

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

March 22, 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 arrived at 5:35 p.m.

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

members were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma Simeone. To go into Executive Session 42-46-5 (a) 2 at 5:00 p.m. Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To reconvene into Open Session at 6:40 p.m. Unanimous vote.

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

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. All School Committee Members were present. Administrative staff members present were Linda Beaupre, Gail Abromitis, and Beth Hayes. Town Councilman Rick Lombardi was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mrs. Spengler announced that a unanimous vote was taken to proceed with an appeal with the Tiverton School Committee regarding the Newport Community School.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

No “Spotlight on Teaching and Learning” for March 22, 2016.

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for March 22, 2016.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Letter regarding PARCC testing
- A thank you note from Claudia Vars regarding the dedication of the Middletown High School Band Room in her husband’s name.
- Middletown High School Winter Sports Awards Night.

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for March 22, 2016.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

No “Proclamations/Awards” for March 22, 2016.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

•Approval of Minutes of the following minutes:

oFebruary 25, 2016 Regular School Committee Meeting, Executive Session,

and Budget Workshop

oMarch 9, 2016 Budget Workshop and Executive Session

•Approval of the following vouchers:

February Vouchers

Voucher Date	Total
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1253 2/1/2016	\$3,709.37
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1252 2/1/2016	\$303,719.66
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1251 2/1/2016	\$20,939.62
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1250 2/1/2016	\$1,435.20
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1254 2/12/2016 \$229,285.17

1255 2/16/2016 \$98,341.50

1269 2/17/2016 \$248.66

1266 2/19/2016 \$253,071.31

1265 2/19/2016 \$825.35

1267 2/25/2016 \$3,413.26

1268 2/26/2016 \$80,720.35

Total \$995,709.45

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

**MOST GRADES K-3 AFTER SCHOOL INTERVENTION TEACHER –
LITERACY – EFFECTIVE MARCH 10, 2016**

Kayla MacIntyre Forest Avenue School

COACHING APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE MARCH 7, 2016

David Awamleh Junior Varsity Baseball

**VOLUNTEER COACHING APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE MARCH 14,
2016**

Walter Buitrago Boys' Lacrosse

Barry Clark Golf

OLD BUSINESS

•BOND UPDATE – The Town Council has approved moving forward with the \$10 million bond for school improvements. All schools will benefit. The bond projects are for renovated entrances at Aquidneck and Gaudet Schools, new windows, new roofs, repair and replacement of HVAC, and asbestos abatement at all schools. There will also be paving projects at all schools, but specifically Forest Avenue School, as well as a new boiler at Forest Avenue School. The bond will go forward in November with the General Election. It will not impact the tax rate. Middletown will receive a 39% reimbursement from Housing Aid.

•2016-2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR DISCUSSION – Mrs. Kraeger said that administration is working with union leadership regarding the school calendar. The district will consult with other Superintendents on the island to discuss their district's start and end dates. Middletown will be keeping February vacation for the 2016-17

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school year. Mrs. Fenton suggested setting up a workshop with

Newport to discuss the possible early start time at Rogers High School.

NEW BUSINESS

•KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION PACKET UPDATE – This is actually K-12 registration. It will give an idea of upcoming enrollment. Parents download the forms online and make an appointment.

ACTION ITEMS

TITLE I PARENT POLICY – 1ST READING

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

The policy update is a RIDE requirement. This is the same policy that was shared in the fall. The policy highlights Forest Avenue School, Gaudet School and Middletown High School because they are Title I schools.

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 15-16-07. Unanimous vote.

ANTI-GUN VIOLENCE RESOLUTION

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Anti-Gun Violence Resolution. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Spengler read a statement from Nan Heroux thanking the School Committee for their support.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To move the Teacher Contract action item up on the agenda. Unanimous vote.

TEACHER CONTRACT

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the NEA Middletown contract, expiring August 31, 2018. Motion passed 4 to 1.

Mrs. Spengler said that everyone has worked very hard to achieve a fair and equitable contract. These are difficult times and guidelines have changed. At no time did the School Committee feel that the

teachers didn't deserve a fair and equitable contract.

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Parameters were given by the Town Council. The Town Council now needs to ratify the contract. All agree that the teachers need to be recognized.

Mr. O'Connell said that the teachers are very valuable and the negotiating team worked very hard, but until the funding formula is under control he will vote no on any pay raises.

Yay – Theresa Spengler Nay – William O'Connell

Kellie DiPalma Simeone

Liana Fenton

Douglas Arnold

BUDGET ADOPTION

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the 2016-2017 school budget in the amount of \$49,370,960. Unanimous vote.

The budget amount includes the \$10 million bond that will go forward in November. If the bond does not pass, the budget amount will be

\$39,370,960. Mrs. Kraeger said that this budget has been the most difficult in her 18 years as Superintendent. During the last four years, the budget has been reduced to a point that cannot continue. Close to \$1 million in State Aid has been lost and will continue to be lost for the next four years. The proposed budget meets the school department's mission to "Ensure Success for Every Student". The school department is requesting a 4% increase in municipal appropriations.

Mrs. Savastano said that Budget Hearings have been scheduled for May 18th and 25th. The Town will then adopt the budget in June. Budget is started from scratch each year and the NESDEC projected enrollment is used to project staffing.

Ms. Pellerin commented that the projected staff in the budget is the same except for one additional librarian. 76.56% of budget revenues come from municipal appropriations, 17.42% come from State appropriations and 6.02% comes from Federal dollars.

There was a question about adding intervention support and if it could come from grant funds. Grants are no sustainable, but all outlets will be explored.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

•CURRICULUM – Technology coaches met last week. This was funded by a van Buren grant. PARCC assessment begins on April 11th and will run through May 27th. A representative from RIDE will

be in Middletown tomorrow to do a presentation at MHS at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria about the changes in the diploma system. The Commissioner of Education will be in attendance.

•**FINANCIAL** – Budget amendments approved at the last meeting did not meet the deadline to go before the Town Council. They will go forward at the first meeting in April.

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•**FACILITIES** – AHERA asbestos inspections began today. School bus evacuation drills begin tomorrow. Two RFP's will be advertised shortly. The Stage II application has been submitted. Projects are not related to improper maintenance, but are systems at the end of their life cycle. RIDE statewide facilities assessments are beginning. Mr. Anderson attended a Middletown Fields Committee Meeting on March 10th. They are looking to utilize the Drive-In property to develop two all-purpose fields for everyone to use. This is a good location because it is adjacent to Gaudet School. The entrance would be from Aquidneck Avenue. An application for a \$400,000 grant from DEM has been submitted.

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 distributed information on Libraries of the 21st Century.

Mrs. Spengler, Mrs. Fenton, Mrs. Simeone, and Mrs. Savastano attended the Annual RIASC Conference.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the Regular School Committee Meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk