

Middletown Public Schools
Middletown, Rhode Island

February 16, 2017

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

Members Present: Kellie DiPalma Simeone, Chairman
Douglas Arnold
Liana Fenton
William O'Connell

Member Absent: Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chairman

Also Present: Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools
Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent
Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager
David Fontes, Director of Facilities/Safety and Transportation
Marc Tanguay, Town Finance Director

The Budget Workshop was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by School Committee Chair Kellie DiPalma Simeone. All members were present. Administrative staff members present were Beth Hayes, Michelle Fonseca, and Stephen Ponte.

Director of Special Education, Sarah Kraeger, reported on the program. There are currently 697 students in the regional program, with 365 students receiving services in Middletown. There are 146.2 employees in the regional program, including 46.1 teachers and 64.8 teacher assistants. Most students are serviced in the regular education classroom. In Middletown, there are 19.5 teachers, 7 teachers for specialized classrooms, and 27.8 teacher assistants. 16% of the Middletown population receives some type of services. Military special needs students stay in Middletown for 3 years instead of 2 to alleviate additional transitions. The graduation rate for students receiving services is 71%, 10% higher than the State target. The dropout rate is 4.76%, well below the State number of 21%.

To be eligible for services, a student is first evaluated. The evaluation must be completed within 60 days. If the student is found to be eligible, an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is developed. The IEP supports students to 21 years of age. From ages 18 to 21, programs available include vocational training, integrated and supported employment, continuing adult education, adult services, independent living, and community participation.

There are 14 disability categories. A student must fall into at least one category which impacts the child's education. Speech and language is a category up to age 8.

The regional budget is \$4,803,423, not including teacher and teacher assistant salaries of \$7,206,812. The combined total is \$12,010,235. Middletown's cost for salaries is \$3,767,615. Middletown's share to the region is 52%, or \$2,502,864, which is based on a 3-year rolling average of student population enrollments.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O'Connell. *To adjourn from the Budget Workshop at 6:02 p.m. Unanimous vote.*

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by School Committee Chair Kellie Simeone. All members were present, with the exception of Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair. Administrative staff members present were Gail Abromitis, Andrewy Longo, Beth Hayes, Donna Chelf, Linda Beaupre, Michelle Fonseca, and Stephen Ponte.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O'Connell. *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 Athlete of the Week
- Newport Daily News All-County Football Team

A brief recess was taken.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

"Student Assistance Program"

Beatrice Casaula, Student Assistant Counselor at Middletown High School, and Sarah Drinklage, R.I. Student Assistance Services, described the Student Assistance Program. The program is in 44 secondary schools in 25 districts in the state. Statistics show that in Rhode Island, 26% of high school students consumed alcohol in the last 30 days. The rate of marijuana use is at 24%, which is comparable to the state. Five students in 24 used substances and 1 in 5 children live in a home with drug dependence. In Rhode Island, 61% of grade 12 students have use marijuana in the last 30 days. This is associated with academic failure, skipping class, and physical consequences. Goals of the program are to delay the initial use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and other drugs, decrease the use in students that are already using, enhance the resiliency of teens whose parents are substance users, and improve school attendance and behavior. Project Success places a Master's level student assistance counselor in schools.

Funding is through a partnership with the R.I. Department of Behavior Health, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH). Currently, the State's share of 3-day per week program is \$25,200 and Middletown's share is \$14,400. If the program went to 5 days and expanded to the Gaudet School, the State's share would be \$42,000 and the district would pay \$24,000.

Student Assistance Counselor Beatrice Casaula said that currently 36 male and 36 female students are being served for issues including initiation of substances, substance abuse, mental health issues, children of substance abusing parents, and family issues. Projects that the program is involved in include the awareness bulletin board for students, public service announcement project, Red Ribbon Week, Project Aware, movie night, family day, student conference, GSA support group, volunteering at dances and attending sporting events.

If the program is expanded to five days, Ms. Casaula will be able to serve the middle school, facilitate more groups, and assist the school support with crisis intervention.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No "Student Activities" for February 16, 2017.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- The Wave
- The Gaudet Times
- Ethics presentation on February 21st at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall.
- Very successful social media presentation
- Gaudet School Newsletter
- Minutes from NACTC meeting on February 8th.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Susan Couture, Bus Monitor, regarding a pay increase for bus monitors due to their responsibilities.

Bus monitors have not had a pay increase in a number of years.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O'Connell. *That the School Committee receive the communication. Unanimous vote.*

Letter from Kelsey Dugan, Class of 2007, Class President, regarding fund balance from Class of 2007.

This issue was addressed a number of years ago. The School Attorney rendered an opinion that once a class graduates, the funds will go into the Student Activities Fund. Mrs. Kraeger will share policy and letter from school attorney.

Classes can designate that the funds be allocated to the alumni association.

MOTION: 1) William O'Connell, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee receive the communication. Unanimous vote.*

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O’Connell. *To approve the Consent Agenda.*
Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Minutes of the following minutes:
 - January 12, 2017 Regular School Committee Meeting & Executive Session
 - January 18, 2017 Special School Committee Meeting
 - January 26, 2016 Special School Committee Meeting and Budget Workshop
- Approval of the following vouchers:

January Vouchers		
Voucher #	Date	Amount
1151	1/3/2017	\$66,359.55
1150	1/3/2017	\$22,105.87
1149	1/3/2017	\$302,797.97
1159	1/11/2017	\$846,546.50
1169	1/17/2017	\$6,430.19
1168	1/17/2017	\$756.98
1170	1/23/2017	\$313.24
1172	1/24/2017	\$1,766.10
1171	1/25/2017	\$564,402.61
1173	1/31/2017	\$241,412.08
Total		\$2,052,891.09

- Approval of Vendors/Purchases over \$5,000
- Approval of Superintendent’s Recommendation on Personnel

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT

Dana Ramey Foreign Language, Middletown High School
Anna Kibble English, J.H. Gaudet School

APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 7, 2017

Melissa Bolton MOST Grades K-3 After School Intervention – Literacy

APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 14, 2017

Keri Brandariz MOST Grades 4-6 After School Intervention - Literacy
Linda Leonard MOST Grades 4-6 After School Intervention – Math
Kristen Pachico MOST Grades 4-6 After School Intervention – Math

TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION COACH APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 17, 2017

Diane Lukowicz	Aquidneck School
Erin Doorley-Forman	Forest Avenue School
Jennifer Grant	Multi-Building (Forest Avenue Primary)
Kimberly D'Arpino	Multi-Building (Gaudet Primary)
Jane Violet	Gaudet School
Kristen Pacheco	Gaudet School
Tim Watters	Middletown High School
Rebecca Kilbey	Middletown High School

APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 17, 2017

Jennifer Haskell	Model UN Co-Director
Lee-Ann Wells	Model UN Co-Director
Kyle Cavallaro	Custodian (Temporary/Part-Time - 2 nd Shift)

COACHING APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE MARCH 6, 2017

Madeleine Murphy	6/7/8 th Grade Softball Coach
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COACHING APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE MARCH 13, 2017

Chuck Paiva	Varsity Baseball
Kevin Clare	Assistant Varsity Baseball
David Awamleh	Junior Varsity Baseball
William Homer	Varsity Softball Coach

APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE MARCH 20, 2017

Varsity Boys' Tennis	John-Paul Massaro
William Waterman	Varsity Girls' Lacrosse
Robb Weaver	Assistant Varsity Boys' Lacrosse
Walter Buitrago	Volunteer Boys Lacrosse

OLD BUSINESS

- **2017-2018 SCHOOL CALENDAR** – There is currently discussion with union leadership regarding the school calendar. The school year will start after Labor Day to give ample time for bond projects to be completed. Both February and April vacations will remain. The calendar will be approved at the March School Committee Meeting. There was a question about the impact of the later start time for Rogers High School. This has been challenging. The administrative team has discussed Middletown High School starting 15 minutes later. This would not impact bussing.
- **MOA MIDDLETOWN PREVENTION COALITION** – A MOA with the Middletown Prevention Coalition is currently being worked on.
- **GREENLOVE FOUNDATION** – Mr. Fontes is working with the Foundation and has reached out to environmental class at the high school and clubs at the middle school. This could make the district eligible for additional units.
- **BOND** – A communication plan will be developed. The community will be apprised of the process and how money is being drawn down.

NEW BUSINESS

- **TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS REQUEST** – There was a request for information from a Town Council Member. Information was provided

ACTION ITEMS

MODEL UN DIRECTOR POLICY – 2nd Reading

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O’Connell. *That the School Committee approve the Model UN Director Policy, 2nd Reading.* Unanimous vote.

REDUCTION IN FORCE

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O’Connell. *That the Superintendent’s Report be accepted and adopted and the necessary letters sent out.* Unanimous vote.

This is non-renewal of a non-tenured teacher. The main teacher layoff notification date was moved to June 1st.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- **CURRICULUM** – School and district PARCC results can be found on the Middletown Public Schools website at www.mpsri.net/parcc.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O’Connell. *To extend the meeting past two hours.* Unanimous vote.

- **FINANCIAL** – According to the USDA regulations for school lunch, districts are required to adjust school lunch prices based on calculations. Ms. Pellerin is currently reviewing this with Chartwells. There could possibly be a recommendation at the next meeting regarding a price change. Any amendments or adjustments will be brought before the School Committee in March.
- **FACILITIES** – Mr. Fontes reported that there are 3 RFP's for Commission Services, HVAC/Forest Avenue Boiler, and site improvements at Forest Avenue. These are due on March 6th and will be approved at the March School committee Meeting. The water bottle filling station for Gaudet School is on order and will arrive next month. Installation will take place during April vacation. Complete safety assessments will take place next Wednesday. The Middletown Fire and Police Departments will be involve in the walkthroughs. The HVAC punch list is being completed. Furnishing gradings are taking place. Mr. Fontes reached out to other school departments and received some surplus furniture from Foster-Gloster. The assessment of light fixtures is part of the energy plan. Mr. Fontes commented that the staff did a great job with snow removal.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

- Mrs. Fenton attended a Design Thinking Process meeting at Bryant University. Problem solving was discussed.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O'Connell. *To adjourn from the Regular School Committee Meeting at 8:45 p.m.* Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk