

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Tuesday, August 25, 2015

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Peter Anderson, Director of Facilities/Transportation and Safety

Benjamin Scungio, School Department Attorney

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 2:32

p.m. Administrative staff members present were Michelle Fonseca, Beth Hayes, Gail Abromitis, Donna Chelf, Linda Beaupre, and Stephen Ponte. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To move Executive Session 42-46-5 (a) 1,2,5,8,9 to after “Spotlight on Teaching and Learning”. Unanimous vote.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“THRIVE” Gaudet Program

Mrs. Beth Hayes, J.H. Gaudet School Principal, gave the committee an overview of the THRIVE Program. This is a new program at Gaudet School this year. The program will help target students who are not learning at the rate we had hoped. It will also give the opportunity to provide more enrichment and acceleration for children.

Freshman Football – Mrs. Karen Massaro, Athletic Director, discussed the freshman football program. There has been some discussion about not fielding a team due to the lack of participants. The numbers were low in July. Coaches and students were notified. Interested students would be absorbed into JV program. After the August 13th start date, the numbers doubled when 21 students registered. Five students currently have pending paperwork and one

student will be moving back from soccer. This will total 27 players which is enough for a team. RIIL has already pulled Middletown off of its schedule. Middletown will compete as an independent team and cannot participate in the state championship.

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MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To go into Executive Session Under Jurisdiction of Rhode Island State Law, Chapter 46, 42-46-5 – Exceptions (a) (1) Personnel Matters; (a) (2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation; (5) Property, (a) (8) Student Discipline and (a) (9) Grievance at 3:00 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.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

No “Proclamations/Awards” for August 25, 2015.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for August 25, 2015.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Thank you letter from Newport Superintendent Colleen Jermain**
- Life of an Athlete Presentation**
- “Get the Scoop” meeting welcoming military students to our school**

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for August 25, 2015.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

•Approval of Minutes of the following minutes:

oJuly 23, 2015 School Committee Meeting

oJuly 23, 2015 Executive Session

oAugust 6, 2015 Special School Committee Meeting

•Quarterly Report Period Ending June 30, 2015

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•Approval of the following vouchers:

Voucher Summary

July 1 to July 31, 2015

1021 7/28/2015 \$219.00

1020 7/27/2015 \$16,179.00

1019 7/27/2015 \$1,218.76

1018 7/24/2015 \$2,500.00

1017 7/24/2015 \$487,381.24

1010 7/16/2015 \$1,357.85

1009 7/16/2015 \$3,684.77

1008 7/2/2015 \$21,480.50

1007 7/2/2015 \$306,895.25

1006 7/16/2015 \$300.00

Total \$841,216.37

• Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE JULY 7, 2015

Kyle Cavallaro Part-Time Seasonal Asset Inventory/Student Intern

Jared Collins Part-Time Seasonal Asset Inventory/Student Intern

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE AUGUST 28, 2015

Ellen Nanni Vargas .5 Art Teacher

Gael Berberick Music Teacher

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 2, 2015

John Cunic College and Career Readiness Director

Dr. Martha Ullman School Physician

Dr. P. Hakan Durudogan School Dentist

Lisa Moore Data Support Teacher Assistant

COACHING APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE AUGUST 26, 2015

Rebecca Duggan Coed Varsity Cross Country Coach

David Pritchard Girls' Junior Varsity Volleyball Co-Coach

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE JULY 27, 2015

Regina Shers 3-Hour Teacher Assistant, Middletown Public Schools

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RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE AUGUST 12, 2015

Rachel Sliwowski Biology/General Science Teacher, Middletown High School

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE AUGUST 21, 2015

Rurainy Sirois Data Support Teacher Assistant, Middletown High School

Jennifer Cavallaro 6/7/8th Grade Boys' and Girls' Cross-Country Co-Coach

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

Carolyn Wiest 3-Hour Teacher Assistant, Forest Avenue School

CHANGE OF POSITION

Caitlin Briggs From .5 Grade Six Teacher, to Grade 6, J.H. Gaudet School

David Fontaine From 1.0 Librarian, MHS, to .6 Librarian and .4

English, MHS

**Paula Guarino From 6/7/8th Grade Boys' and Girls' Cross Country
Co-Coach to Coach**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE AUGUST 7, 2015

**Jodi Nasser Special Education Teacher Assistant, J.H. Gaudet
School**

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Linda Leonard Math, J.H. Gaudet School

From September 11, 2015 to approximately September 21, 2015.

Donna Byron Nurse Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

From October 23, 2015 for approximately 8 to 10 weeks.

ACTION ITEMS

**COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS DIRECTOR POLICY – 2ND
READING**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the
School Committee approve the College and Career Readiness**

Director Policy – 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

**PER DIEM SUBSTITUTE EMPLOYEES REASONABLE ASSURANCE
POLICY – 1ST READING**

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Per Diem Substitute Employees Reasonable Assurance Policy– 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

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APPOINTMENT TO AUDIT COMMITTEE

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee reappoint Theresa Spengler and Liana Fenton to the Audit Committee, with Kellie DiPalma Simeone as an alternate. Unanimous vote.

SCIENCE CURRICULUM

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Science Curriculum. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Savastano discussed the Science Curriculum. It is available on the school department website at www.mpsri.net/science. Work is

done on a timeframe. Science teachers worked together and developed units. The Next Generation Science Standards are well thought out. Science curriculums are very hands on and are based on inquiry and creativity. Mrs. Spengler asked if there is a lot of technology in the curriculum. Mrs. Savastano said that kits, building, and design are used. Project Lead The Way uses a lot of iPads. Mrs. Simeone asked how PLTW is used in the curriculum. Mrs. Savastano said it is a resource used to support the curriculum.

BUDGET REDUCTIONS FY 15-16

Request a motion to table this Action Item because soccer is being taken over as a club sport. This will be discussed at the September 17th meeting. We still need to reduce the budget by \$144,000 and hiring is still taking place.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To table the action item “Budget Reductions for FY 15-16” to September 17, 2015. Unanimous vote.

LINE ITEM ADJUSTMENTS FY 14-15

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To table the action item “Line Item Adjustments FY 14-15” to September 17, 2015.

Unanimous vote.

This item will allow more time to provide detail and a PPT Presentation to give thorough backup.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS 15-16

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the FY 15-16 Budget Amendments.

Unanimous vote.

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These two action items are bottom line amendments to Capital Improvement that were adopted and approved by the Town Council at the July 6th Town Council Meeting.

The first amendment is a transfer of the remaining balance. \$77,695 was carried over to support the purchase of kitchen equipment that

was originally scheduled for 14-15.

The second was a transfer from the town's JFK Special Revenue Fund to support the 5-Year Facility Plan Stages 1 and 2.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS 14-15

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the FY 14-15 Budget Amendments. Unanimous vote.

The amendment reduced the 14-15 Capital Improvement so it could be shifted over to 15-16.

BUY BOARD

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee authorize the Superintendent to review and sign the Interlocal Participation Agreement with BuyBoard, a National Purchasing Cooperative supported by the R.I. School Committee Association. Unanimous vote.

This was recommended last spring by RIASC. We will review all details with the School Attorney.

MOA NEAM CONTRACT

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the MOA NEAM Contract. Unanimous vote.

The MOA will be valid for ratification by the Town Council. This will hopefully be on the same docket as the Council 94 contract.

OLD BUSINESS

- Core Committee – Mrs. Kraeger has met with the Town Administrator. After school starts, a meeting will be scheduled with the three groups; fields, schools, and Coddington Redevelopment.**

NEW BUSINESS

- Opening of School – Enrollment is currently up consistent with last year. At this time, Aquidneck School has 363 students, Forest Avenue School has 310, Gaudet Learning Academy has 186, Gaudet School has 708, and Middletown High School has 650. There are currently 51 scheduled appointments. Over 400 new students have been registered this**

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summer. The extra 4th and 6th grade classrooms in the budget have been filled. The first day for teachers is September 1st. The keynote speaker, Justin Wright, is co-founder of Ed Tech Teacher and writes for Education Week, and works for MIT and Harvard. New teacher orientation is this Friday. Bus routes are done and ready to be published.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- **Curriculum – The R.I. Department of Health is standing by its decision regarding the HPV vaccination for grade 7 students.**
- **NWEA will be administered in the fall and spring to all students. In winter, struggling subset are tested.**
- **Financial – Encumbrances were turned on early, but this does not include Special Education, regional or new appointments from tonight.**
- **Facilities – Bus routes are complete and will be advertised in the Newport Daily News this Saturday. We are looking at concerns and complaints from last year. Bus monitor and driver training will take place tomorrow.**

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 will attend the Ice Cream Social tonight for new military families at Middletown High School.

Mrs. Fenton and Mr. Arnold attended the yearly meeting for Public Access to Records Act.

Mrs. Fenton attended the Governors Workforce Board Meeting. They are working on PK-16 into the workforce and PK-12 to other career pathways.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 4:45 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk