

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, October 15, 2015

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

Members Present:

Theresa Spengler, Chairman

Kellie DiPalma Simeone, Vice-Chairman

Douglas Arnold

William O'Connell

Member Absent:

Liana Fenton

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 5:30 p.m. Administrative staff members present were Gail Abromitis, Beth Hayes, Donna Chelf, Erica Bulk, Michelle Fonseca, Andrew Longo, Linda Beaupre, and Stephen Ponte. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MOTION: 1) Douglas Arnold, 2) William O'Connell. To move Proclamations and Awards to the first section of agenda. Unanimous vote.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

•Student Awards – Student awards were presented for Newport Daily News Student and Athlete of the Week.

A short recess was taken.

Before going into Executive Session, Mrs. Spengler addressed the audience of teachers stating that the School Committee wants to settle the contract, keep the lines of communication open, and that all the hard the work the teachers do should is recognized.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) William O'Connell. To go into

Executive Session 42-46-5 (a) 2 at 5:45 p.m. for legal advice on pending technology purchase investigation and collective bargaining. Unanimous vote.

The committee returned from Executive Session at 6:50 p.m. Mrs. Spengler reported that no vote was taken.

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

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“MHS NEASC Report”

Principal Gail Abromitis and Assistant Principal Andy Longo reported on the NEASC Report. They were very pleased with the report. The staff did an outstanding job of identifying strengths and needs and the report validated this. The visit was May 3-6, 2015. The visit focused on seven standards; 1) Core Values, Believes and Learning Expectations, 2) Curriculum, 3) Instruction, 4) Assessment of and for Student Learning, 5) School Culture and Leadership, 6)

School Resources for Learning, and 7) Community Resources for Learning.

Highlights in the report commended the school for the curriculum, professional development opportunities, technology, collaboration between teachers and support staff, safe environment, pride in school, support between school leadership team and central office team, communication, academic intervention, dependable funding from the School Committee, and maintenance of the aging facility.

Recommendations included implementing a process to review the core values, increasing the amount of instructional material available to implement co-curricular programs, creating a core value statement that addresses academic achievement to supplement the PRIDE acronym which emphasizes civic and social behavior, modifying all school rubrics to reflect a consistent point grading scale, analyzing the current advisory schedule in order to meet the 21st Century learning expectations, investigating the reinstatement of an Alternate Learning Program, and exploring the development of a work-study program to enhance opportunities in job and career readiness.

The next steps are to share the report, visit follow-up training in Bristol, CT, reflection on the NEASC Report as a faculty, and create a plan to improve the school with guidance from the report.

Mrs. Simeone commented that there are more commendations than recommendations. Ms. Abromitis said that none of the recommendations surprised them.

Mrs. Kraeger thanked Ms. Abromitis, Mr. Longo, and the entire MHS

staff for all their work and said that although it is a high school report, it reflects all work K-12.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

•MHS Student Council – Ms. Abromitis report on the student activities for Homecoming Week. Activities included color day, character day, hallway day, pajama day, blue and white day, pep rally, picnic, football game, and homecoming dance. Citing financial reasons, there will be no parade this year.

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INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Donation letters**
- Info on artificial turf fields**

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for October 15, 2015.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

•Approval of Minutes of the following minutes:

o September 17, 2015 Regular School Committee Meeting

•Approval of the following vouchers:

September Voucher Summary

Voucher Number Date Total

1057	9/2/2015	\$229.22
1101	9/3/2015	\$21,087.54
1100	9/3/2015	\$308,291.87
1067	9/3/2015	\$33,516.57
1059	9/3/2015	\$37,100.22
1068	9/11/2015	\$110,973.92
1069	9/14/2015	\$9,098.86
1079	9/17/2015	\$19,700.58
1082	9/18/2015	\$4,494.57
1081	9/18/2015	\$28,542.35
1080	9/18/2015	\$14,541.44
1086	9/24/2015	\$2,000.00
1085	9/24/2015	\$65.00

1084	9/24/2015	\$4,072.94
1083	9/24/2015	\$259,240.06
1103	9/25/2015	\$1,424.37
1102	9/25/2015	\$3,747.47
		\$858,126.98

•Five Year Forecast

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•Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 23, 2015

Nicole Sturgeon Data Support Teacher Assistant, Middletown High School

Patricia Halcisak District/School Office Support Personnel

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 16, 2015

Meghan Ford Grade 4 Lead Teacher, J.H. Gaudet Learning Academy

**MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL ADVISOR APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE
SEPTEMBER 14, 2015**

Gail Sullivan-McCune Ten 80 Club Co-Advisor

Allan Waite Ten 80 Club Co-Advisor

Lisa O'Brien Newspaper Advisor

Christopher Richards Tempo Director

Zachary Fenster U.S. FIRST Advisor

Philip Statser Band Director

Paige Kirwin-Clair Community Service Advisor

David Fontaine Mock Trial Advisor

Jennifer Vaillancourt Choral Director

Kim Pine Student Activities Coordinator

Jennifer Haskell Model Legislature Co-Director

Lee Ann Wells Model Legislature Co-Director

Maria Dowler Senior Class Co-Advisor

Eric Wright Senior Class Co-Advisor

Kim Pine Junior Class Co-Advisor

Denise Rochefort Junior Class Co-Advisor

Jennifer Haskell Sophomore Class Advisor

Megan Sparadeo Freshman Class Co-Advisor

Rachelle Myllymaki Freshman Class Co-Advisor

Stephen Fagan Mathematics League Advisor

Philip Statser All-State Band Director

Jennifer Vaillancourt All-State Choral Director

Kevin Zahm Fall/Spring Dramatics Director

Maria Dowler Yearbook Advisor

Grainne Phelps National Honor Society Advisor

Kim Pine Student Council Co-Advisor

Eric Wright Student Council Co-Advisor

**J.H. GAUDET ADVISOR APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 14,
2015**

Paula Guarino Yearbook Advisor

Ron Dumais Computer Club Advisor

Jill Armstrong Art Club Co-Advisor

Jonathan Paquette Art Club Co-Advisor

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CHANGE OF POSITION

**Kelly Young From .5 Physical Education to .6 Physical Education,
J.H. Gaudet School**

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 23, 2015

Leslie Jenkins Bus Monitor

ACTION ITEMS

FINANCE POLICIES UPDATES

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) William O'Connell. That the School Committee approve the updates to finance policies #3030 "Budget Implementation, Monitoring, and Transfers" and #3065 "Purchasing and Bid Procedures. Unanimous vote.

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) William O'Connell. That the School Committee approve home schooling requests 15-16-01, 15-16-02, 15-16-03, and 15-16-04. Unanimous vote.

NEASC REPORT

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

OLD BUSINESS

•STRATEGIC PLAN – The Strategic Plan will be updated after the holidays.

•**2015-2016 AND 2016-2017 SCHOOL CALENDARS** – There is a Presidential Preference Primary Election on April 26, 2016. Schools are usually closed on any Election Day or Primary for security reasons, but there is always a very low voter turnout for this election. Other school districts are not closing. Mrs. Kraeger will ask the Canvassing Clerk if they can condense the polling locations or see if there are any other options, possibly utilizing the gymnasium instead of the cafeteria. Mrs. Spengler asked about security and suggesting having the Town provide police detail if the polling locations cannot be moved.

2016-2017 Calendar – There has been talk about eliminating February break. The discussion needs to begin now. A survey was done last year. It is important for all districts on Aquidneck Island to follow the same schedule.

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NEW BUSINESS

•**ROBINSON, GREEN, BERETTA STAGE 1 PLAN** – Mr. Peter Hess, gave an update on the facility condition assessment, which is leading into the 5-year capital improvement plan and the submission of the

Stage 1 application to the R.I. Department of Education. He reviewed the process for evaluations and gave detail on the recommendation priorities. Items were prioritized according to 1) Life Safety Code, 2) Accessibility, 3) Safety, Security/Health Issues, 4) Building Systems and Energy Efficiency, 5) Maintenance/Asset Protection, and 6) Program Issues.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPama Simeone, 2) William O'Connell. To extend the meeting beyond 730 p.m. Unanimous vote.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

•Curriculum – Mrs. Savastano discussed NECAP science summary data. The assessments were given last May for grades 4, 8, and 11. These are State required assessments on R.I. Science Grade Span Expectations. Middletown has worked to transition from these standards to Next Generation Science Standards by re-writing the curriculum. Overall, across the system, 35% of students are proficient, compared to 31% in the State.

CRP are Federal grants submitted to RIDE totaling over \$1M. This begins in the spring and goes through a revision process for a while with RIDE. After that, Ms. Pellerin does a portion of the reporting-out to RIDE. Then final allocations are made. This is very restricted and is audited.

We have received an email from RIDE that we will be awarded \$79,000 for Phase II of the wireless implementation. This is for cafeterias, gymnasiums, and small instructional areas.

A posting for STEM Coordinator K-5 is on SchoolSpring. There are two positions. This is a stipend position. There will be no reduced teaching load. This position will support PLTW, Launch, pre-engineering, etc.

•Financial – Audit season is starting. The single audit of Federal Grants will begin on Monday. The Federal Audit will begin the week of October 26, 2015. The five-year forecast required by law, is built in conjunction with the Towns finance department for planning purposes only and does not constitute a budget in any way. It is for the Department of Revenue. A 2% increase each year for town appropriations is included.

•Facilities – Safety inspections have been completed and AHERA audits are complete. The facilities staff spread 272 yards of fibar on the playgrounds. There was a \$4,600 cost avoidance by having facilities staff complete the work. Badges have been implemented at all schools. The Administration building will be complete next week. HVAC at Oliphant Administration, a Capital Improvement project, will begin. Bid specs are being prepared. Funds were reallocated from interior painting to door replacement. Mr. Anderson attended a Town Fields Committee Meeting.

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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

Mrs. DiPalma Simeone – The Middletown Prevention Coalition will hold their annual “Family Day” on Sunday, October 18th from noon to 4:00 p.m. at Middletown High School.

Mr. Arnold and Mrs. Fenton attended a Bryant University seminar on PARCC. There is a lot of information on www.keyworkofschoolboards.com.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) William O'Connell. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 8:05 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk