

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

February 25, 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

Executive Session was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma Simeone. To adjourn from Executive Session at 5:50 p.m. Unanimous vote.

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:50 p.m. All School Committee Members were present. Administrative staff members present Michelle Fonseca, Stephen Ponte, Gail Abromitis, Beth Hayes, Linda Beaupre, and Donna Chelf. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was observed in memory of former Middletown Teacher John Medeiros.

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

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

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

- Student Awards – Student Awards were presented in the following categories:**
- Newport Daily News Student of the Week**
- R.I. Scholastic Art Awards**

•Employee Recognition – The School Committee recognized Colleen Santos Hoyle, a 22 year Chartwells employee.

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SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Newport Area Career Tech”

Newport Superintendent Colleen Jermain and Kerry Clarke, College & Career Readiness Coordinator, spoke about the Newport Area Career Tech Center. There are currently 250 full and part-time students serving Little Compton, Tiverton, Newport, Portsmouth, and Middletown. Six career pathways are offered; Academy of Information Technology, Automotive Technology, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Advertising Design & New Media, and Residential Carpentry. Cosmetology students receive a State certification and the others receive a National certification.

P-Tech – Newport “Pathways to Early College High School” is a new initiative open to grade 8 students. It is a 4-6 year commitment and the student graduates from high school with an associate’s degree. 50 students are accepted the first year. The program partners with CCRI and there is no cost to students, but the district is responsible for the full-time tuition of \$14,000. Part-time tuition to Newport Area

Career Tech is \$7,000. Mrs. Jermain said that the tuition rate would not change without at least a year's notice.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown and Town Council President Robert Sylvia arrived at 6:25 p.m. Councilman Rick Lombardi arrived at 6:32 p.m.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No "Student Activities" for February 25, 2016.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- NAFIS letter regarding annual mid-March conference**
- Agenda from the most recent Career Tech Meeting**
- Donation letters**
- The Wave**

CORRESPONDENCE

No "Correspondence" for February 25, 2016.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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•Approval of Minutes of the following minutes:

- January 6, 2016 Building Committee Meeting**
- January 6, 2016 Budget Workshop**
- January 13, 2016 Building Committee Meeting**
- January 13, 2016 Budget Workshop and Executive Session**
- January 21, 2016 School Committee Meeting and Budget Workshop**
- January 27, 2016 Budget Workshop**
- January 28, 2016 Special School Committee**
- February 3, 2016 Budget Workshop**

•Approval of the following vouchers:

- Approval of Quarterly Report Ending December 31, 2015**
- Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel**

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

**MOST GRADE 7-12 AFTER SCHOOL INTERVENTION TEACHER – ELA
– EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 23, 2016**

John Cunic

David Fontaine

Luis Oliveira

Michelle Smith

Gail Sullivan McCune

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**MOST GRADE 7-12 AFTER SCHOOL INTERVENTION TEACHER –
MATH – EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 23, 2016**

Grainne Phelps

Gus Steppen

**MOST GRADES K-3 AFTER SCHOOL INTERVENTION TEACHER –
LITERACY – EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 23, 2016**

Jennifer Pesare

Brittney Schuchmann

Donna Golden

Taylor O'Connor

Leslie Gilman

**MOST GRADES 4-6 AFTER SCHOOL INTERVENTION TEACHER –
LITERACY – EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 23, 2016**

Elaine Albanese

Sandra Lovejoy

Renee Fagan

COACHING APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE MARCH 7, 2016

Robin Ramey Varsity Fast Pitch Softball

Christine Elliott Assistant Varsity Fast Pitch Softball

Kailey Nash Junior Varsity Fast Pitch Softball

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 12, 2016

Lorena Navarro Bus Monitor

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 26, 2016

Amanda Forte Teacher Assistant, Forest Avenue School

RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT

Helen Mikolaitis Title 1 Reading Specialist, J.H. Gaudet School

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OLD BUSINESS

- IMPACT FEES** – There is no new update with regard to impact fees. A discussion with the Town Council needs to take place.
- 2016-2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR** – Middletown will be keeping February vacation as it currently is.
- SCHOOL LIBRARIANS** – Middletown Resident Ron Heroux addressed the School Committee regarding the closure of school libraries and requested that full-time school librarians are included in the budget. Parent Dina Levitre, English Department Chair at CCRI, also requested that school librarians be restored and the schools get the needed resources. Mrs. Spengler said that over the next three years, they would like to replace the librarians and they will continue to discuss the situation with the Town Council. They are also looking at providing more support to students in literacy and math.

NEW BUSINESS

•**ANTI GUN VIOLENCE** – Mrs. Nan Heroux discussed bill H-7343, a resolution to keep guns out of schools. It is endorsed by the R.I. School Principals Association and the R.I. Association of School Committees.

•**BOND** – After RGB completed the assessments of the schools, it was decided to go out for a bond. The projects in the \$10 million bond include funds to reconfigure the entrances at Gaudet and Aquidneck Schools to meet ADA compliance, replace windows and roofs district-wide, abate asbestos flooring, and installation of a new boiler at Forest Avenue School. A walk-through with representatives of RIDE was held today. Reimbursement for Housing Aid is 35%, but since these are security and ADA issues, we are eligible for 39%. With a 39% reimbursement rate, it would be less than a 7 million bond for this November. Enabling legislation would be needed. The Stage II Application needs to be submitted by March 10th. This requires a vote at the March 9th Budget Workshop.

ACTION ITEMS

FMLA POLICY – 1ST READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve FMLA Policy, 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

This policy conforms to State and Federal law and was cross-walked with all contracts.

Mrs. Spengler commented the teachers union and the School Committee voted to extend the teachers' contract to 2016. Based on Town Charter, the Town Council is required to ratify the contract, which they subsequently denied. The School Committee wants to resolve the contracts as soon as possible and wants the community to be one.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma Simeone. That the School Committee extend the contracts of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Business Manager, and Director of Facilities to 2019, with no new raises. Unanimous vote.

MHS PROGRAM OF STUDIES

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Middletown High School Program of Studies. Unanimous vote.

There are few changes from last year's Program of Studies. The

curriculum for some classes has been rewritten.

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve home schooling 15-10.5-06. Unanimous vote.

CIP

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

This could change with approval of the bond.

CIP – REFURBISH OLIPHANT

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee reallocate \$5,000 from “Refurbish Oliphant” to “Classroom Board Replacement”. Unanimous vote.

COOPERATIVE AND JOINT PURCHASE ARRANGEMENTS

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the purchase of white boards utilizing the

Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS). Unanimous vote.

REDUCTION IN FORCE

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the Superintendent's Report be accepted and adopted and the necessary letters sent out. Unanimous vote.

June 1st is the deadline for sending out reduction in force letters.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

•CURRICULUM – WIDA testing for ELL students have been completed. PARCC testing will begin on April 11th. Final confirmation for Phase II of the wireless grant was recently received. This includes \$78,892 to wire areas that are non-direct classroom. The district applied for E-Rate funds.

•FINANCIAL – The Governor's budget was released earlier this month. \$233,859 will be lost in state funding for general education.

*** FACILITIES – Mr. Anderson reported that the storm drain replacement at Middletown High School is complete. The Facilities Department is on its winter schedule and is working on interior door painting at Gaudet School. Field Committee projects include working with the Town on projects including rebuilding the field house stairs at Aquidneck School and remodeling the bathrooms. Dugout replacement at the girls' softball field will take place with CIP funds. Two RFP's are being completed for the rooftop unit at the Administration Building and kitchen replacement at .**

The fee structure in Facilities Policy #9000 needs to be reviewed. Mr. Arnold questioned the fee that Little League has been paying. Mrs. Kraeger will get a subcommittee together to discuss recreation as a whole.

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 and Mrs. Simeone attended a State School Board Association workshop regarding careers, diplomas, and college readiness. The group is working with the Commissioner about what a future diploma should look like.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the Regular School Committee Meeting at 8:01 p.m. Unanimous vote.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

The Budget Workshop was called to order at 8:02 p.m. All School Committee Members were present.

oReview of FY 2016/17 Proposed Budget

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MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Linda Fenton. To adjourn from the Budget Workshop at 8:40 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk