

**Middletown Public Schools**

**Middletown, Rhode Island**

**January 12, 2017**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Michael S. Pinto Conference Room**

**Members Present:**

**Kellie DiPalma Simeone, Chairman**

**Theresa Spengler, 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**

**David Fontes, Director of Facilities/Safety and Transportation**

**The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by School Committee Chair Kellie Simeone. All members were**

present. Administrative staff members present were Gail Abromitis, Andy Longo, Dennis Soares, Beth Hayes Linda Beaupre, and Steve Ponte.

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To move item “Proclamations/Awards” up on the agenda. Unanimous vote.

## **PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS**

Three categories of student awards were recognized:

- Newport Daily News Student of the Week
- Newport Daily News All-County Girls’ and Boys’ Soccer Teams
- Project Purple – This is an initiative of The Herren Project to bring awareness to the dangers of substance abuse and encourage positive decision-making. Their mission is to educate, advocate, and plan alternate activities. Project Purple Week will be held January 25-29, 2017. Activities include “Purple Day”, “Purple Out Home Basketball Games”, “I am Enough Day”, and the “Project Purple Community Support” initiative.

**MOTION:** 1)Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To move item “Student Activities” up on the agenda. Unanimous vote.

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**•Islanders Committed – Islanders Committed is a student organization that pledges to empower the student community to reduce risky behavior while promoting a healthy lifestyle. Activities they are involved in include presenting the chemical health policy to students and parents before every sports season, April Alcohol Awareness Month, planning a YMCA open gym night and alternate activities such as outdoor movie night. The organization also participated in National initiatives such as Red Ribbon and Project Purple. They are currently recruiting members since 13 seniors graduated last year. There are 16 pending applications. Mrs. Kraeger suggested speaking with the Gaudet School Principal to help recruits current 8th graders for the following school year.**

**A short recess was taken at 5:50 p.m.**

**Return to open session at 5:56 p.m.**

## **SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING**

## **“MHS Program of Studies”**

**Proposed additions to the Program of Studies for the 2017-18 school year include:**

### **Science –**

**In AP Physics I, remove the line about EEP credit. RIC is no longer offering this option. AP Physics C will be added.**

### **History –**

**Proposed new course, US History Through Film I and II**

### **Physical Education –**

**Proposed new course, Alternate Study Physical Education, is for students with one of the following; a 504, a medical waiver, or evidence of college enrollment during the school day.**

**Physical Education Grades 9-12 was previously Physical Education 9-10 and 11-12.**

**Proposed new courses Adapted Physical Education Leadership I and II, offer the opportunity for students to be leaders among peers and**

**have a role with the Physical Education teacher and build a professional relationship. This course is in addition to Physical Education class where students assists students who need modifications or have special needs.**

**There was a question about using sports as a substitute for Physical Education class. It is R.I. Law that students have 100 minutes per week in grades K-12. This will be added to items for the legislative agenda meeting.**

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**Plans to offer a PLTW Cybersecurity course, but will not know until the spring. MHS needs approval as a pilot school. If the course is not available, students can take PLTW Digital Electronics.**

**Proposed new courses, PLTW Engineering Design and Development and PLTW Digital Electronics are full-year courses.**

**Proposed new courses, Concentration of Study in Art, Concentration of Study in Music, and Guitar-Introduction to Guitar and Other Strummed Instruments are half-year courses.**

## **INFORMATION**

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

- Clarification on School Committee Sub-committees**
- Food and Nutrition Committee minutes. Parents had issues with candy being distributed at sporting events.**
- Thank you note to van Buren Charitable Foundations for support of a grant.**
- Report on school vaccinations – 331 students and parents received vaccinations.**
- Gaudet School Newsletter**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**No “Correspondence” for January 12, 2017.**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To approve the Consent. Unanimous vote.**

•**Approval of Minutes of the following minutes:**

o**December 6, 2016 Regular School Committee Meeting**

**•Approval of the following vouchers:**

**December Vouchers**

**Voucher # Date Amount**

**1128 12/1/2016 \$3,707.00**

**1127 12/1/2016 \$1,492.62**

**1126 12/1/2016 \$21,978.80**

**1125 12/1/2016 \$301,426.69**

**1129 12/2/2016 \$175,243.93**

**1138 12/16/2016 \$304,500.07**

**1148 12/28/2016 \$345,692.75**

**1147 12/28/2016 \$960.00**

**Total \$1,155,001.86**

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

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

**APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE JANUARY 3, 2017**

**Callie Jackson Grade 4 Long-Term Substitute, J.H. Gaudet School**

**Kerri Carlin 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Forest Avenue School**

**APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE JANUARY 23, 2017 FOR  
APPROXIMATELY 6 TO 8 WEEKS**

**Erica Van Epps Grade 5 Long Term Substitute, J.H. Gaudet School**

## **RETURN FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR**

**Desiree Brown Foreign Language Teacher, Middletown High School**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL CONTRACT EXTENSIONS**

**Michelle Fonseca Principal, Aquidneck School**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- GREENLOVE FOUNDATION WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATION –** Work is ongoing to fulfill the installation of the filling station. The locations of the two stations are still being determined. Mrs. Spengler suggested joining with the Town or Salve Regina University for the outside station.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- MOA MIDDLETOWN PREVENTION COALITION –** The MOA with the Middletown Prevention Coalition needs to be formalized. Clear expectations will be included in the MOA.

- FY 2017-2018 BUDGET –** We are collaboratively working on a



**PowerPoint Presentation with Town Administrator Shawn Brown and Director of Finance Marc Tanguay, which will include projected enrollment, staffing, estimated enrollment in charter schools, estimated expenditures, necessary changes, and what the educational priorities are for the school district.**

**•SCHOOL CALENDAR 2017-2018 – Portsmouth is keeping February and April breaks. There is no update from Newport. Mrs. Kraeger is suggesting to keep February and April breaks for the 2017-2018 school year, then do a survey to staff and parents for the 2018-2019 school year.**

**•SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOALS – A meeting has been established for January 18th at 5:00 p.m. The committee will work with a facilitator to build goals. There is also a strategic plan that needs to be updated. This will lay the foundation.**

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## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the budget adjustments as presented. Unanimous votes.**

**The School Department will be adopting the same format as the Town. The following budget adjustments were made:**

- ELL categorical fund - \$9,787 moved to a restricted fund**
- CIP tower rental – One was not renewed so it is adjusted down \$7,000**
- Summer Camp is doing extremely well – Increased by \$25,000**
- Reduction in State Grants – Reduced by \$43,000**
- Reduction in Title Grants – by \$21,341**
- Increase COZ and preschool by \$9,000**
- Award RIDE grant between Barrington and Middletown – Increase of \$116,000**
- Private donation awards from van Buren Foundation and National Math & Science totaling \$117,890**

#### **LINE ITEM TRANSFERS**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the line items transfers. Unanimous vote.**

- Various line items were adjusted for facilities and maintenance expenditures.**
- Various line items were adjusted for Special Education, bringing out of district students in district.**
- Overtime line items were adjusted due to increased need for overtime.**
- Various benefit line items were adjusted for OPEB object codes per**

**RIDE.**

- Salary line items were adjusted for object codes for Departments Heads per RIDE.
- There were small adjustments in Enterprise Fund Transfers due to athletic gate receipts and food service.

**MODEL UN DIRECTOR POLICY – 1st Reading**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Model UN Director Policy, 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.**

**RATIFY VOTES**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee ratify all votes from the December 6, 2016 School Committee Meeting. Unanimous vote.**

**The meeting was posted differently on the Secretary of State's website. Attorney Scungio advised to ratify all votes from the meeting.**

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## **BUDGET CALENDAR**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Budget Calendar for 2017-2018. Unanimous vote.**

## **BUDGET GOALS**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Budget Goals for 2017-2018. Unanimous vote.**

- To use our community fiscal resources wisely, purposefully, and responsibly to maintain and enhance a high quality education for all students.**
- To identify and acquire high quality resources to support district goals and ensure that budget plans link expenditures to anticipated outcomes.**
- To coordinate fiscal resources from local, state and federal funding streams, as well as human capital resources, to meet priority instructional goals and to promote equity and excellence.**
- To allocate resources that support student achievement and instructional goals, including money, time, personnel and materials, in a manner that supports district goals and maximizes student growth and achievement.**
- To ensure equity and adequacy of available resources to achieve a**

notable return on our educational investment.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

•**CURRICULUM** – Mrs. Savastano reported that the new van Buren grant will carry on from last year and technology coaches will be increased. These are very small stipend positions. There will be collaboration with Barrington Schools. This will allow us to free up dollars in the Title II grant and work more with current local curriculum.

It is WIDA access testing time for ELL learners. This is an online assessment. There are currently 90-100 students receiving ELL services.

Listservs have been moved to “Constant Contact” and each school now has one. Moved listervs. Each school has one. The transition has gone fairly smooth.

Mrs. Savastano gave an update on technology programs. At the 9th Grade Academy, laptops are 1 to 1. Aquidneck School redistributed carts allowing grades 2 and 3 have a 1 to 1 environment. Laptops in the high school Chemistry classes are 1 to 1.

•**FINANCIAL** – Ms. Pellerin addressed financials earlier. There is

currently \$12 million available, with \$10 million from the bond, leaving \$2 million unencumbered for items including transportation and supplies for athletics, non-committed for maintenance and repairs, substitutes, overtime, and technology supplies.

•**FACILITIES** – Mr. Fontes met with RIDE to review Stage II projects. There will be a punch list closeout next week for the Middletown High School roof project. Mr. Fontes also met with Robinson Green Beretta and requested a detailed proposal for bond projects including the high school roof, paving at Forest Avenue School, the boiler at Forest Avenue, and a smaller project at Aquidneck School.

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**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

•Mrs. Fenton distributed information about Rhode Island being awarded a Competitive Grant to Support Career Readiness and Postsecondary Attainment. Rhode Island was one of the ten states awarded grants to support this work. Mrs. Fenton attended a state and local cyber security meeting, an up and coming field.

•Mrs. Spengler attended the Gaudet School Band Concert. Wanted to publicly recognize teaches Emma Hookway and Gary Sebastiao for their hard work and great music choices.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION: 1)Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To go into Executive Session 42-46-5 (a) (3) regarding Safety Plans at 7:40 p.m. Unanimous vote.**

## **ADJOURN FROM MEETING**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the Regular School Committee Meeting at 8:00 p.m. Unanimous vote.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk**