

Middletown Public Schools  
Middletown, Rhode Island

BUDGET WORKSHOP

**Thursday, March 2, 2017**

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

Members Present: Kellie DiPalma Simeone, Chairman  
Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chairman  
Douglas Arnold  
Liana Fenton

Member Absent: William O'Connell

Also Present: Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools  
Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent  
Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager

The Budget Workshop was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by School Committee Chair Kellie DiPalma Simeone. All members were present, with the exception of Mr. O'Connell. Administrative staff members present were Gail Abromitis, Andy Longo, Dennis Soares, Beth Hayes Linda Beaupre, Donna Chelf, Michelle Fonseca, and Steve Ponte.

Mrs. DiPalma Simeone announced that no vote was taken in Executive Session.

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To seal minutes of Executive Session.*  
Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Savastano reported that the "Teaching and Learning" presentation can be found on the Middletown Public Schools website at [http://www.mpsri.net/uploaded/documents/budget1718/MPS\\_TL\\_ProjBudget18\\_SummativeReport\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.mpsri.net/uploaded/documents/budget1718/MPS_TL_ProjBudget18_SummativeReport_FINAL.pdf).

The primary goal this year is to work on student achievement by increasing the literacy and math levels. Social/emotional needs of students often block academic success. There will be emphasis on reducing the achievement gap for special needs students. In ELA, 42% of the district's student are proficient. In Math, 43% of the district's students are proficient. To begin the budget process, a budget projection worksheet is developed. The buildings goals and justification around those goals are considered. Teacher leaders work with colleagues to determine necessary resources. Building Principals discussed their schools and their needs:

At **Forest Avenue School**, Principal Ponte reported that 41% of the students receive free or reduced meals. He wants to improve literacy and math scores and close the gap in Special Education. Students social/emotional needs have to be addressed. His goals are to reduce PLP's, PMP's, and PBS's. There is currently one half-time guidance counselor. He would like to see a 1:1 ratio for student laptops. The elementary principals would like a .5 STEM and .5 World Language teacher at each elementary

school. Mr. Ponte thanked the Committee for the addition of an intervention teacher in last year's budget.

At **Aquidneck School**, Principal Fonseca said that 25% of students receive free and reduced meals. The primary goal is to increase student achievement levels by improving literacy and math levels. If the intervention teacher was increased, it would be used to work on the math piece. The addition of a .5 STEM and .5 World Language teacher would allow teachers 2 extra planning times, or 60 minutes per day. Mrs. Fonseca said that the intervention teacher is working out so well that math intervention teacher would be very beneficial.

At **Gaudet School**, 34% of students receive free and reduced meals. The overall goal for grades 5-8 is to increase academic achievement in all core areas, focusing on reading and math. Mrs. Hayes would like to increase the percentage of students meeting their expected growth targets. She would like to add a .5 Guidance Counselor due to the increase in social/emotional need. She would then be able to dedicate one Guidance Counselor for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Mrs. Spengler agreed that there is a great need for the .5 Guidance Counselor. This will also help transition students to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade Anchor Academy. Mrs. Hayes would also like a .2 librarian to add another day of services.

At the **Gaudet Learning Academy**, 38% of students receive free and reduced meals. The primary goal is to increase student achievement in all Core areas with an emphasis on providing interventions in reading and math. Planning time is an issue. If 3 part-time teacher assistants are added for recess duty, teachers would get adequate planning time.

At **Middletown High School**, 29% of the students receive free and reduced lunch. Ms. Abromitis said that the goals are to increase student achievement in mathematics and literature and decrease PMP's, as well as decreasing PLP's in literacy. A major need of the students is to increase support for social/emotional needs. Ms. Abromitis is requesting an additional guidance counselor. Currently, there is one for grade 9, and two that split grades 10-12. She would like to increase the Student Assistance Counselor. If that position was made full-time, time could be spent at Gaudet School. Ms. Abromitis would like a .4 PLTW teacher and a .4 special education coordinator to help with transition, testing, managing teachers, and organization of students. She is also requesting a lead teacher stipend for the Anchor Academy.

Mrs. Savastano reported that the **Academic and Technology Services Department** primary goal is to support schools and school district in the efforts to improve student learning. STEM utilizes 28% of curriculum resources as the program continues to be ramped up. There are currently over 30 software systems that are being used. There are \$75,000 available for hardware replacement and \$110,000 to continue the digital transformation. In regards to Professional Development, much of what we are focusing on this year will continue next year. The majority is grant funded.

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 7:49 p.m.* Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger