

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, September 17, 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

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. Administrative staff members present were Beth Hayes,

**Michelle Fonseca, Donna Chelf, Gail Abromitis, and Stephen Ponte.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

No “Spotlight on Teaching and Learning” for September 17, 2015.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

No “Proclamations/Awards” for September 17, 2015.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for September 17, 2015.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Spengler welcomed back the teachers and staff and wish all a good school year. Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Copy of letter from NEARI representative requesting that a new**

mediator be appointed.

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•The annual flu clinic will be held on September 30th at Gaudet School for all district staff, faculty, and families from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. There is no charge.

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for September 17, 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:

oAugust 25, 2015 School Committee Meeting and Executive Session

oSeptember 1, 2015 Special School Committee Meeting and Executive Session

•Approval of the following vouchers:

Voucher Summary-August 2015

Voucher #Date

1049 8/3/2015 \$308,076.55

1050 8/3/2015 \$21,357.98

1051 8/5/2015 \$3,688.85

1052 8/5/2015 \$1,357.85

1029 8/7/2015 \$30,325.61

1030 8/12/2015 \$186,484.00

1031 8/12/2015 \$2,693.00

1032 8/12/2015 \$30.00

1033 8/12/2015 \$1,076.27

1034 8/12/2015 \$160,402.73

1035 8/18/2015 \$1,187.50

•Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE AUGUST 17, 2015

Marianne Packer Girls' Varsity Tennis

Three)

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE AUGUST 28, 2015

Stephanie Sims Grade 6 Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

Renee Fagan .5 Grade 6 Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

Jessica Tucker Grade 5 Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

Karen Massaro Athletic Director

Leslie Gilman Lead Teacher, Aquidneck School

Amanda Forte 3-Hour Teacher Assistant, Forest Avenue School

Ceili McCarthy 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School

Denise Porter 3-Hour Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School

Dychell Peebles Bus Monitor

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

Roland Lavalley Biology Teacher, Middletown High School

Toni Cawley Lead Teacher, Forest Avenue School

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

Kristen Hughes Technology Innovation Coach, Forest Avenue

School

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE AUGUST 26, 2015

**Deanne Reilly Grade 2 Teacher, Forest Avenue School
Lead Teacher, Forest Avenue School
Technology Innovation Coach, Forest Avenue School
District Intervention Coordinator**

CHANGE OF POSITION

**Kelly Young From .4 Physical Education to .5 Physical Education,
J.H. Gaudet School**

ACTION ITEMS

PER DIEM SUBSTITUTE EMPLOYEES REASONABLE ASSURANCE POLICY – 2nd READING

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

SNOW REMOVAL CONTRACT EXTENSION

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the

School Committee approve the one year extension to the snow removal contract with All Island Landscape. Unanimous vote.

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PEST CONTROL CONTRACT EXTENSION

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the one year extension to the pest control contract with Terminex. Unanimous vote.

LETTER OF INTENT RIDE NECESSITY OF CONSTRUCTION

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Letter of Intent RIDE Necessity of Construction. Unanimous vote.

Recent changes at the R.I. Department of Education require school districts to submit a letter of intent outlining projects that the district is planning to engage in during the upcoming year. This will outline roofing projects and improvements to building envelopes. The projects are not school specific. The school building authority authorizes the dispersion of funds. We are scheduled to receive 35% reimbursement, set by the R.I. Department of Education.

SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY CAPITAL FUND

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the School Building Authority Capital Fund application. Unanimous vote.

The Necessity of Construction and School Building Capital Fund had to be completed first. An application needs to be put in place for roofing replacement at Middletown High School. The School Building Authority Capital Fund application makes the projects more specific and enables the district to receive the 35% reimbursement.

FINANCE POLICIES UPDATES

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the updates to finance policies. Unanimous vote.

We are currently reviewing all of our policies. These only require one reading because there are minor revisions. The following policies had minor revisions:

3000 - Financial Responsibilities

3010 – Annual Budget and Format

3020 – Budget Development Process

LINE ITEM ADJUSTMENTS FY 14-15

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

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This year was a unique situation with circumstances within budget. There were several factors that led to the line item adjustments:

- Changes in the Regional Special Education Program**
- Positions in the budget that were not filled, which saved dollars:**
 - oAdministrator**
 - oIT Department was restructured (3 positions)**
 - oFunds budgeted for the pension lawsuit**
 - oFunds that were budgeted for the NEASC visit were saved**
 - oCurriculum alignment**

Overall, the budget was reduced by \$150,372.

OLD BUSINESS

•Opening of School – Mrs. Kraeger thanked all for a smooth opening of school. There were very few bus complaints. Mrs. Kraeger thanked Ocean State Transit and Mr. Anderson. The schools all looked bright, clean, and cheerful.

Enrollment – As of September 11th, there are 2278 students enrolled. Approximately 450 new students enrolled this summer.

NEW BUSINESS

•Strategic Plan – It is time to update the Strategic Plan. The community will be engaged and community forums will be held. This will begin after the holidays. The NEASC Report will be shared when it is complete.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

•Curriculum – Mrs. Savastano thanked Mrs. Jackie Zahm and Mr. Joshua Beagan for their work with integrating Project Lead the Way in grades K-6. Curriculum work this year focuses on technology, beginning with the high school Career Education and Technology Department. NWEA has recently released their own progress monitoring tool (Skills Navigator) and we will be migrating to this

program rather than Aimsweb. This will be piloted this year. It will provide the teacher with information on the students that are struggling and will give the tools to support students.

•Financial – As a result of the quarterly report that was submitted to the Town Council, many questions were generated. The answers were turned around quickly for the Monday Town Council Meeting. We also compiled additional information to be more transparent that Administration will add to the report for the Town Council.

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The Digital Transformation information about the Town Council Inquiry will be posted on the website.

•Facilities – Safety Inspections (R.I. Fire Safety Code, R.I. Building Code, and Lead-Drinking Water) were completed. Installation of the card access hardware was completed at MHS and was activated for the startup of school. New Badges were generated. Gaudet School badges are currently being generated, with Forest Avenue and Aquidneck School following in October. Bus Monitor training was conducted by Peter Anderson, Paula Dallaire, Nancy DuPonte, and Beth Hayes. The Aquidneck School flooring replacement is complete.

Work was performed by an outside company and Middletown Public Schools Facilities staff. \$8,000-\$10,000 was saved using Middletown staff for this project. RGB has completed its field work related to the

Facilities Condition Assessment. The next step is to put together a 5-year CIP.

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. Fenton attended a State School Board Association Meeting at Bryant College on October 3rd. There was discussion about PARCC Testing.

•Mrs. Spengler and Mrs. Fenton attended a RIASC Chair Meeting. The new Commissioner was introduced. Mrs. Fenton would like to invite him to Middletown.

•Mrs. Simeone announced that the Middletown Prevention Coalition will be hosting a Family Day on October 18th at Middletown High School from noon to 4:00 p.m.

•Mr. Arnold attended the Gaudet School Open House for 4th and 5th graders. He said it was very well organized. A lot of good information was distributed and there was a good turnout. The Open House for grades 6/7/8 will be held on September 24th. The Middletown High School Open House will be held on September 21st.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 6:42 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk