368.68
1151 11/4/2014 \$3,778.25
1155 11/6/2014 \$683.26
1149 11/6/2014 \$61,717.27

1156 11/13/2014 \$22,796.04
1166 11/17/2014 \$99,452.74
1165 11/17/2014 \$1,468.73
1164 11/17/2014 \$1,650.00
1169 11/20/2014 \$362,593.36
1168 11/20/2014 \$13,491.94
1167 11/20/2014 \$1,739.38
1181 11/26/2014 \$24,248.45
1180 11/26/2014 \$60,900.00
1179 11/26/2014 \$9,646.00
1178 11/26/2014 \$224,591.94
Total \$2,839,719.11

•Quarterly Financial Report

•Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel

(Minutes of December 18, 2014 School Committee Meeting, Page Five)

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENTS AS OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2014

Michelle Fonseca Interim Principal, J.H. Gaudet School

Vincent Giuliano Interim Principal, Aquidneck School

**APPOINTMENT OF J.H. GAUDET SCHOOL ADVISORS AS OF
OCTOBER 14, 2014**

Jill Armstrong Art Club Co-Advisor

Jonathan Paquette Art Club Co-Advisor

APPOINTMENT AS OF OCTOBER 23, 2014

Julia Polana .8 World Language

APPOINTMENT AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2014

Lesley Jenkins Bus Monitor

APPOINTMENT AS OF NOVEMBER 3, 2014

Lorena Navarro Bus Monitor

**APPOINTMENT OF MOST AFTER SCHOOL INTERVENTION
TEACHERS AS OF NOVEMBER 6, 2014**

Brittney Schuchmann K-3 ELA, Aquidneck

Debra Prentiss K-3 ELA, Aquidneck

Anne Coogan K-3 ELA, Aquidneck

Cynthia Weininger K-3 Math, Aquidneck

Jennifer Pesare K-3 ELA, Forest Avenue

Kim Smith K-3 ELA, Forest Avenue

Renee Fagan K-3 Math, Forest Avenue

Tara Mellow K-3 ELA, Forest Avenue

Cassandra Donoian 4-6 ELA/ELL

Paula Guarino 4-6 ELA/ELL

Luis Oliveira 7-12 ELA/ELL

Gail Sullivan McCune 7-12 ELA/ELL

Michele Smith 7-12 ELA/ELL

John Cunic 7-12 ELA

Lee Ann Wells 7-12 ELA

Grainne Phelps 7-12 Math

APPOINTMENT AS OF NOVEMBER 24, 2014

Kimberly Polley Bus Monitor

(Minutes of December 18, 2014 School Committee Meeting, Page Six)

WINTER COACHING APPOINTMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2014

Michael Yates Girls' Varsity Basketball

David Pritchard Girls' Junior Varsity Basketball

Kevin Lendrum Boys' Varsity Basketball

Raleigh Brennan Boys' Junior Varsity Basketball

Rick Francis Varsity Wrestling

Andrew Bulk Assistant Varsity Wrestling

Jennifer Mahoney Competition Cheerleading

Shannon Farrell Varsity Gymnastics

Terri DiGiovanni Coed Varsity Swim

Christopher Winnes Girls' and Boys' Varsity Hockey

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

Tim Brown 6/7/8th Grade Boys' Basketball

APPOINTMENT AS OF DECEMBER 8, 2014

Erica Bulk Dean of Students, J.H. Gaudet School (One Year Only)

RESIGNATION AS OF NOVEMBER 7, 2014

Kelley Fincher Bus Monitor

RESIGNATION AS OF NOVEMBER 19, 2014

Anna Burrill 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School

RESIGNATION AS OF NOVEMBER 26, 2014

Heather Carney French Teacher, Middletown High School

RESIGNATION AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2014

Edward Collins Director of Facilities

RESIGNATION AS OF DECEMBER 23, 2014

Susan Plunkett 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School

(Minutes of December 18, 2014 School Committee Meeting, Page Seven)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM MARCH 4, 2015 TO APRIL 13, 2015

Trina Bona Grade 8 Social Studies, J.H. Gaudet School

FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT FROM DECEMBER 22, 2014 TO JANUARY 27, 2015

Deanna Smith Math Teacher, Middletown High School

ACTION ITEMS

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 14-15-10, retroactive to school years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. Unanimous vote.

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 14-15-11, 14-15-12, 14-15-13, and 14-15-14. Unanimous vote.

RFP ELEVATOR CONTRACTOR SERVICES

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the one-year extension of the elevator contractor services to Kone Elevator for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. Unanimous vote.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS TO SUBCOMMITTEES

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee Chairman appoint School Committee Members to the following committees. Unanimous vote.

- Budget Sub-Committee – Theresa Spengler, Kellie Simeone, William O’Connell (Alternate)**

- Career Technical Center Committee – Liana Fenton, Douglas Arnold**

- Policy Committee – Douglas Arnold, Theresa Spengler**
 - John Clark Scholarship Committee – Kellie Simeone, Liana Fenton**
 - Sick Bank Committee (Certified) – Theresa Spengler, William O’Connell**
 - Sick Bank Committee (Council 94) – Kellie Simeone, William O’Connell**
 - Grievance Subcommittee – Theresa Spengler, William O’Connell, Douglas Arnold**
 - Facilities Advisory Committee – Theresa Spengler, Douglas Arnold**
 - Safety Advisory Committee – William O’Connell, Kellie Simeone (Alternate)**
 - East Bay Educational Collaborative – Rosemarie Kraeger**
 - Newport County Regional Special Education Committee – Rosemarie Kraeger**
 - Audit Committee – Theresa Spengler, Liana Fenton, Kellie Simeone (Alternate)**
 - Health and Wellness Advisory Committee – Kellie Simeone, Liana Fenton (Alternate)**
 - Open Space Committee – William O’Connell, Kellie Simeone (Alternate)**
- (Minutes of December 18, 2014 School Committee Meeting, Page Eight)**

- STREAM – Liana Fenton, Douglas Arnold**
- Career Pathways – Liana Fenton, Kellie Simeone, William O’Connell**

(Alternate)

2015 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the School Committee Meeting dates for 2015. Unanimous vote.

Thursday, January 15, 2015

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Thursday, August 20, 2015

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Thursday, October 15, 2015

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Thursday, December 17, 2015

TIMELINE

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the School Committee budget timeline for the 2015/2016 budget. Unanimous vote.

**JOB DESCRIPTION – DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES MANAGEMENT,
TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY (REVISED)**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the
School Committee approve revised Director of Facilities Management,
Transportation and Safety Job Description. Unanimous vote.**

**JOB DESCRIPTION – DEAN OF STUDENTS (J.H. GAUDET SCHOOL)
(REVISED)**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the
School Committee approve the revised Dean of Students (J.H. Gaudet
School) Job Description. Unanimous vote.**

**The job description was built off of the high school, but tailored to the
middle school.**

OLD BUSINESS

No “Old Business” for December 18, 2014.

**(Minutes of December 18, 2014 School Committee Meeting, Page
Nine)**

NEW BUSINESS

•2015-2016 School Calendar –The State Superintendents Association’s draft of the 2015-2016 school calendar shows a shortened February break. Students would be off on Monday and Tuesday of President’s Day weekend. Mrs. Kraeger suggested putting out a survey after the holidays to get parent and staff opinions. Mrs. Spengler feels it should be a 5-day weekend and add either Friday or Wednesday. Many schools around the state begin school before Labor Day. Feedback Mrs. Kraeger has received from parents is that they like to start school after Labor Day. In 2015, Labor Day is on September 7.

•Impact Fees – Mrs. Kraeger suggested that we ask for a four-year extension to review the facilities plan with the new Town Council. You have to make a compelling argument to increase the impact fee timeline. There is lack of consensus on the Town side. The early childhood piece needs to be revisited. Middletown would need to request an extension by the end of January. Currently, there is approximately \$1.5 million in impact fees that has been collected over the past eight years. We need to use it or it will be lost, which is why an extension needs to be requested. In order to apply for an extension, we need to have a plan in place.

•NEASC – Middletown High School Principal Gail Abromitis updated

the committee on the NEASC visit. The four after school hours have been utilized to complete all of the self-studies. Narratives and Executive Summaries are complete and are being reviewed by the faculty for the January 14, 2015 deadline. The next steps will be for the faculty to write the “Statement of School Critical Strengths and Needs” and the Leadership Team will write the Two and Five-Year Targeted Plans, which are based on the school’s critical strengths and needs. These will go to an editing committee before they are submitted to NEASC. The visit is scheduled for May 3 – 6, 2015. The School Committee will be required to attend the May 3rd reception. The visiting committee is made up of representatives from different content areas, Superintendents, principals, special education teachers. Members of the visiting committee can be from anywhere in New England.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

oCurriculum – Assistant Superintendent Linda Savastano updated the Committee on curriculum.

oMiddletown has been awarded the van Beuren Grant, “Innovation Classrooms: Leading the Way for Digital Learning”, which will be shared with Tiverton Schools. The grant is through the end of this year and next school year and will focus on ensuring that every child has access to high quality and engaging instruction through an innovative digital learning environment.

oAssessment Literacy Professional Development – There will be 6 days for elementary teachers and 6 days for secondary. Each team has an action research question. When we study assessment literacy it helps us assess what is going on in the classroom. Middletown was discussed nationally.

(Minutes of December 18, 2014 School Committee Meeting, Page Ten)

oNECAP science scores were just released. Historically, science results in R.I. have not had a high percentage proficient. We are now working on science remapping and transitioning from GSE's to next generation science standards. Content Head Teachers have been beneficial.

oFinancial – The annual audit meeting was held on December 11th. The audit was perfect. The auditor said it was rare to have no audit adjustments for a Town and School Department.

RIDE released preliminary figures for the funding formula. Another data pull will take place in March, with the final figures being released in April. Middletown is projected to lose \$157,000 on the funding formula side. Group Home Aid is being reduced by \$60,000 because of the closure of one group home.

Mrs. Kraeger will send out dates for budget meetings.

oFacilities – We have posted for a new Facilities Director. The posting closes tomorrow. Dave Rodrigues and the team are doing a

great job keeping the Superintendent up-to-date. We will work on the CIP. This needs to be to the Town Administrator by January.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

oMrs. Simeone attended a Middletown Prevention Coalition Meeting. Mr. Chris Herrin, a former Boston Celtic player, travels around the country sharing his stories about his drug abuse and how he is overcoming it. He gave a great presentation at Gaudet School and will speak at the high school. The coalition is working on planning another community forum in March. The speaker will be a psychologist from Colorado.

oMrs. Spengler and Mrs. Fenton attended an Audit Committee Meeting.

oMr. Arnold and Mrs. Fenton attended "School Committee 101", an overview of ethics and roles.

Mrs. Spengler welcomed Mr. Arnold and said there are a lot of successes to be proud of and a lot of challenges to look forward to.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1)Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk