

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

September 15, 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 Donna Chelf, Beth Hayes, Gail Abromitis, Steve Ponte, and Linda Beaupre. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Ramon Arroyo. Mrs. Spengler thanked all and recognized how everyone came together to support the family. Mrs. Kraeger thanked all staff as well as Principals Stephen Ponte and Gail Abromitis.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

There was no “Spotlight on Teaching and Learning” for September 15, 2016.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

Safety Town Recognition – Mrs. Liz Larcom spearheaded the Safety Town Program for over 14 years and volunteered many hours leading the student volunteers who facilitate the lessons. The program is open for all students enrolled in Kindergarten and provides instruction on fire, stranger danger, traffic, pet, bus and water safety.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for September 15, 2016.

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INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Middletown Prevention Coalition informational brochure. This has been distributed at many events.**
- Literature provided to families and teachers on bereavement.**
- Donation letters.**
- Thank you note from a MHS graduate who received a scholarship to attend Florida State University.**

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for September 15, 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:

o August 18, 2016 School Committee Meeting

•Approval of the following vouchers:

Voucher Summary

Aug-16

Voucher # Amount

1037 \$72,267.15

1036 \$216,869.18

1030 \$300.85

1029 \$222.50

1028 \$326,947.81

1022 \$1,435.20

1021 \$3,614.66

1020 \$21,667.91

1019 \$299,647.75

Total \$942,973.01

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

•Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel

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SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE AUGUST 31, 2016

Robin Westmoreland 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Forest Avenue School

Erica Van Epps 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Forest Avenue School

Lindsey Bucci 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School

Jennifer Grant Library Media Specialist

Steven Apostolov French, Middletown High School (One Year Only)

Megan Almeida ELL Teacher/Literacy Coach, J.H. Gaudet School

Edward Burgess Bus Monitor

Judy Laramie Bus Monitor

TRANSFER EFFECTIVE AUGUST 31, 2016

Kathleen Lima From 3-Hour Teacher Assistant to 4-Hour Teacher Assistant,

Forest Avenue School

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

Maureen Clark Reading/Literacy Consultant (Short Term)

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 16, 2016

Kayla MacIntyre Long-Term Substitute, .5 Kindergarten, Forest Avenue School

Chelbi Gangale-Halpin Junior Varsity Volleyball Coach

Kristin Scala Head Content Teacher 5-8 ELA, J.H. Gaudet School

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

Ryan Long .4 PE/Health, J.H. Gaudet School

APPOINTMENTS PENDING RELEASE FROM OTHER DISTRICT

Kerrie Calabro-Pepin Dean, J.H. Gaudet School

Dennis Soares Dean, Middletown High School

Cynthia Burns Title I Literacy Intervention Teacher, J.H. Gaude School

J.H. GAUDET SCHOOL ADVISOR APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 16, 2016

Paula Guarino Yearbook Advisor

Heidi Gauch Student Council Advisor

Joshua Beagan Robotics Club Advisor

Jill Armstrong Art Club Co-Advisor

Jonathan Paquette Art Club Co-Advisor

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MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL ADVISOR APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 16, 2016

Anita DeLima Community Service

David Fontaine Mock Trial Advisor

David Fontaine Virtual High School Advisor

Liana Fenton US First Advisor

Jennifer Vaillancourt Choral Director

Kimberly Pine Senior Class Co-Advisor

Denise Rochefort Senior Class Co-Advisor

Rachelle Myllymaki Sophomore Class Co-Advisor

Megan Sparadeo Sophomore Class Co-Advisor

Stephen Fagan Mathematics League Advisor

Kevin Zahm Fall/Spring Dramatics Director

Jennifer Vaillancourt All-State Choral Director

Grainne Phelps National Honor Society Advisor

Christopher Richards Tempo Director

Kimberly Pine Student Activities Coordinator

Kimberly Pine Student Council Co-Advisor

Eric Wright Student Council Co-Advisor

OLD BUSINESS

•**BOND** – Mrs. Kraeger will be meeting with the Town Administrator tomorrow to discuss coordinating communication for the bond referendum. More information will be available after the meeting. Information can be distributed via the school listserv.

•**SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS** – Social Media & Internet Safety Night will be held at Gaudet School on September 28th and September 29th at 5:30p.m., prior to Open House at 6:00 p.m. Elementary parents will be invited. Mrs. Spengler asked about distributing a short survey to parents regarding the event.

•**ENROLLMENT/OPENING OF SCHOOL/STAFFING** – It was smooth opening of school. Busses are running close to schedule. Open House dates are as follows:

oAquidneck School – September 21st from 5-7 p.m.

oForest Avenue School – September 22nd from 6-8 p.m.

oMiddletown High School – September 19th from 6-8 p.m.

oJ.H. Gaudet School Grades 4 & 5 – September 28th from 6-7 p.m.

oJ.H. Gaudet School Grades 6-8 – September 29th from 6-7 p.m.

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Enrollment is somewhat down from last year, but there are still more students to register. The November War College class has arrived early.

Mr. Heroux inquired about the librarian position. Mrs. Kraeger referred to an email response she sent Mr. Heroux. Mrs. Kraeger said there is more need for school counselors and school psychologists.

NEW BUSINESS

•SUBSTITUTE PROGRAM – There was discussion about the difficulty finding substitute teachers. All districts in the State have this issue. East Bay will go out to bid for a program that will manage substitute teacher.

•BANNER SPONSORS – There are currently 8 sponsors. Mrs. Kraeger thanked the Boosters Association for their work on this project. The cost of the banners is \$400 per year or \$600 for 2 years. The digital scoreboard is \$500 per year. The Middletown Facilities Department puts up and takes down the banners.

ACTION ITEMS

LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST POLICY – 2nd READING

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

POLICY 9230 – NAMING SCHOOL FACILITIES – 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve Policy #9230 “Naming School Facilities” – 2nd Reading. Motion Passed 4 to 1.

YAY NAY

Theresa Spengler William O’Connell

Kellie DiPalma Simeone

Liana Fenton

Douglas Arnold

Mr. O’Connell would prefer to see facilities named after deceased persons. The other committee members agree that honoring a person should be honored before they are deceased so they are able to enjoy the honor.

MOTION: 1) William O’Connell, 2) No Second. That the word “deceased” be added before the word “individuals”. Motion Failed.

INTERVENTION SPECIALIST POLICY – 1ST READING

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

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LINE ITEM ADJUSTMENTS

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the FY16 line item adjustments. Unanimous vote.

This motion was tabled at a previous meeting because the Regional Special Education line item adjustments voted on by the Board are now included. These do not exceed bottom line budgets. The R.I. Department of Education advised us to make changes to the retiree line, breaking out the dollars between current and future benefits.

There were small adjustments to Teacher/Pension Benefits. Private Donations is always an unknown amount and is budgeted based on historical figures. In total there were 44 line item adjustments.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

•CURRICULUM – At last week's professional development day,

internationally acclaimed consultant Rick Wormeli was the keynote speaker. Exeter West Greenwich staff also attended. After the day, a survey was sent out and of the 70 responses, the majority agree that the day was beneficial. Detailed feedback was given.

PARCC data was released – In ELA, there was some decrease in scores at the elementary and high school levels. There were some strengths at the middle school level. There was an increase in math at all buildings and levels. The Learning Academy saw a significant increase. The State is celebrating participation rates. This is just one point of data that does not define us. A formal presentation will follow. It is strongly encouraged that students use a computer to complete the assessment. This is the last year State will allow paper testing.

***FINANCIAL – FY 16-17 budget amendments at will be discussed at the October meeting. These will align with the quarterly reports. Middletown is in a pilot program and will begin to report quarterly reports and budget to actual in FY17 in a new required format. All districts will be required to report in FY18. An audit kickoff meeting was held on September 8th and went well. Fieldwork will begin for the town and school the week of October 17th.**

•FACILITIES – Inspections were conducted over the summer. No major deficiencies were found. Bus monitor safety and training will take place on August 26th. The Fire door project at Forest Avenue is complete. The High School roof project is 95% complete. STEM labs have been delayed. The Administration rooftop unit replacement begins next week. The High School intercom paging system

debugging will take place this week. The collaborative purchasing agreement with US Commodities is now complete and was accomplished according to policy.

Mrs. Kraeger reported that Senator Reed will visit Middletown High School next Friday at 9:30 a.m. Dignitaries and elected officials will be invited. The National Math and Science Initiative will be highlighted. The Senator will be visiting the STEM labs, which will be completed using Impact Aid dollars.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma Simeone. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.

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REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mrs. Spengler, Mrs. Fenton and Ms. Pellerin met with the new firm that will conduct the school department audit. The Town went out to bid after having the same firm for many years.

Mrs. Spengler again expressed sympathy to the Arroyo family and thanked the community for all the support.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the Regular School Committee Meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk