

Middletown Public Schools
Middletown, Rhode Island

May 31, 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 2:32 p.m. by School Committee Chair Kellie DiPalma Simeone. All members were present. Administrative staff members present were Beth Hayes, Donna Chelf, Linda Beaupre, Michelle Fonseca, Stephen Ponte, Gail Abromitis. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chair Simeone made a statement regarding how much effort was put into the budget process by the School Committee and administration. Two public hearings were held where no resident spoke. At no point prior to the vote by the Town Council was there any indication that the budget would be level funded. The task now is to balance the budget with minimal impact on the students.

Vice-Chair Spengler said that she was very disappointed with the comments regarding the Administration being ill-prepared and not being represented at Budget Workshops with the Town Council. School Committee Members were in attendance as well as three principals. Linda Savastano and Raquel Pellerin were very well prepared and answered questions thoroughly. She said she has the total confidence in the School Committee and Administration.

CONSIDER AND VOTE ON REDUCTION IN FORCE

- Mrs. Kraeger said that numerous meetings have been held and the School Department was fully transparent. A major loss of revenue is due to the reduction in the funding formula. Middletown has received accolades at the National, State and local levels. Administration and the School Committee will look at every aspect of the budget to provide a reduction plan. It will not include any additional layoffs. Program and staffing reductions will be reviewed and plan will be submitted that supports Middletown's core values. She said she is proud of the community and the district and thanked the team. Since no layoffs will be made, there was no action on the agenda item. At the June 15th meeting, the Committee will vote on the amended budget, including reductions.

APPROVAL OF VENDORS/PURCHASES OVER \$5,000

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To approve the Vendors/Purchases over \$5,000.* Unanimous vote.

The Administrative Team met yesterday on the budget. The budget reduction plan includes:

- Opening Early Retirement at the June 15th meeting until August 1st.
- Consider not filling open positions.
- Realigning grants/grant positions.
- Review 17-18 special education budget for reductions. Looking at Medicaid funds.
- Assessing staffing reductions/layoffs. Checking on registrations and schedules.
- Meeting will be set up with the Athletic Director to look at programming and possible consolidation.
- Reducing the supply line and every line in the budget.
- Reviewing all vendor contracts to see if we have the best contracts.
- Implement a lean management style.

Mrs. Fenton asked about sharing some of the funds the Town brings in, such as the beach revenue. Mrs. Spengler suggested a workshop or small group meeting with Administrators to discuss ideas. Different perspectives bring different ideas.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 3:18 p.m.* Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger
Superintendent of Schools