

**Middletown Public Schools**

**Middletown, Rhode Island**

**January 21, 2016**

**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 School Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. All**

**School Committee Members were present. Administrative staff members present were Gail Abromitis, Beth Hayes, Michelle Fonseca, Andy Longo, Donna Chelf, and Stephen Ponte. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To move “Proclamations and Awards” first on the agenda. Unanimous vote.**

### **PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS**

**•Project Purple – January 25-29, 2016 is “Purple Week” in Middletown. Purple Week brings awareness to the issues of drugs and alcohol in our community. The Mission is to create a safe, healthy, and drug-free Middletown. Middletown High School student Morgan Rice represented Islanders Committed, a collaborate group with the Middletown Prevention Coalition. Many activities are scheduled including decorating Town buildings and vehicles, educational programs, and “Purple Out” where fans where purple ribbons at school sporting events. A proclamation was presented.**

### **SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**“MHS Program of Studies”**

**There were some minor changes to the Middletown High School**

## **Program of Studies.**

**In MASCIPE (Math, Science, PE), an AP Statistics course was added to expand the advanced level courses. This is mainly for Seniors, but Juniors can take the class.**

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**In Humanities, there is the addition of an AP English Language Course for 11th graders. This will assist students when they begin history and literature courses. No increase in staff is necessary.**

**For Unified Arts, the following changes were made:**

- Music – The addition of Percussion and Jazz Ensemble courses. There was minor editing in the Piano course description.**
- World Languages – Adding Literature and Culture in the Spanish Speaking World. These are semester courses.**
- Visual Arts – There was minor editing in Advanced Ceramics, Painting, Drawing, and Digital Photography course descriptions.**
- Technology – Robotics Engineering and Java courses were removed from the selection sheets. Advanced Web Development was also removed.**
- Career Education – No Changes.**
- Applied Arts – Minor editing in Woodworking II course description.**
- PLTW (Project Lead the Way) – Computer Science Applications, Principles of Engineering, and Computer Integrated Manufacturing**

**full-year courses were added.**

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**No “Student Activities” for January 21, 2016.**

## **INFORMATION**

**Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:**

- Copy of the Town Audit**
- NAFIS Timeline of Responsibilities as the State Chair**
- Newport Area Career Tech Center agenda. They will be in attendance for the February 25th School Committee Meeting.**
- Donation letters**
- Recommendations from the Funding Formula Committee.**
- Gaudet Times Magazine**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**Letter from Ronald Heroux regarding the closure of Middletown elementary school libraries.**

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

**School Committee receive the communication. Unanimous vote.**

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**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**•Approval of Minutes of the following minutes:**

**oDecember 9, 2015 Regular School Committee Meeting and Executive Session**

**oJanuary 7, 2016 Special School Committee Meeting and Executive Session**

**•Approval of the following vouchers:**

**December Vouchers**

**Voucher # Date Amount**

**1174 12/2/2015 \$20,939.62**

**1173 12/2/2015 \$303,597.38**

**1172 12/2/2015 \$43,588.48**

**1175 12/4/2015 \$127,743.94**

**1177 12/9/2015 \$1,435.20**

1176 12/9/2015 \$3,726.95  
1181 12/10/2015 \$76,716.30  
1180 12/10/2015 \$3,556.47  
1179 12/10/2015 \$16,704.88  
1178 12/10/2015 \$4,571.87  
1191 12/14/2015 \$312,419.76  
1193 12/16/2015 \$1,025.00  
1192 12/16/2015 \$2,206.00  
1203 12/21/2015 \$244,796.22  
1206 12/22/2015 \$1,208.41  
1205 12/22/2015 \$534.59  
1204 12/22/2015 \$2,400.00  
1208 12/30/2015 \$80,179.60  
1207 12/30/2015 \$7,830.38  
Total \$1,255,181.05

**•Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL**

**COACHING APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE MARCH 7, 2016**

**Keith Holubesko 6/7/8th Grade Girls' Fast Pitch Softball**

**Chuck Paiva Varsity Baseball**

**COACH APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE MARCH 14, 2016**

**John-Paul Massaro Varsity Boys' Tennis**

**Lisa O'Brien Varsity Golf**

**Robb Weaver Assistant Varsity Boys' Lacrosse**

**William Waterman Varsity Girls' Lacrosse**

**RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE JANUARY 20, 2016**

**Zachary Fenster U.S. FIRST Advisor**

**ACTION ITEMS**

**FISCAL MANAGEMENT GOALS**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the 2016-2017 Fiscal Management Goals. Unanimous vote.**

**Fiscal Management Goals**

**It is recognized by Middletown Public Schools that the quality and quantity of the educational program is directly related to the financial ability of the District and that financial resources have finite limits. The following are, therefore, goals for the financial management of the District:**

- To use our community fiscal resources wisely, purposefully, and responsibly to maintain and enhance a high quality education for all students.**

- To identify and acquire high quality resources to support district goals and ensure that budget plans link expenditures to anticipated outcomes.**

- To coordinate fiscal resources from local, state and federal funding streams, as well as human capital resources, to meet priority instructional goals and to promote equity and excellence.**

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- To allocate resources that support student achievement and instructional goals, including money, time, personnel and materials, in a manner that supports district goals and maximizes student growth and achievement.**

•To ensure equity and adequacy of available resources to achieve a notable return on our educational investment.

## **HOME SCHOOLING**

**MOTION:** 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve home schooling 15-16-05. Unanimous vote.

## **R.I. STUDENT SURVEY**

**MOTION:** 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve distribution of the R.I. Student Survey provided by the R.I. Student Assistance Services. Unanimous vote.

This survey is different from the Middletown Prevention Coalition. This is the first year that the survey will be administered. It is required because a grant pays for the Student Assistance Counselor at Middletown High School. Mrs. Simeone is a member of the Middletown Prevention Coalition Committee and asked if they could use the data from this survey because they are similar.

## **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

**MOTION:** 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Capital Improvement Plan. Unanimous vote.

## **ELEVATOR RFP**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee award the elevator bid to KONE Elevator. Unanimous vote.**

**This RFP is for elevators and chairlifts district-wide.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**1. IMPACT FEES – There needs to be a discussion based on the enrollment data received from NESDEC. The School Committee has asked the Town Council for an extension to use the impact fees. We need to demonstrate that there be an increase in enrollment. NESDEC feels that it will not be a large increase in enrollment. Does the request need to be withdrawn from the Town Council?**

**2. 2016-2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR – Mrs. Kraeger asked that before another survey is completed regarding February break, does the School Committee want to keep it status**

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**quo. Nine school districts, including the Tiverton School Department,**

**eliminated the February break. Superintendents have adopted a calendar that eliminated the February break calendar across the state.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**3. SCHOOL LIBRARIANS – Resident Ronald Heroux spoke on the closure of elementary libraries. Mrs. Spengler agreed that the librarians are invaluable and said that the committee will absolutely take this into consideration during the budget process. The School Committee does not like to see any program discontinued.**

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**4. Curriculum – Mrs. Savastano included a brief overview of Personal Literacy and Math Plans. It describes what the plans are as well as how the plans support work with Professional Learning Communities, Response to Intervention, Federal Record Keeping and Reporting, PBGR, and Regulations. A Quality Assessment Designs booklet is also included in the School Committee Package. It was developed collaboratively with Middletown, Barrington and support from Cassandra Erkens.**

**5. Financial – This month's School Committee Package contains**

many town requested documents. Ms. Pellerin asked if the committee would consider receiving these documents electronically. All committee members agreed. Three audits have been performed; Annual, Single, and UCOA (which is not yet finalized). There were no findings in the Annual and Single audit.

6. Facilities – Indoor air quality testing and safety training has been held. This was required by the R.I. Department of Health. Three Building Committee Meetings has been held. There has been discussion about budgetary numbers with the Town. The Stage II Application is due on March 15th. RIDE will conduct a site visit on February 5th, followed by a Building Committee Meeting. There was a storm drain failure at Middletown High School which has been causing run-off at the hill. Work began this week. There was a large amount of roots clogging the drains. In the past, basins have been cleaned, but the lines are not cleaned unless there is an issue or blockage.

**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. Spengler and Mrs. Fenton attended a School Committee

**Association Chair Meeting. The Commissioner of Education was in attendance, discussing different ideas he has for education. There was brief discussion about public school choice. We**

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**need to wait and see what happens at the General Assembly. The next Budget Workshops are scheduled for tonight, January 27th, February 3rd, and February 25th.**

#### **ADJOURN FROM MEETING**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the Regular School Committee Meeting at 6:19 p.m. Unanimous vote.**

**The Budget Workshop was called to order at 6:32 p.m. Town Councilman Rick Lombardi was in attendance.**

**Mr. Anderson discussed the CIP. This year is a transitional year. The RGB assessment has been incorporated into the CIP. We need to make sure we are maximizing Middletown's ability to get reimbursed. The main projects in the 2016-2017 Capital Improvement Program are:**

- Floor/Ceiling Replacement at Elementary Schools – Asbestos tile abatement and flooring replacement in the main office area at Forest Avenue. This is RIDE Priority 1 with a cost of \$50,000.**
- Paving/Sidewalks at Elementary Schools – Parking lot resurfacing and drainage improvements at Forest Avenue. This is a RIDE Priority 1. \$40,000 has been allocated towards engineering services for the actual project. Support has been received from the Town Engineer and Building Inspector on this issue.**
- Automatic Temperature Control System at the Elementary and High Schools – \$35,000 has been allocated for boiler replacement at Forest Avenue. This is a RIDE Priority 3, but the Building Committee lists it as a Priority 1.**
- MHS and Gaudet Middle School roof replacement – This is a RIDE Priority 1 with \$210,000 allocated. This has already been submitted to RIDE and has approval.**
- Ventilation/HVAC system – This is a RIDE Priority 2 with \$75,000 allocated.**
- Intercom and Paging – This is a RIDE Priority 2 with \$58,319 allocated.**
- Athletic Fields – Aquidneck School softball field dugouts – This is a RIDE Priority 1 with \$30,000 allocated.**
- Main Entrance Accessibility – This is RIDE Priority 1 & 2 with \$100,000 allocated.**

**Ms. Pellerin discussed Employee Compensation-Salaries. There is a**

**total of 291.5 full time employees, with 62 receiving step increases which would total \$199,549. A 7% increase in medical would total \$181,535 and a 5% increase in dental would total \$8,957.**

**OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) are benefits provided to retirees. The Annual Required Contributions (ARC) is the employer's required contribution for the year. It is calculated in accordance with certain parameters and includes the normal retiree medical cost for the fiscal year. For the current fiscal year, the amount is \$477,416.**

**ERSRI has released defined benefit contribution rates. Total savings from the reduction in pension costs/benefits is \$38,523.**

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**Special Education will present at the next Budget Workshop in February 27th. Preliminary compensation numbers have been prepared. Four years of capital improvement will be presented.**

**The Town Council has requested that we present a high level budget.**

**Mr. Arnold would like to prepare a budget that includes 3- full-time librarians. Mrs. Fenton would like a budget prepared that includes math and reading coaches, as well as guidance counselors. Mrs. Simeone would like to see 3 different scenarios; 1) status quo, 2) 2% or less, with ideas of what would be cut, and 3) a budget with items added in that would benefit the schools. Mrs. Spengler said that the School Committee's responsibility shouldn't be to meet a number,**

**but to meet the needs of the students.**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the Budget Workshop at 8:02 p.m. Unanimous vote.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Rosemarie K. Kraeger**

**Clerk**