

**Middletown Public Schools**

**Middletown, Rhode Island**

**May 19, 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 5:00 p.m. All**

**members were present.**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. 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 5:32 p.m. Unanimous vote.**

**Mrs. Spengler announced that no vote was taken in Executive Session.**

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

**All members were present. Administrative staff members present were Michelle Fonseca, Gail Abromtis, Stephen Ponte, and Beth Hayes. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Town Council member Rick Lombardi was in attendance.**

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

**PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS**

- Student Awards were presented in the following categories:**
- Unified Basketball State Champions**
- Newport Daily News Student of the Week**
- American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese Comic Strip Contest**
- National Spanish Exam Honors**
- National French Exam Honors**
- American French Genealogical Association of R.I.**
- Retiree Recognition – Mrs. Helen Mikolaitis, Title I Reading Specialist, was recognized for her 15 years of teaching.**

## **SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**Mrs. Savastano introduced Mr. Ron Dumais who showed a video about the 21st Century Digital Transformation in Middletown Public Schools. The video highlighted all the technology work that is occurring in the school system and showcased students at all grade levels using technology. Middletown students are far ahead of other students in the State in regards to technology. The van Buren grant greatly assisted with the transformation. Mr. Dumais co-teaches many of the units.**

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**No “Student Activities” for May 19, 2016.**

## **INFORMATION**

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

- Email from the U.S. Department of Education regarding transgender policies and protocol that will have to be developed**
- Update on the funding formula received April 8th.**
- List of Senior events**
- 3rd Grade Night at J.H. Gaudet School**
- Gaudet Times Magazine**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**No “Correspondence” for May 19, 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:
- April 12, 2016 School Committee Meeting
- Approval of Quarterly Report Ending March 31, 2016

- Approval of the following vouchers:

### **April Voucher Summary**

**Voucher # Date Total**

**1318 4/4/2016 \$1,435.20**

**1317 4/4/2016 \$3,699.78**

**1316 4/4/2016 \$20,970.25**

**1315 4/4/2016 \$304,134.72**

**1320 4/8/2016 \$85,317.53**

**1319 4/8/2016 \$52,510.33**

**1322 4/13/2016 \$1,840.68**

**1351 4/15/2016 \$330.73**

**1334 4/15/2016 \$39,000.00**

**1333 4/15/2016 \$18,469.61**

**1332 4/15/2016 \$350,213.38**

**1349 4/20/2016 \$11,263.87**

**1348 4/20/2016 \$42.00**

**1337 4/22/2016 \$4,864.09**

**1336 4/22/2016 \$59,012.45**

**1350 4/26/2016 \$65.00**

**1346 4/27/2016 \$29,792.71**

**1347 4/28/2016 \$68,949.53**

**\$1,051,911.86**

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

**SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL**

**APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE April 25, 2016**

**Robert Benevides Bus Monitor**

**Dominique Couture Bus Monitor**

**Susan Couture Bus Monitor**

**APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE MAY 13, 2016**

**Lorraine Buffman .8 Title I Literacy Intervention Teacher**

**RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2016**

**Melissa Morris Bus Monitor**

**RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE APRIL 12, 2016**

**Eric Rapoza Bus Monitor**

**COACHING APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE MARCH 7, 2016**

**Dylan Smith 6/7/8th Grade Baseball**

**COACHING APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE MARCH 14, 2016**

**Neal Harrell Varsity Boys' Lacrosse**

**OLD BUSINESS**

•**BOND** – Official word has been received that the Necessity of Construction Projects have been approved. After the budget is settled, a group will be assembled to disseminate information about each project.

**NEW BUSINESS**

•**GREENHOUSE** – Mr. David Pritchard, retired Middletown teacher, and Ms. Tracy Cunningham, from the James L. Maher Center spoke about the greenhouse at Middletown High School. Individuals in the day program at the Maher Center need to be out in the community more and the greenhouse project would be a great opportunity. A memorandum of understanding would need to be executed to form a collaboration between the school department and the Maher Center. This would then need to go before the School Committee for approval. Mrs. Fenton suggested contacting Salve Regina University and Hoogendorn Nurseries to discuss partnerships.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **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.**

**Rhode Island Law requires that school departments notify teachers by June 1st for the ensuing school year. Letters have been sent to nine teachers for non-renewal of contracts. It is the hope that as many as possible can be rescinded.**

### **HVAC BID**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee award the HVAC bid to Arden Engineer Constructors, LLC. Unanimous vote.**

### **2016-2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

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

**In past years, the calendar has been approved as early as March, but**

**it is usually approved in April. This year there was discussion about the start date and February and April vacations, which delayed the approval of the calendar. Parent/Teacher conferences are usually set by the school, but could be set by district this year. Per State Law, all schools must be closed on Primary Day and General Election Day.**

#### **MIDDLETOWN SCHOOL/MIDDLETOWN POLICE MOU**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the annual Memorandum of Understanding between the Middletown School Department and the Middletown Police Department. Unanimous vote.**

#### **TEACHER ASSISTANT CONTRACT**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Middletown Association of Auxiliary Personnel Contract, expiring August 31, 2018. Unanimous vote.**

**Mrs. Spengler thanked everyone for their cooperation working together. The contract now requires Town Council approval.**

#### **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the 2015-2016 budget adjustments.**

**Unanimous vote.**

**Ms. Pellerin reported that updated adjustments are being provided. The final 6 weeks are important because final teacher payroll will be on June 10th. Principals have been asked for expenditures they need for the final quarter. Special Education has been asked to give projections in advance to get a better idea of payment. Unencumbered unexpended expenses are less than \$200,000. Final figures will be available in August.**

**Highlights Include:**

- Decrease of \$29,500 in salaries and a decrease in \$39,200 for substitutes. We would like to collaborate with other East Bay communities regarding substitutes.**
- Decrease of \$23,500 in sick leave payoff for retirees.**
- Decrease of \$23,500 for Sick Payoff.**
- Decrease of \$22,400 for Health and Medical Premiums.**
- Decrease of \$18,000 in Medical Buybacks.**
- Decrease of \$13,000 in Contracted Nursing Services.**
- Decrease of \$51,000 in Tuition to Private Sources.**
- Decrease of \$51,000 in Natural Gas due to mild heating season.**
- Decrease of \$52,178 in Technology Software, due to the shift from software to hardware-Digital Transformation.**
- Increase of \$48,000 in Future Benefits, due to a rebate from the Trust.**
- Increase of \$57,000 for Web-Based Supplemental Instructional Programs, for math assessment and intervention materials.**

- **Increase of \$45,500 Non-Technology Related Maintenance and Repairs, for district repairs and maintenance.**
- **Increase of \$35,000 for Transportation Contractors, due to the increase of a special education bus and mid-day run.**

#### **CELL TOWER LEASE EXTENSION**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the extension of the cell tower lease. Unanimous vote.**

#### **PURCHASING AND BID PROCEDURES**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve purchases based on Policy #3065, “Purchasing and Bid Procedures”. Unanimous vote.**

**Policy #3065, “Purchasing and Bid Procedures”, approved on November 19, 2015, states that any purchases of \$5,000 or more from one vendor in a fiscal year needs to be approved by the School Committee. The policy also states that any purchase of supplies over \$5,000 and construction over \$10,000 needs School Committee approval.**

**The following entities need approval for facilities:**

- **R.I. Master Price Agreement (RIMPA) – MHS softball field fencing repairs – \$5,000**

•Massachusetts Higher Education Consortium (MHEC) – Gaudet classroom signs – \$6,000

•Massachusetts Higher Education Consortium (MHEC) – Forest Avenue exterior door repairs/replacement – \$13,000

The following sole source purchases need approval:

•Splash Math – Elementary Math Web Based Software - \$7,000

•Tenmarks – Math Web Based Software, all levels - \$11,000

•Compass Learning – Math and Reading Intervention Web Based for Students in Grades K-12 - \$40,000

•Pearson – DRA2 Kits – Kits for Reading Benchmarking K-10 - \$7,904.40

•Heinemann – ELA reading materials, phonics kits, intervention boost books, all students and teachers grades K-3 and intervention materials for grades K-8 - \$114,421.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

•CURRICULUM – Mrs. Savastano reported that the Technology Department is beginning the Phase 2 Wireless project, which will put wireless internet in every location, including auditoriums and gyms. Work at Middletown High School will be finished shortly. Work is being completed at night as to not impact school day. Project Lead The Way is continuing strong with K-12 implementation. All teachers have become teachers of STEM.

•**FINANCIAL** – Ms. Pellerin reported they will be bringing back additional line item adjustments for all funds, as well as increases and decrease to revenue. The June 16th meeting will be moved to June 9th so that orders can be submitted and approved before the end of the fiscal year.

•**FACILITIES** – The Facilities Team has gone through environmental and health and safety training, focusing on Bloodborne Pathogens, Hazard Communications, and Fall Protection/Ladder Safety. The third school bus evacuation will take place this week. HVAC work will take place at Oliphant Administration Building. The bid was awarded to Arden Engineer Constructors, LLC, earlier in the meeting. The Middletown facilities staff is assisting the Town with repairs to the press box stairs, restrooms and softball field dugouts at Aquidneck School. They were completed for Opening Day. They will also work with the Town on the re-roofing of the press box, fencing repairs and bleacher procurement.

**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. Simeone and Mrs. Fenton attended the Annual RIASC Meeting.

•Mrs. Spengler an early childhood conference. There was discussion about interventions and utilizing different classroom tools.

## **ADJOURN FROM MEETING**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the Regular School Committee Meeting at 7:50 p.m. Unanimous vote.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk**