

Middletown Public Schools
Middletown, Rhode Island

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Tuesday, March 21, 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
David Fontes, Director of Facilities

The Budget Workshop was called to order at 5:30 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, and Stephen Ponte.

Mrs. Kraeger thanked everyone for their work on the budget. The goal was to prepare a budget document that is transparent and that people could understand. The loss of revenue from State Aid is a huge challenge. Middletown is in year 7 of the funding formula. Increased expenditures include contractual obligations and increased operational expenditures. A 4% increase totals \$1.049M. Subtract \$229K for Group Homes, \$73K for High Cost Special Education and \$43K for the loss of Federal Aid, the projected new revenue is \$703K. On the expenditure side, new positions total \$283K, estimated contractual agreements are \$537K, retaining 1 Intervention Specialist is \$88K, and other operational increase of \$238 totals \$1.14M increase in projected expenditures. The budget variance is \$444K.

Reductions that were looked at include:

- Facilities and Operations/various line items - \$57K
- General Operations/various line items - \$18K
- Special Education - \$32K
- Staffing Efficiencies/repurpose and reduce - \$224K
- Adjust funding 1 position from general fund - \$113

Middletown is requesting a 4% increase in Town Appropriation for Education, about \$1M. Capital Improvement funds include general obligation bond proceeds. Impact Aid prior year payments would be used to fund the digital transformation. The fund balance will be used towards Capital Improvement projects.

(Minutes of March 21, 2017 School Committee Meeting, Page Two)

Funding sources include Municipal Appropriation (63.6%), State Funding (19.4%), General Obligation Bond Proceeds (6.8%), and Federal Funding 6.8%.

Expenditure highlights:

- Salaries and Benefits - 70%
- Contracted Services - 18.5%
- Supplies and Other Costs - 11%

- Facilities and Operations - The School Department will seek opportunities to collaborate with the Middletown Department of Public Works. Mr. Fontes will research opportunities to self-perform some tasks presently performed by contractors. All contracts will be reviewed, including Waste Management and HVAC.

Mrs. Fenton would like to meet with military leaders regarding the impact on towns, especially Middletown. A large number of ELL students are from the War College.

At the School Committee Meeting on Thursday, the Committee will vote on the budget, which then needs to be submitted to the Town Council on Friday morning. A communication plan that engages parents, staff and community groups needs to be developed. School Committee/Town Council workshops and public hearings are coming up. The budget needs to be in UCOA format, a RIDE requirement and part of Governor's transparency efforts.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To adjourn from Budget Workshop at 6:38 p.m. Unanimous vote.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger
Clerk