

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

August 18, 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 5:32 p.m. All

members were present. Administrative staff members present were Beth Hayes, Donna Chelf, Gail Abromitis, Andrew Longo, and Stephen Ponte. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma Simeone. To move items Social Media Awareness and Middletown Prevention Coalition up on the agenda. Unanimous vote.

SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS – J.H. Gaudet School Resource Officer Benjamin Costa and Elementary Resource Officer David Guerreiro worked with the Attorney General’s R.I. Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force to bring a social media awareness program to students, parents, and staff. There will be presentations for the students about the dangers of predators on the Internet, cyberbullying, and sexting, as well as information for parents regarding social networking. The officers will attend an upcoming Administrator Meeting. Mrs. Fenton asked if they could open up to the community.

MIDDLETOWN PREVENTION COALITION – Mr. Tom Lyons, newly elected Chair of the Middletown Prevention Coalition spoke about the recent change from State to Federal funding for the Rhode Island Prevention Coalitions. An RFP has been issued that will reorganize the current municipal coalitions into regional coalitions. There will be 7 regions within the state, each being required to submit a proposal to become the region’s prevention provider. Tiverton will be the

fiscal agent. Middletown will see reduced funding immediately based on population. It was asked what the impact would be. Currently, Middletown receives \$117K, which would be reduced to almost half immediately. A new regional coordinator would be hired. Mrs. Simeone recommended that we support the application.

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SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“9th Grade Academy”

Ms. Gail Abromitis and Mr. Andy Longo discussed the 9th Grade Academy. This provides a more structured environment to support transition to Middletown High School. There are dedicated staff for the Academy. The Academy will also access the resources of the School Resource Officer, Student Assistance Counselor, and Behavior Specialist. Benefits are that it will help the students transition, teacher teaming, monitoring and interventions for students.

Goals are to decrease retention rate, decrease failure rate, increase graduation rate, and to create an environment where students are supported. Orientation was held today with 120 students. 16 student leaders and 10 teachers volunteered to help orient the students. A

parent meeting is scheduled for August 24th.

The next steps are to continue team building, to create common expectations for all students, and to create protocols and classroom management plans where the expectations are the same for all classes. Teachers will participate in technology training to create a common platform that all teachers will use.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

No “Proclamations/Awards” for August 18, 2016.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for August 18, 2016.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Annual Volunteer Appreciation dinner will be held on August 26th**
- Middletown Prevention Coalition will host a Movie Night on August 29th for Gaudet and High School students to welcome military and War College students**
- Letter from MIC3 thanking Mrs. Kraeger for attending a conference**

- Annual flu clinic will be held on October 5th from 4:00 -7:00 p.m.
- Donation letters
- Letter from RIL and Special Olympics that beginning in 2017-18, they will only support unified teams 50%
- Letter from RI Department of Education about GED program.

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CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for August 18, 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:
- June 9, 2016 Executive Session
- July 14, 2016 School Committee Meeting
- Approval of the following vouchers:

Summary July Vouchers

Voucher #	Date	Total
1018	7/8/2016	\$3,262.69
1017	7/29/2016	\$24,951.81
1016	7/21/2016	\$300.00
1010	7/21/2016	\$0.00
1009	7/19/2016	\$336,263.54
1008	7/5/2016	\$3,634.99
1007	7/5/2016	\$21,637.78
1006	7/5/2016	\$1,435.20
1005	7/5/2016	\$303,660.62
Total		\$695,146.63

- Quarterly Report Ending June 30, 2016
- Approval of Vendors/Purchases over \$5,000 – this is where computers for 9th grade academy are listed.
- Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

RECALLS

Brittney Schuchmann Kindergarten, Aquidneck School

Jessica Tucker Grade 5, J.H. Gaudet School

Kelly Grenier .6 Physical Education, Middletown High School

INVOLUNTARY TRANSFERS

**Jennifer Pesare From Grade 3, Forest Avenue School, to
Grade 1, Forest Avenue School**

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**Erin Doorley-Forman From Grade 1, Aquidneck School, to
Grade 2, Forest Avenue School**

**Philip Statser From Music, Middletown High School, to
Music, Middletown High School and Elementary**

**Lorraine Buffman From .8 Title I Literacy, J.H. Gaudet School, to
Gaudet School Learning Academy, Grades 5-8**

OFF RECALL

**Joseph Laramée .4 Physical Education/Health, Middletown High
School**

TRANSFER

**Lori Call From Kindergarten, Aquidneck School, to
Grade 2, Aquidneck School**

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE AUGUST 31, 2016

P. Hakan Durudogan, DDS School Dentist

Martha Ullman School Physician

Sandra Shaw .4 French, Middletown High School

Rebecca Kilbey Chemistry, Middletown High School

**Michael Goodreau World Language Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School
(pending certification)**

Stephanie Racine Pre-Engineering/Technology, J.H. Gaudet School

Caroline Corr .5 Elementary, Grade 6, J.H. Gaudet School

**Timothy Watters Head Content 9-12 Science, Middletown High
School**

TRANSFER EFFECTIVE AUGUST 31, 2016

**Zenaida Desjardins From 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Forest Avenue
School, to**

Data Support Teacher Assistant, Middletown High School

FALL COACHING APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE AUGUST 11, 2016

Arthur Bell Head Varsity Football

John Horsman Assistant Varsity Football

Matt Kestler Junior Varsity Football

Jared Nimblett Assistant Junior Varsity Football

Zachary Yates Freshman Football

Luis Oliveira Boys' Varsity Soccer

Tom Conrad Boys' Junior Varsity Soccer

Marc Haskell Girls' Varsity Soccer

Marianne Packer Girls' Varsity Tennis

Claire Baggesen Girls' Varsity Volleyball

Paula Guarino 6/7/8th Grade Coed Coed Cross Country

Christos Agoros 6/7/8th Grade Girls' Soccer

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John-Paul Massaro 6/7/8th Grade Boys' Soccer

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2016

JoAnn Houle 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Forest Avenue School

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE AUGUST 10, 2016

Paige Kirwin-Clair Dean, Middletown High School

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE AUGUST 12, 2016

Ceili McCarthy 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE AUGUST 16, 2016

Amanda LaDuke Special Education, Middletown High School

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE AUGUST 18, 2016

Erica Bulk Dean of Students, J.H. Gaudet School

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

Cassandra Donoian K-8 English Language Reading Intervention, J.H. Gaudet School

RESCIND APPOINTMENT

Kelley Brennan MOST Summer Intervention Teacher

NON CERTIFIED PERSONNEL CONTRACT EXTENSIONS

Teresa Gomes District/School Data Support Personnel B

Michael Yates Student Attendance Facilitator

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT – PATERNITY – FROM JULY 21 – JULY 31, 2016

Bryan Alexander Custodian 2

OLD BUSINESS

- **BOND – The work will be in sync with the Town’s efforts. A joint informational flyer will be forthcoming.**

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NEW BUSINESS

- **SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS – This item was moved up on agenda.**
- **MIDDLETOWN PREVENTION COALITION – This item was moved up on agenda.**
- **ENROLLMENT/OPENING OF SCHOOL/STAFFING – Mrs. Kraeger reported that we will open a 2nd grade at Aquidneck School, as well as a Grade 1 and Grade 2 at Forest Avenue School. A grade 3 classroom will be closed at Forest Avenue. There is currently a large freshman class. Forty-three more students are scheduled to register as of this date.**

HOME HEALTH CARE CONTRACT

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the one-year contract with Bayada Home Health Care. Unanimous vote.

This company is used to help find staff when a school nurse teacher is absent. Some districts are looking at an agency “Source For Teachers”. The company completes the hiring process. Middletown is looking at this through the East Bay Collaborative, with possibly implementation in January.

LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST POLICY – 1ST READING

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

Middletown had a very old policy that needed to be updated. Input was received from the current librarian. There were many applicants, but only 2 were certified.

POLICY 9230 – NAMING SCHOOL FACILITIES – 1ST READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve Policy #9230 “Naming School Facilities” – 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Kraeger was contacted about naming the Middletown High School gym after a community member.

POLICY 7010 – CHEMICAL HEALTH POLICY UPDATE

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee table the revisions to Policy #7010 “Chemical Health”. Unanimous vote.

This motion will be put on hold. A committee was charged with updating the policy. John Underwood will be visiting the district on August 29th for two sessions. He might have new information about the policy. Instead of rushing into revisions, it was decided to wait. Fall sports start soon and activities start the first week of school. Mrs. Kraeger checked with the legal department regarding starting the school year with the current policy. Athletes need to be informed that they would have to resign if the policy is changed.

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This is a working document and if it will potentially change mid-year,

parents need to be aware that this can happen. There will be a statement where the signature line is stating that student will be required to resign, but not necessarily go to another meeting.

DEAN OF STUDENTS POLICY UPDATE

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the revisions to the “Dean of Students” policy. Unanimous vote.

No major changes.

US COMMUNITIES

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve utilizing US Communities to sign a purchasing arrangement for potential future procurement needs of equipment, furniture, technology services, etc. unanimous vote.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the budget amendments to the 2016-2017 school budget. Unanimous vote.

There are proposed budget amendments to 3 major parts of budget;

General Operating, Capital Improvement, and Restricted.

General Fund – Group Home Aid has the biggest change with the funding formula. There is an increase of \$44,000 with a slight reduction in funding formula.

Restricted – Categorical funds went away in 2010. Districts still had dollars they could use for one-time expenditures. There is a proposal to use the remainder for early childhood and to fund an intervention specialist.

Capital Improvement – Middletown is ending with \$351,000 Impact Aid dollars which is assigned to FY18 capital projects that are already approved for \$350,000. The request is to move the funds from FY18 to FY17 to complete projects and fund the 9th Grade Academy needs.

This would allow each classroom to have a laptop cart assigned to them. Two teachers would share a laptop cart.

Teachers at the Middle School and High School have put curriculum on line and this would support that. It would be ideal to extend the iPad access to 3rd grade students and also allow each teacher K-5 to receive an iPad.

When the School Committee approves this, they will be approving the vendor and purchase dollar amounts. This will exhaust the fund balance for Impact Aid. The School Department is working closely with Town Hall and they are aware of the fund balance. This will be presented to the Finance Director and Town Administrator, with a formal memo going to the Town Council for approval at their September 6th meeting. Purchases will then be made.

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HOME SCHOOLING - 2

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 16-17-01 and 16-17-02. Unanimous vote.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- **CURRICULUM – projects for this coming year include:**
 - o **Assessment literacy at the building level,**
 - o **Continuing to grow professional learning community work with leadership team with Barrington and Portsmouth,**
 - o **Looking more at “Deeper Learning”,**
 - o **Continuing PLTW and STEM work,**
 - o **Intervention tools will turn more digital,**
 - o **Enhancing ELA and math with resources and curriculum work around Common Core, and**

o Guidance and library curriculum work developed.

Consolidated Resource Grant summary – RIDE has approved this. Middletown has received programmatic approval for all but Title III. Title III helps support math intervention and Title I reading. Grants were used to support interventions for students.

NWEA 15-16 data compared the norm data of 2.5 million students. At this time of year, we take a look at the growth. It is interesting to look at what the impact is for most students who attended MOST summer program. Technology helps, but it is not a replacement for a teacher. Mrs. Fenton would like to have a workshop with the Town Council before budget season so we can get all the concerns out there along with the data. Mrs. Simeone asked that after the fall testing we see results of students who went to summer intervention vs. students who were invited, but did not attend. This year was the highest attendance for the summer program.

On September 7th there will be a Professional Development Day with Rick Wormeli from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Important Dates:

- August 29th - New Teacher Orientation at Oliphant Administration**
- August 30th - First day for teachers at Gaudet Cafeteria**
- August 31st – Students arrive**

• **FINANCIAL** – The quarterly report as of June 30, 2016 has been submitted to the State. It does give preliminary fund balances. The projected fund balance is a little over \$800,000, which includes \$351,000 for Impact Aid, \$146,000 for Medicaid, and \$91,000 for the general operational budget. The remaining is in restricted funds.

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• **FACILITIES** – There are 7 areas to be inspected:

- o **AHERA Six-Month Surveillance Audit**
- o **Kitchen Hood Cleaning/Inspection**
- o **Playground Inspections**
- o **Generator Preventive Maintenance**
- o **AED**
- o **Building Code**
- o **Fire Code**

Major projects include the Forest Avenue School fire door replacement (95% complete), MHS roof area 8 (95% complete – the

roofing portion is done. Now tying in copper flashing.), and STEM Lab project. Stem lab project. The administration rooftop HVAC unit replacement has been pushed out to September. The Aquidneck School softball field project begins next week. The Town is helping with the demo. The MHS intercom paging system is progressing.

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 attended the Attorney General's Access to Public Records Meeting and distributed a handout to the committee.

Mrs. Spengler wish good luck to all on the opening of their building. She thanked the administrative team and the union and commended the district over and acknowledged the successes.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the Regular School Committee Meeting at 7:48 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk