

Middletown Public Schools  
Middletown, Rhode Island

May 18, 2017

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

Members Present: Kellie DiPalma Simeone, Chairman left at 5:11 p.m.  
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

Absent: David Fontes, Director of Facilities/Safety and Transportation

The School Committee Meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by School Committee Chair Kellie DiPalma Simeone. All members were present. Administrative staff members present were Donna Chelf, Beth Hayes, Gail Abromitis, and Michelle Fonseca.

**PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS**

Student awards were presented in the following categories:

- Newport Daily News Student of the Week
- Pop Warner All-American Scholars
- R.I. Foreign Language Association Student of the Year
- American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese Comic Strip

**INFORMATION**

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Foster Grandparents Program
- Article on MHS Student Michael Hanlon
- Providence Journal article on MIC3
- Spring Pops Concert Program
- Thank you notes for sympathy notes
- Funding Formula update
- MEC Educator of the Year and grants showcase
- April is Month of the Military Child Proclamations

- Gaudet STEM Teacher – R.I. Jr. Rookie of the Year Award
- MHS Anchor Academy community service program
- Donation letters
- 25<sup>th</sup> annual special needs awards program
- MPS Art Show
- Registration information

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no 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:
  - Minutes of March 31, 2017 Budget Workshop
  - Minutes of March 23, 2017 School Committee Meeting
  - Minutes of April 11, 2017 School Committee Meeting
- Approval of the following vouchers:

**Voucher Summary March and April 2017**

<b>Voucher Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Total</b>
1195	3/1/2017	\$22,392.07
1194	3/1/2017	\$304,286.80
1193	3/2/2017	\$592,366.29
1212	3/8/2017	\$46.00
1203	3/16/2017	\$321,516.93
1221	3/30/2017	\$258,121.39
		<b>\$1,498,729.48</b>
1223	4/3/2017	\$22,297.06
1084	4/12/2017	\$750.00
1222	4/3/2017	\$304,286.80
1235	4/10/2017	\$50.00
1224	4/10/2017	\$144,869.53
1225	4/12/2017	\$726.00
1248	4/17/2017	\$1,145.44
1239	4/17/2017	\$40.00
1234	4/18/2017	\$2,514.00
1238	4/19/2017	\$282,882.61
1251	4/25/2017	\$40.00
1249	4/26/2017	\$2,077.14
1247	4/26/2017	\$60.00
		<b>\$761,738.58</b>

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

**SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL**

**APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE JULY 5, 2017**

Grainne Phelps	Gr. 9-12 Credit Recovery – Math
Kevin Lendrum	Gr. 9-12 Credit Recovery – Science
Andrew Leys	Gr. 9-12 Credit Recovery – Social Studies
Michael Penza	Gr. 9-12 Credit Recovery - English

**APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 27, 2017**

Mercedes Forrest	Long-Term Substitute, Grade 1, Aquidneck School
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**RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE APRIL 25, 2017**

Steven Gallati	Full-Time Custodian, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Shift
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**RESIGNATION AT THE END OF THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR**

Sally Fullerton	District/School Administrative Support Personnel A
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**NEW BUSINESS**

No "New Business" for May 18, 2017.

**OLD BUSINESS**

No "Old Business" for May 18, 2017.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**REDUCTION IN FORCE**

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the Superintendent's Report be accepted and adopted and the necessary letters sent out.* Unanimous vote.

Rhode Island Law requires that school departments notify teachers by June 1<sup>st</sup>. There are nine teachers listed for non-renewal.

**NALOXONE POLICY - 1<sup>ST</sup> READING**

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the Naloxone Policy, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.* Unanimous vote.

The policy was brought forward by school nurse teachers and is required by law. The 2<sup>nd</sup> reading will be in June.

#### **FOOD SERVICES ACCOUNT POLICY - 1<sup>ST</sup> READING**

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the Food Services Account Policy, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.* Unanimous vote.

Data is being reviewed regarding unpaid lunch charges. The intent is not to have a child go without lunch, but there needs to be protocol in place as to how much can be borrowed. Parents financial situations sometimes change, but they need to make sure they have a correct email address and contact information on file so the school department can keep in touch with them. Federal dollars cannot be used to pay off the deficit. Some schools partner with PTC's to do this. Currently, Middletown has approximately \$15,000 of unpaid lunches. How uncollectable debts are written off needs to be established by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Some school departments allow elementary and middle school students to charge a lunch, but not high school students. Committee members think that students should receive a lunch that is not so obvious that the student is receiving free lunch, i.e., a cheese sandwich. Some parents will not fill out the free and reduced lunch form, even if they qualify, because they are embarrassed to do so.

#### **LEAN TEAM**

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the establishment of a "Lean Team".* Unanimous vote.

The purpose is to look at our budget, efficiencies, and any synergy between Town and Public Works, and see if there could be any cost savings.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- Curriculum - Aquidneck School 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students entered and won a contest sponsored by the Boston Celtics/National Grid titled "How Do We Save Energy". They will be looking at a STEAM Library/Lab project. This will support furniture and refreshing lighting. The PTC and local dollars will do the shelving refresh.

There has been a switch in State Assessment for the next school year from PARCC to RICASS for grades 3-8 ELA and math. RICASS will take place in April and May and will be computer based. There will only be one testing day and one makeup day, which could pose a problem. RIDE is still determining how accommodations will work. At Middletown High School, testing will include the PSAT in grade 10 and the SAT in grade 11 and a new science assessment will be field tested in grades 5, 8, and 11. Alternate assessment system will be changed to dynamic learning maps.

- Financial - Currently, \$39 million has been expended, putting the budget at 97%. May and June are the biggest months. RIDE has released the updated funding formula

figures. Middletown has projected conservatively for health and dental. A meeting was held with the Regional Special Education Office on Monday to look at line items.

- Facilities - A list of projects and due dates were provided.

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

### **REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

Mrs. Fenton and Mrs. DiPalma attended the Annual R.I. Association of School Committees meeting where there was discussion about the rights of transgender students. There was also discussion about marijuana and how it affects children, as well as later start times for high school students. Mrs. Fenton also attended the R.I. STEAM Center Conference and the Governor's Workforce Meeting. Career pathways were discussed.

Mr. Arnold congratulated Mr. Dumais on his selection as MEC Educator of the Year.

Mr. O'Connell attended the joint Middletown/Newport musical. He said the students did a fantastic job.

### **ADJOURN FROM MEETING**

**MOTION:** 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O'Connell. *To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 5:20 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,



Rosemarie K. Kraeger  
Superintendent of Schools