

Middletown Public Schools
Middletown, Rhode Island

March 23, 2017

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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/Safety and Transportation

The School Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. by School Committee Chair Kellie DiPalma Simeone. All members were present. Administrative staff members present were Michelle Fonseca and Gail Abromitis. Mrs. Simeone announced that a new agenda format is being used.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That "Proclamations/Awards" be moved up on the agenda.* Unanimous vote.

The following student awards were presented:

- Cyberpatriot
- Newport Daily News Athlete of the Week
- Rhode Island Scholastic Art Awards

ACTION ITEMS

2017-2018 SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

Newport Schools will be starting after Labor Day and Tiverton has not yet finalized and approved their calendar. The districts have different vacation weeks.

Special Education services will be worked out between the districts. There was a suggestion to have districts meet early next year to try to collaborate on calendars.

HOT LUNCH PRICES

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the increase in hot lunch prices to 2.85 and .40.* Unanimous vote.

We have been informed by Chartwells that the hot lunch rate must increase by .08, but it was raised by .10.

TITLE I POLICY UPDATES

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee table the motion regarding updates to the Title I Policy.* Unanimous vote.

TRANSGENDER POLICY

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming and Transitioning Students Policy Protocol, 1st Reading.* Unanimous vote.

The Superintendent would like to send out to the community then have a committee look at protocols. Nurse teachers and school psychologist should be part of the discussion. This is required by state and federal law

ADOPT FY 17-18 BUDGET

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee adopt the FY 17-18 Budget in the amount of \$43,000,462.* Unanimous vote.

This budget mirrors every department in the town. Administration did their best to not exceed the 4% cap, but the budget still needs to be reduced by about \$445,000. Expenditures are \$1.1M and the projected new revenue is approximately \$703K, leaving a difference of \$445,000. Reductions include \$57,000 to Facilities and Operations, \$18,000 to the General Operating Fund, \$32,000 to Special Education, and \$224,000 to Staff Efficiencies Repurposing and Scheduling.

Mr. Heroux spoke about the need for an additional librarian at the Gaudet School.

FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve sending a memo to the Town Council requesting a member be appointed to the Facilities Advisory Committee.* Unanimous vote.

The Facilities Committee will be reconvened. Director of Facilities David Fontes will head the committee.

CLERKBASE

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the implementation of ClerkBase.* Unanimous vote.

The Town uses ClerkBase also. It is very user friendly. The video streaming of meetings is also being looked into. This would have to go through an RFP because it is over the policy limit.

GUN FREE SCHOOL RESOLUTION

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the Gun Free Schools Resolution.* Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Nan Heroux, Secretary of the R.I. Coalition Against Gun Violence, spoke about the resolution. This would only allow law enforcement to carry a gun in school buildings.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Sports Awards Winter Booklet
- Annual Building Inspections
- Middletown Wellness Committee minutes
- Faces of Impact Aid Brochure
- Nutrition Seminars offered to Middletown employees
- Newsletters from schools
- Information on Office 365

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of Minutes of the following minutes:
 - February 15, 2017 Special School Committee Meeting
 - February 16, 2017 Budget Workshop and Regular School Committee Meeting
 - March 2, 2017 Budget Workshop and Executive Session
 - March 8, 2017 Budget Workshop

- Approval of the following vouchers:

February 2017 Voucher Summary

Voucher Number	Date	Total
1183	2/1/2017	\$22,202.05
1182	2/1/2017	\$304,237.56
1184	2/14/2017	\$235,611.15
Total		\$562,050.76

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

COACH APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE MARCH 6, 2017

Dylan Smith	Boys' 6/7/8 th Grade Baseball
Ryan Long	Junior Varsity Baseball Volunteer
Douglas Arnold	Girls' 6/7/8 th Grade Softball Volunteer

COACH APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE MARCH 13, 2017

Louis Krue	Assistant Varsity Fast Pitch Softball Co-Coach
Robert Loughlin	Assistant Varsity Fast Pitch Softball Co-Coach

COACH APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE MARCH 20, 2017

Lisa O'Brien	Varsity Golf
Roland Lavallee	Varsity Boys'/Girls' Outdoor Track
Neal Harrell	Varsity Boys' Lacrosse
Amanda Jones	Assistant Varsity Girls' Lacrosse

APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE MARCH 27, 2017

Andrew Ponte	Custodian 2 (Nights)
--------------	----------------------

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE MARCH 31, 2017

Joshua Bucci	Custodian, Aquidneck School
--------------	-----------------------------

NEW BUSINESS

- Leadership Matters RI - Mrs. Kraeger was approached by Salve Regina University to take part in Leadership Matters RI. The Town was involved two years ago. A team of five has been formed for the four weekend sessions. A topic will be developed that will impact the community. The group will consist of Mrs. Kraeger, Ms. Abromitis, Mrs. Hayes, Mr. Ponte and Ms. Kraeger.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Curriculum – Mrs. Savastano reported that PARCC Testing will take place between April 4 and May 23rd. Grades 3-8 will be tested on ELA and Math, Grade 9 will be tested on ELA and Algebra 1. The SAT is being administered to all 11th graders. Student level data is received, but district data is not received. This is funneled through the College Board. Mrs. Simeone asked if we could take a look at results and see if there is any assistance that could be given to students for the next year. On

(Minutes of March 23, 2017 School Committee Meeting, Page Six)

March 2, Middletown High School had a small team meet regarding Deeper Thinking Competencies. Barrington is working with Middletown on this initiative.

- Financial – Mrs. Kraeger thanked all for their support on the budget. Unencumbered costs are substitute teachers and spring bussing for sports. There is difficulty getting substitute teachers due to the low daily pay rate. Middletown is on the low side at \$70 per day.
- Facilities – Mr. Fontes reported on the bond projects. All three major projects are in the design phase. Site work drawings will be available on Monday. The target for the design phase is to bring the requests to the June meeting to award the bids. The Forest Avenue School boiler will be preordered by the School Department because it takes a good amount of time to be delivered. The Greenlove Foundation dispenser is en route. Mr. Fontes received good news with the water testing. Additional tests showed that the water at Middletown High School is fine. The Newport Water Department tests came back clear. Shaws donated a palate of water during the water crisis. Mr. Fontes has been communicating with Will Cronin regarding tweaking the Waste Management Services contract. We currently pay per haul and might be able to reduce pickups from 3 to 2 per week.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

- Mrs. Simeone and Mrs. Spengler met with a group of teachers, mostly Physical Education and Nurse Teachers, as well as union leadership, regarding the credit flexibility resolution. The information discussed will be taken into account.
- Mrs. Simeone, Mrs. Spengler, and Mrs. Fenton attended the State School Board Chair Meeting. Mrs. Fenton distributed information regarding No Child Left Behind. Mrs. Kraeger had a brief meeting at MHS to discuss the Class of 2020 and Career Pathways.
- Mrs. Kraeger attended the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools meeting. There was discussion about the new Secretary of Education and the impact she will have, along with the new policies. There has been a hiring freeze at the government level, which has had impact on the hiring of an Impact Aid Director. Processing payments will also be slow. Impact Aid is being threatened.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. *To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 6:53 p.m. Unanimous vote.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger
Superintendent of Schools