

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

July 14, 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 12:05 p.m. All

members were present. Administrative staff members present were Linda Beaupre, Beth Hayes, and Donna Chelf. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mrs. Spengler announced that School Committee Meetings will resume at 5:30 p.m. for the August meeting.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

No “Spotlight on Teaching and Learning” for July 14, 2016.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

In light of recent events in the world, Mrs. Spengler read a proclamation regarding coming together as a community for peace. The proclamation will be sent to the Middletown Town Council, neighboring communities and non-profit organization the School Department is associated with.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for July 14, 2016.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

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- **Information from the Town Administration regarding the court hearing for Motion of Summary of judgement for NEA against the Town regarding the Town Council's ability to ratify the teacher contract. The judge ruled it moot because the Town has already ratified the contract. Before the next negotiations, the Union can lobby the legislators to repeal the charter change.**
- **Donation letters**
- **Ice cream social for new military families**

CORRESPONDENCE

No "Correspondence" for July 14, 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:

oJune 9, 2016 School Committee Meeting

oJune 21, 2016 School Committee Meeting

•Approval of the following vouchers:

June Voucher Summary

Voucher Date Amount

1400 6/1/2016 \$1,435.20

1399 6/1/2016 \$3,662.16

1398 6/1/2016 \$20,941.46

1397 6/1/2016 \$233,524.31

1405 6/2/2016 \$11.50

1387 6/8/2016 \$102,236.77

1386 6/8/2016 \$98,472.30

1401 6/9/2016 \$2,831.46

1396 6/9/2016 \$231,084.32

1403 6/10/2016 \$66,921.00

1402 6/10/2016 \$121,399.46

1404 6/13/2016 \$889.00

1406 6/16/2016 \$6,773.24

1408 6/17/2016 \$104,859.00

1407 6/17/2016 \$947,000.82

1421 6/22/2016 \$81.50

1417 6/24/2016 \$11,341.49

1416 6/24/2016 \$42,233.21

1415 6/24/2016 \$71,971.84

1418 6/28/2016 \$203,778.66

1422 6/30/2016 \$82,716.14

1420 6/30/2016 \$114,320.65

1419 6/30/2016 \$180,570.91

\$2,649,056.40

•Approval of Vendors/Purchases over \$5,000

•Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

RECALLS

Gael Berberick

Lorraine Bateman

Dena Silvia

MOST APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE JULY 5, 2016

Melissa Siebens

Kristen Gencarelli

Courtney Wright

Brittany O'Brien

Kayla Botelho

Felicia Paige

RESCIND APPOINTMENT

Tara Mellow MOST K-3 Summer Intervention Teacher

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE JUNE 20, 2016

Patricia Jenkins Head Content Teacher Grades 5-8 ELA

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2016

Richard Sweetman Chemistry, Middletown High School

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE JULY 11, 2016

Joyce Ardito Bus Monitor

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE JULY 13, 2016

Nicole Sturgeon Data Support Teacher Assistant, Middletown High School

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE AUGUST 29, 2016

Joshua Weisz-Smith IFL Spanish Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

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NON CERTIFIED PERSONNEL CONTRACT EXTENSIONS

Lynn Reynolds District Data Support Personnel/Help Desk

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL CONTRACT EXTENSIONS

Gail Abromitis

Andrew Longo

Beth Hayes

Linda Beaupre

Donna Chelf

Michelle Fonseca

Stephen Ponte

OLD BUSINESS

•BOND – The bond has been approved by the General Assembly. A group will be formed shortly to get information out to the public. Mrs. Simeone wants to make sure that information gets out to the public on what is included in the bond and that it is not being funded by

taxpayer dollars.

NEW BUSINESS

•**INTERNAL AUDIT** – This audit was an additional audit requested by the Town Administrator. The school department was proactive in revising policies beforehand. The Town Council will receive the audit at the meeting on July 18. The school department is currently working with the Town to approve vouchers electronically. This will allow us to work more closely together. The Town Finance Director can access the information from Town Hall. This is more real time and allows checks to be processed immediately.

•**SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS** – Middletown Police Officers Dave Guerreiro and Ben Costa met with Mrs. Kraeger regarding hosting a “Social Media Awareness” information night. They are very concerned with social media issues at Middletown High School and Gaudet Grades 7-8. They would like to have a workshop with parents and students. The Police Department would take leadership and use a model the State uses. There was discussion about the best way to get parents to attend. Each school hosting their own event usually brings out more participants than a community meeting. The event could be mentioned at each school’s Open House and held at a later date.

•**9TH GRADE ACADEMY** – Middletown High School Guidance Counselor Paula Rearick spearheaded the idea of a 9th Grade Academy. Staff visited a high school in Pawtucket that currently has

an academy. There will be classroom changes because 9th graders should be kept together. The students will have a team of teachers similar to middle school. Lunch times and student lockers will be together. There will be common planning time where a student can meet with all teachers at once, as well as

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parents meeting with all teachers instead of one at a time. Students will be given the tools and study skills they need to succeed. A letter is being prepared to send to parents. Mrs. Fenton suggested retired educators serving as mentors to some students who need extra support.

•ENROLLMENT UPDATE – Enrollment has been slow, but should pick up soon with military transfers and War College.

•STAFFING – Schedules are being reviewed, especially at the middle and high schools. Mr. Ron Heroux asked about certified librarians being hired. Mrs. Kraeger said that a new job description has to be developed and reviewed with the Union. The budget only afforded one more librarian to be hired.

ACTION ITEMS

R.I. STUDENT ASSISTANCE CONTRACT

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the one year contract with Rhode Island Student Assistance Services. Unanimous vote.

The State is required to go out to bid for student assistance services. Rhode Island Student Assistance Services won the bid. Last year Middletown paid \$4,000 with the understanding that this year the cost would be higher. The school department cost is \$14,400 and the States share is \$25,200.

TECHNOLOGY CURRICULUM

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Technology Curriculum. Unanimous vote.

Technology Coaches worked to add on to curriculums K-12 and the addendums are being formally added on. The Technology Education curriculum is part of the high school's Unified Arts courses which include Advanced Digital Literacy, Manufacturing I and II, Robotics, Video Gaming, and Web Design. ISTE Standards are used. Project Lead the Way is expanded in Grade 3. J.H. Gaudet teacher Joshua Beagan will be taking a PLTW course over the summer funded by a grant from the CS4RI Initiative. This will provide more of a menu of opportunities.

Last school year, Grade 6 students were all exposed to Project Lead The Way.

MOA MHS GREENHOUSE

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Middletown Public Schools and the James L. Maher Center to utilize the Middletown High School Greenhouse and outside gardens. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Fenton suggested incorporating solar panels as an experiment. Mrs. Kraeger will look into it.

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APPROVAL OF FY17 EAST BAY SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT/RENEWAL AGREEMENT

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the FY17 Food Service Management Company Agreement. Unanimous vote.

AV EQUIPMENT

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee request approval from the Town Council to surplus obsolete AV equipment. Unanimous vote.

A document will be prepared to send to the Town Finance Director. The equipment will most likely will be recycled since there is no value in it.

SPORTS UNIFORMS

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone , 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee request approval from the Town Council to donate/surplus MHS athlete uniforms bought by the Boosters. Unanimous vote.

This has been done in the past as a fundraiser for the Boosters.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

•CURRICULUM – This was discussed in Action Items.

•FINANCIAL – Ms. Pellerin reported that the School Department has 60 days to account for all of expenditures. Anticipated fund balance will be available by the August meeting.

•FACILITIES – Mr. Anderson reported that inspections are scheduled for July and August. Summer projects include:

- oFire Door Replacement at Forest Avenue School
- oMHS Roof Replacement in Area 8 in front of cafeteria
- oStem Lab project – Middletown is the first district in the state to pursue a STEM Lab project
- oRooftop Unit Replacement project at Oliphant Administration should begin the last week of July
- oSoftball Field Safety Repairs at Aquidneck School. Dugouts and fencing work will start on August 1st.
- oIntercom Paging System at MHS. This is the last building to get the upgrade.

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

- Mrs. Fenton distributed a handout titled, "When Grading Harms Student Learning".

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the Regular School Committee Meeting at 1:31 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk