

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

October 20, 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 Gail Abromitis, Stephen Ponte, Beth Hayes, Michelle Fonseca, and Linda Beaupre. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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:
- Newport Daily News Student of the Week
- Newport Daily News Athlete of the Week

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Project Lead The Way”

Mrs. Savastano discussed “Project Lead the Way” and introduced Gaudet School STEM Teacher Josh Beagan and Gaudet School Science Teacher Jackie Zahm. Both teachers were trained as Launch lead teachers. Two additional elementary teachers have been trained as lead teachers. Three years ago, PLTW STEM pathway was implemented in Middletown. Middletown is the only district in Rhode Island that has a K-12 vertically aligned STEM curriculum. There is an

Engineering Pathway, Computer Science Pathway, and a Manufacturing/Electronics Pathway.

At Gaudet School, grades 6-8 have Gateway, which involves Engineering/Computer Science, Energy/Environment, and Design/Modeling. Grade 7 students are offered Green Architecture, and Grade 8 students are offered Automation and Robotics.

(Minutes of October 20, 2016 School Committee Meeting, Page Two)

Grades K-5 PLTW is Launch. A short video was shown regarding the background of the elementary PLTW program. The elementary design process is to ask, explore, model, evaluate and explain. When Launch was introduced in the district, there was a building level training, one day for each level.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Member of the Middletown High School Student Government discussed Spirit Week and the different activities to be held each day including:

- Powder Puff Football Game**
- Pajama Day**
- Dress Up Day**

- Color Day
- *Hallway Day
- Blue and White Day
- Pep Rally
- Homecoming Dance

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjust the agenda and move “Old Business”, “Informational Discussion on School Bond Question #9”. Unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

•INFORMATIONAL DISCUSSION SCHOOL BOND QUESTION #9 – Town Administrator, Shawn Brown, briefed the School Committee and members of the audience on the bond questions. There are two referendums on the ballot; Question #8, a \$5 million bond for road improvement, and Question #9, a \$10 million bond for school improvements. It needs to be stressed that there will be no increase in taxes. There will be up to 40% reimbursement to the schools in Housing Aid. Studies have identified major issues in school facilities related to health, safety, and security.

New information is sent home weekly to parents via the school listserv. There have been questions regarding the \$737,750 cost of

the Forest Avenue School boiler replacement. This cost addresses major HVAC systems in the school. The existing steam heating system and hot water boiler would be replaced with a high efficiency hot water based system. The project also includes replacement of older piping in the learning center, cafeteria and office area, electrical upgrades to support the system, replacement of the gymnasium air handling unit and upgrades to the kitchen ventilation exhaust system.

Rough estimates are that the boiler replacement will yield a 30% energy savings, which could be used for other projects and educational needs.

(Minutes of October 20, 2016 School Committee Meeting, Page Three)

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- School library media center information**
- Gaudet Newsletter**
- Donation letters**
- Letter from NAFIS thanking Mrs. Kraeger for attending the recent conference.**
- 4th Grade Program with MHS Spanish Honor Society students**

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for October 20, 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:**
 - oSeptember 15, 2016 School Committee Meeting**
- Approval of the following vouchers:**

September Voucher Summary

Voucher #	Date	Total
1048	9/2/2016	\$21,540.84
1047	9/2/2016	\$299,098.85
1046	9/9/2016	\$129,956.00
1049	9/13/2016	\$3,705.95
1050	9/15/2016	\$142,066.81
1059	9/20/2016	\$1,473.55
		\$597,842.00

- Approval of Vendors/Purchases over \$5,000**

•Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENT

Rachel Kravchuk Intervention Teacher, .5 Aquidneck School and .5 Forest Avenue School

(Minutes of October 20, 2016 School Committee Meeting, Page Four)

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 4, 2016

Erica Van Epps Long-Term Substitute, Forest Avenue School

COACHING APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 21, 2016

Jennifer Mahoney Fall Cheerleading

Jeffery Boldt Girls' JV Soccer

Devin Henry Cross Country

Michael Yates Girls' Varsity Basketball

Chris Winnes Head Hockey

Rebecca Duggan Head Coed Swim

Rick Francis Head Wrestling

Tim Brown 6/7/8th Grade Boys' Basketball

Shannon Farrell Head Gymnastics

David Pritchard Assistant Girls' Basketball

Teresa DiGiovani Assistant Coed Swim

**MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL ADVISOR APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE
OCTOBER 21, 2016**

Maria Dowler Yearbook Co-Advisor

Diane Kerins Yearbook Co-Advisor

Rebecca Kilbey Freshman Class Co-Advisor

Maria Dowler Freshman Class co-Advisor

Lauren Marx Junior Class Co-Advisor

Jennifer Haskell Junior Class Co-Advisor

Lisa Clark Newspaper Advisor

Allen Waite Ten 80 Club Co-Advisor

Gail Sullivan-McCune Ten 80 Club Co-Advisor

Philip Statser Band Director

Philip Statser All-State Band Director

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 28, 2016

Peter Anderson Director of Facilities

ACTION ITEMS

INTERVENTION SPECIALIST POLICY – 2nd READING

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

HVAC Contract

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

SNOW REMOVAL CONTRACT

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee award the snow removal contract to All-Island Landscaping. Unanimous vote.

FACILITIES NAMING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve naming the Middletown High School Gymnasium the “James M. Williams Gymnasium”. Unanimous vote.

Coach Kevin Lendrum spoke about Mr. Williams saying that he has been a role model for him and many in our community. Coach Steve Croughan said that Mr. Williams has been a major influence, mentor, and role model for kids. Coach Williams is a member of the R.I. Hall of Fame and R.I. Coaches Hall of Fame.

The policy was approved at the September School Committee Meeting. The policy required a committee to be developed to discuss the naming of the facility. The group met and voted unanimously to bring this forward to the School Committee for their approval. There was discussion about the dedication. It was suggested to have the girls' and boys' injury fund game on the same night, December 12th, and dedicate the gymnasium between the two games. It was also suggested to have Coach Williams signature put on the gym floor by scorer's table where players come in.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To extend the meeting past two hours. Unanimous vote.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

•CURRICULUM – Curriculum was reported during the Project Lead the Way presentation.

•FINANCIAL – Middletown is one of 12 districts that are part of the Governor's Transparency Portal pilot program. The final June 30th

report will be reported soon and the first 2016-17 report will be done in December. RIDE had meeting yesterday with all the school districts involved. In 2018, all districts will have to report out this way.

•FACILITIES – Inspections and school bus evacuation drills are continuing. There was a minor sewer line issue at Middletown High School. Mr. Anderson thanked Mr. O’Loughlin for his assistance on that matter. The MHS Roof Area 8 replacement, MHS

(Minutes of October 20, 2016 School Committee Meeting, Page Six)

and Gaudet School STEM Lab projects, and MHS Intercom Paging System projects are complete. The Aquidneck School softball field repairs and dugout project are nearly completed.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

There were no “Report of Officers and Committees”.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk