

Middletown Public Schools
Middletown, Rhode Island

April 11, 2017

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

Members Present: Kellie DiPalma Simeone, Chairman
Theresa Spengler, 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 5:32 p.m. by School Committee Chair Kellie DiPalma Simeone. All members were present. Administrative staff members present were Beth Hayes and Stephen Ponte.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

- Purple Up - A military family from Forest Avenue School accepted the proclamation on behalf of all military families for Month of the Military Child.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- April 24th Newport County Prevention Coalition Community Forum on Marijuana
- Budget Meeting Updates
- Letter from Executive Director of NAFIS regarding Mrs. Kraeger's attendance at National Conference
- Letter sent to Commissioner and media regarding Military Interstate Compact's Month of Military Child Events
- Letter to Shaw's Supermarket thanking them for the water donation
- Senior events calendar

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Cheryl McCarthy, regarding budgeting for a Middle School Librarian.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. *That the School Committee receive the communication.* Unanimous vote.

Dr. Cheryl McCarthy and Mr. Ronald Heorux both spoke about the need for a Middle School Librarian. A meeting will be set up with Mrs. Kraeger, Dr. McCarthy, and Mr. Heroux to discuss this.

Mrs. Spengler clarified that the technology dollars were for one time and were not sustainable. If a teacher was hired with the dollars, the position would not be able to be sustained.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE APRIL 13, 2017

Jennifer Cheng 3-Hour Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE APRIL 24, 2017

Steven Gallati Full-Time Custodian (Second Shift)

ACTION ITEMS

TRANSGENDER POLICY

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming and Transitioning Students Policy Protocol, 2nd Reading.* Motion passed 4 to 1.

Yay

Nay

Kellie Simeone
Theresa Spengler
Douglas Arnold
Liana Fenton

William O'Connell

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the Budget Amendments, as presented.* Unanimous vote.

Enterprise line item adjustments caused no changes to the bottom line and included the following:

- Gaudet Planetarium service charges
- Summer Camp
- Athletic Gate Receipts
- School Lunch Account
- Summer School other revenue
- School Lunch revenue

Grants and Private Donations caused no changes to the bottom line and included the following:

- MHS Donations from supplies to transportation based on terms of donation.
- Donations from National Math Science Initiative moved to supplies.
- Donations from PTG adjusted from transportation to performing arts and tech supplies
- Donations from Feinstein Foundation adjusted
- ELL, COZ, Title II, III and IDEA grants had adjustments

Capital Improvement adjustments caused no changes to the bottom line and include the following:

- Town CIP adjustment from land improvement to other services
- School CIP had an adjustment from various line items to tech hardware

SUBSTITUTE PAY

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee pilot a program to increase the substitute rate from \$70.00 to \$90.00 to determine if more substitutes are obtained.* Unanimous vote.

Currently, the rates are as follows:

Middletown \$70/day
Newport \$70/day
Portsmouth \$90/day
Tiverton \$85/day

The R.I. Department of Education has left it up to districts to issue emergency certifications, as well as the requirements for substitute teachers. There has been a lot more illness this year, which has contributed to the spike in the need for substitutes.

HOT LUNCH PRICES

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve a .10 increase in hot lunch prices.* Unanimous vote.

The elementary rate will go from \$2.60 to \$2.70, Middle and High School rates will raise from \$2.85 to \$2.95. Mrs. Spengler commented that there needs to be enough food on the tray to justify the price. It was suggested to set up a meeting with Chartwells to

discuss portion control. Ms. Pellerin said that portion control is heavily regulated by the Federal government.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Curriculum – No curriculum update.
- Financial – No financial report. This was discussed during Action Items.
- Facilities – Mr. Fontes reported that the concession stand at Aquidneck School will be expanded. The work began on Friday and will be completed by Little League Opening Day. Overtime will have to be reimbursed because we are not budgeted for that. The Bond Council is requesting 85% of bond projects be completed within 3 years. The revised schedule has the school department completing 89% of the projects in 3 years.
- Other Reports

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

- Mrs. Fenton and Mrs. Simeone attended a State School Board Meeting on legislative and budget reviews. There was a lot of discussion about R.I. Promise.
- Mr. O'Connell attended the NSBA Conference in Denver. He attended sessions on a number of different topics including Career Tech, Propane School Busses, Budgeting, and Bi-lingual.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 6:48 p.m.* Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger
Clerk