

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Special School Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 26, 2017

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

David Fontes, Director of Facilities/Safety and Transportation

The School Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. The

Pledge of Allegiance was recited. All School Committee Members were present. Also in attendance were Justin Martin, Facilitator, Gail Abromitis, MHS Principal, Andrew Longo, MHS Assistant Principal, Dennis Soares, MHS Dean of Students, Beth Hayes, J.H. Gaudet School Principal, Linda Beaupre and Donna Chelf, J.H. Gaudet School Assistant Principals, Michelle Fonseca, Aquidneck School Principal, Stephen Ponte, Forest Avenue School Principal, Sarah Kraeger, Director of Special Education, and Mary Surber, Assistant Director of Special Education.

School Committee goal setting was discussed.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 6:25 p.m. Unanimous vote.

The School Committee Budget Workshop was called to order at 6:32 p.m. All School Committee members were present, as well as Town Administrator Shawn Brown.

2017-2018 School Committee Fiscal goals were discussed. The five goals are:

It is recognized by Middletown Public Schools that the quality and quantity of the educational program is directly related to the financial ability of the District and that financial resources have finite limits.

The following are, therefore, goals for the financial management of the District:

-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.

•Projected FY 2017/18 Revenue – New figures released on January 19th include a decrease of \$74,118 in high cost special education student funding. To qualify as a high cost military special education student, costs must be at least \$65,000. Mrs. Kraeger will be attending a NAFIS meeting in mid-March in Washington, DC. Hopefully, the climate in Washington has settled down and Federal funding will be more clear. The loss in State Education Aid

cumulative for Middletown is \$1.3 million. It was suggested that this be added as an item again for the legislative agenda meeting on February 6th.

•Enrollment Projections – Enrollment is projected to be very close to the current enrollment, possibly up 15 students. Staff could be reallocated to other positions. Special Education students are included in these numbers.

•Staffing Needs – There are currently 190.3 staff, which includes 2 new district instructional positions. Some considerations are guidance and library. Mr. Ron Heroux spoke about the importance of a librarian for grades 6/7/8. He also thanked the committee for approving the hiring of a librarian last year. The Special Education Department will present at the February 16th Budget Workshop. Increases include the 2 new instructional positions, with a mid-range salary of \$212,000 with benefits, an 8.5% increase in health and 5% increase in dental costs, totaling \$153,367, and retaining the intervention specialist in the General Fund.

•Capital Improvement Program – Director of Facilities, David Fontes, spoke about the Capital Improvement Projects that will be funded through the bond. These include:

-Roof replacement at MHS

-Asbestos abatement at all 4 schools

-Paving at all 4 schools. In 2018 the paving project at Forest Avenue School will include reconfiguring the lot and addressing drainage and the fire lane.

-The Forest Avenue School boiler replacement will take place in 2017.

Mr. Fontes will approach National Grid to see if there are any rebates available.

The non-bond Capital Improvement Projects were discussed. These are items identified in Stage I, but did not get into Stage II. Stage II items were approved by RIDE and are eligible for Housing Aid reimbursement of 35% for basic items and 39% for handicap accessibility items. Items Stage I items include electrical panel, emergency lighting, and fire alarm detector/device upgrades, as well as the installation of additional Exit signs. Stage II items include:

- District-wide interior door replacement**
- District-wide emergency fixture repair**
- District-wide natural gas system valves**
- District-wide asbestos pipe repairs**
- Replacement of asbestos tiles at Aquidneck School Cafeteria**
- Acoustic repairs at Gaudet and Forest Avenue Schools**

Additional non-bond projects include:

-Replacement of the emergency transfer switch at Gaudet School.

The switch is as old as the building.

-Replacement of the elevator control panel at Gaudet School.

- Elevator door replacement at Gaudet School.**
- Stair platform lift replacement at Middletown High School**
- District-wide new enhanced security alarm system**
- Roof replacement, gutters, painting, windows at Little Oliphant.**

Non-projects include the greenhouse at Gaudet School, new furniture, classroom board, and custodial equipment. Demolition of the Forest Avenue School boiler can be done in-house.

Capital Improvement Program – Curriculum. Mrs. Savastano reported that curriculum planning materials/textbooks dollars will be used to support K-12 common resources. The bulk of the project is to roll out leveled literacy intervention kits. Project Lead the Way/STEM is a K-12 program, with the K-5 Launch Program part of the core curriculum. This is going into year 4 at the high school and middle school. Since the Computer Science pathway is strong at MHS, it is has been broken into two courses with emphasis on coding. Teachers will be trained.

Working on an Energy and Environment course at Gaudet School. This will be a feeder program for the high school. The Cyber Security program has some start-up costs. A Digital Electronics Capstone Course will be rolled out.

Technology Replacement, Technology Upgrade PARCC, and Network Infrastructure all support each other and are all in the Capital

Improvement Program. Technology replacement will be used to replace laptops and desktops. Currently every 2 teachers share a laptop cart. The 9th grade academy is at a 1 to 1 ratio. Laptops are replaced every 4 years and desktops every 7. Programs and warranties are included when a laptop is purchased.

The Network Infrastructure project will increase wireless capability and support the Wireless Classroom Initiative, which adds wireless access to every classroom. A one-time pocket of dollars from E-Rate supplied the equipment. Mrs. Savastano said they would like to leverage remaining E-Rate dollars for remaining switches in switch closets. Middletown will not get dollars from E-Rate if we do not have a plan.

The next budget workshop is scheduled for February 16th at 5:00 p.m., prior to the Regular School Committee Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the Special School Committee Meeting at 7:45 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Rosemarie K. Kraeger
Superintendent of Schools**