

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Wednesday, December 9, 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

Executive Session was called to order at 4:15 p.m. All School Committee Members were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The committee returned from Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. Administrative staff member Linda Beaupre was in attendance. The meeting was reconvened and the Committee will go back into Executive Session at the conclusion of the regular meeting.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

No “Spotlight on Teaching and Learning” for December 9, 2015.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

•Student Awards – Student Awards were presented in the following categories:

•Newport Daily News Student of the Week

•Middletown High School Division III Championship Unified Volleyball Team

•Middletown High School Division III Championship Girls’ Soccer Team

•Middletown High School Division III Championship Girls’ Junior Varsity Soccer Team

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for December 9, 2015.

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INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- The National School Board Association Conference will take place April 9-11, 2016 in Boston, MA.**
- Donation letters**

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for December 9, 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:

oNovember 19, 2015 Regular School Committee Meeting and Executive Session

•Approval of the following vouchers:

October Voucher Summary

Voucher Date Amount

1136 10/1/2015 \$20,847.73

1135 10/1/2015 \$308,002.19

1099 10/5/2015 \$3,910.00

1098 10/5/2015 \$3,486.27

1097 10/5/2015 \$970.90

1096 10/5/2015 \$73,447.98

1104 10/9/2015 \$10,524.00

1118 10/16/2015 \$1,522.95

1117 10/16/2015 \$115,688.84

1116 10/16/2015 \$8,019.00

1115 10/16/2015 \$413,407.79

1138 10/21/2015 \$3,731.42

1137 10/21/2015 \$1,435.20

1119 10/22/2015 \$13,935.41

1120 10/23/2015 \$213,204.76

1123 10/29/2015 \$2,573.01

1122 10/29/2015 \$4,999.48

1121 10/29/2015 \$19,872.00
1144 10/30/2015 \$10.00
1134 10/30/2015 \$101,938.93
1133 10/30/2015 \$6,511.17
Total \$1,328,039.03

•Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 3, 2015

Jenna Ouellette Data Analyst (Part-Time)

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 10, 2015

Maureen Clark Reading/Literacy Consultant (Short-Term)

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 16, 2015

Rosemarie Murphy Bus Monitor

ACTION ITEMS

DIRECTOR OF STEM K-5 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Director of STEM K-5 Policy, 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

2016 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the 2016 School Committee Meeting dates. Unanimous vote.

It was suggested to move the meetings back to 7:00 p.m. because it is difficult for some members to attend if there is an Executive Session prior to the regular meeting. It was also suggested to keep the meetings at 5:30 p.m. and have Executive Session after the regular meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

•BUDGET PREPARATIONS – At the December 15th Administrators' Meeting, there will be discussion about budget, staffing and goals. There will be Budget Workshops on January 6th and 13th 5:30 p.m. to prepare for the meeting with the Town Council on January 19th.

•ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS – There is no update on this.

We need to provide bills to this organization.

•NECESSITY OF CONSTRUCTION UPDATE – Mrs. Kraeger discussed the Stage 1 Necessity of School Construction Report. This report is an overall assessment of Middletown’s buildings. The next step is to assemble the Building Committee. This committee must include the Superintendent, a member of the School Committee

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(Theresa Spengler), a local official responsible for building maintenance (Peter Anderson), a Town representative that knows the laws (Jack Kane), a Building Principal (Michelle Fonseca and Stephen Ponte), a member of the Administrative team who knows the education mission and function of facilities (Linda Savastano), a local business official (Raquel Pellerin), and a member of the community (David Rodrigues). The first meeting will be on December 16th at 2:00 p.m. Mrs. Kraeger would like to expand the group by 3 or 4 people, including a member of the Town Council. The committee’s task is to go through the Stage 1 submission and prioritize the projects then report back to the School Committee and submit to the Capital Improvement. The second meeting will be held on January 6th.

NEW BUSINESS

•**COMPUTER INVESTIGATION REPORTS** – Mr. Almonte’s report is not complete. It will be reported on at the January 7th Special School Committee Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

•**Curriculum** – Mrs. Savastano updated the Committee regarding the High School STEM Pathway. We are now in year two of the initiative. Courses to be offered in the future include Introduction to Computer Science, Civil Engineering & Architecture, and Digital Electronics. Students would receive college credits. Students would graduate from MHS with a special recognition in the chosen Pathway. Two teachers will be trained in principals of engineering. Mrs. Spengler asked what technology is required for these programs. There are certain computers that are required. The computers in the Project Lead the Way rooms at Middletown High School have more memory. In grades K-5 there are 120 iPads. Robotics kits were also purchased.

•**Financial** – Ms. Pellerin reported that the audit field work is complete. The Audit Committee will meet on December 21st. The funding formula State Aid figure were released. Middletown is looking at a loss of \$233,859 in State Aid and \$11,829 in Group Home Aid. There

is no increase in funding for High Cost Special Education. Total reductions for FY 2016/2017 are \$245,688. We are in year 6 of the Funding Formula. The Business Manager is working with the Town to have a Town-wide monthly reporting package. Expenditures for the month of November are \$3.2 million. The year to date expenditures are \$11.3 million, or about 30%. When you bring in the encumbrances, there is an additional \$24 million, or 63% of the budget, leaving a balance of \$2.7 million. Line item adjustments will be review at the end of January.

•Facilities – Mr. Anderson reported that a storm drain line at Middletown High School has failed and collapsed from excessive ground water. The 50-60' line is in the Southwest part of the property between the lower parking lot and the hill at the main entrance. The drain dates back to 1961 when the school was built.

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

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REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

There were no "Reports of Officers and Committees".

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To reconvene back into Executive Session at 6:29 p.m. Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma Simeone. To open regular meeting at 8:04 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Spengler announced that no vote was taken.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk