

Middletown Public Schools
Middletown, Rhode Island

August 17, 2017

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

Members Present: Kellie DiPalma Simeone, Chairman
Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chairman
Douglas Arnold
William O'Connell

Member Absent: Liana Fenton

Also Present: Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools
Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent
Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager
David Fontes, Director of Facilities/Safety and Transportation,
left at 5:52 p.m.

The School Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by School Committee Chair Kellie DiPalma Simeone. All members were present with the exception of Liana Fenton. Administrative staff members present were Beth Hayes and Linda Beaupre.

MOTION: 1) William O'Connell, 2) Douglas Arnold. *To go into Executive session 42-46-5 (A) 1,2,5,8,9 regarding personnel at 5:31 p.m.* Unanimous vote.

The School Committee Meeting was reconvened at 5:28 p.m.

Mrs. Simeone announced that there was a unanimous vote to approve a separation agreement.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. *To seal the minutes of Executive Session.* Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. *To move up "Proclamations and Awards" on the agenda.* Unanimous vote.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

- Student Awards were presented in the following categories:
 - NELMS scholars
 - "Day in the Life of Gaudet Learning Academy" video
 - Newport Daily News All-County Teams

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“A Day in the Life of Gaudet Learning Academy”

A video, created by J.H. Gaudet School Learning Academy students, was presented to the School Committee. The video had been presented to 3rd grade students at 4th Grade Night and highlighted many issues, including fears that students have upon entering Middle School. The School Committee recognized the students who developed and presented the video.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O’Connell. *To move up Superintendent’s Reports – Facilities on the agenda.* Unanimous vote.

Mr. Fontes reported that many of the bond projects are underway. \$30,638 has been transferred from the Forest Avenue School boiler project to the site work project. The original budget was \$570,617. A change order was needed to fund the sewer line replacement. For the Forest Avenue boiler and HVAC projects, there were four change orders totaling \$52,667. Mr. Fontes has applied for energy initiatives from National Grid. Middletown will be receiving \$40,000 in incentives that will go directly to the contractor to reduce the costs. This will allow the replacement of all HVAC controls in the gym wing and the building will be completely upgraded. Facilities staff removed the Forest Avenue School boiler resulting in significant savings.

The budget for the Forest Avenue School flooring abatement project is \$24,750. An additional \$2,470 from the contingency fund was used to include the kitchen restroom and storage room. Facilities staff was involved in all the flooring work. A good portion was completed using overtime, which is still less costly than using a contractor.

The Facilities staff also built bookcases and performed ceiling and other support work, saving well over \$25,000. Mrs. Spengler commended the personnel and said we are very fortunate to have the talent that we do.

Paving on the Forest Avenue School lot will begin on Tuesday. Nine trees are being planted. Mrs. Simeone suggested sending a notice to parents regarding student drop-off and pick-up.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O’Connell. *To move the Action Item regarding change orders up on the agenda.* Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O’Connell. *To approve the change orders as explained by Mr. Fontes.* Unanimous vote.

The security alarm system listed in the CIP is now fully installed. The monitoring cost went from \$8,800 per year to \$1,800. The Middletown Police Department has access to the system. Other small projects in the district include the LED lighting project at the Gaudet School Main Office, the installation of dimming sensors at the Oliphant Administration stairwells, and carpet installation at the Gaudet Library.

Approximately \$1.7 million of work out of the \$10 million bond has been completed in just a few weeks. Bids will go out soon for next year’s work, which includes

windows and reconfiguration of the mail entrance at Gaudet School. Once work begins, an alternate entrance will be required at Gaudet School.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Military Impacted Schools Association position paper.
- Gaudet School Newsletter
- Donation letters
- Thank you letters from students who received scholarships.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. *To approve the Consent Agenda.*
Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Minutes
 - Minutes of May 31, 2017 Special School Committee Meeting
 - Minutes of June 5, 2017 Budget Workshop
 - Minutes of June 15, 2017 School Committee Meeting
 - Minutes of June 23, 2017 School Committee Meeting

- Approval of the following vouchers:

July 2017 Vouchers		
Voucher Num	l Date	Total
1009	7/3/2017	\$200.00
1007	7/7/2017	\$23,199.83
1006	7/7/2017	\$311,084.04
1008	7/11/2017	\$4,858.02
1010	7/14/2017	\$223,647.74
1021	7/17/2017	\$1,008.98
1029	7/20/2017	\$2,848.38
1030	7/24/2017	\$21,051.04
Total		\$587,898.03

- Approval of Vendors/Purchases over \$5,000
- Approval of raises for the following personnel categories, equal to raises granted to certified teachers:
 - Administrators

- Non-Bargaining Unit Members
- Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

RECALLS

Kelly Grenier	.6 Physical Education, Middletown High School
Brittney Schuchmann	Kindergarten, Aquidneck School
Caroline Corr	.5 Grade Six, J.H. Gaudet School
Jessica Tucker	Grade Five, J.H. Gaudet School

INVOLUNTARY TRANSFERS

Lori Call	From Grade 2, Aquidneck School to Grade 2, Forest Avenue School
Elizabeth Fenster	From Grade 4, J.H. Gaudet School to Grade 3, Forest Avenue School
Philip Statser	From Music, Middletown High School and Elementary, to shared position at Middletown High School and J.H. Gaudet School

MOST SUMMER INTERVENTION TEACHER APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE JULY 5, 2017

Brittney Schuchmann	K-3 Literacy
Debra Prentiss	K-3 Literacy
Kayla MacINtyre	K-3 Literacy
Kristin Scala	K-3 Literacy
Tara Mellow	K-3 Math
Rebecca Knudsen	K-3 Math
Jennifer Holubenko	K-3 Math
Jillian Woodward	K-3 Math
Crystal DaSilva	K-3 Math
Alison Brochu	4-6 Literacy
Dylan Tyrell	4-6 Literacy
Laurie Oliveira	4-6 Math
Linda Leonard	4-6 Math
Olivia Chaves	7-12 Literacy
Casey Wright	7-12 Math

COACHING APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE AUGUST 10, 2017

Arthur Bell	Head Varsity Football
John Horsman	Assistant Varsity Football
Matt Kestler	Head Jr. Varsity Football
Luis Oliveira	Boys' Varsity Soccer

Thomas Conrad Boys' Jr. Varsity Football

COACHING APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE AUGUST 21, 2017

Marc Haskell	Girls' Varsity Soccer
Jeff Boldt	Girls' Jr. Varsity Soccer
Claire Baggeson	Head Varsity Volleyball
Marianne Packer	Tennis
Jennifer Mahoney	Cheerleading

COACHING APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE AUGUST 28, 2017

Paula Guarino	6/7/8 th Grade Boys' & Girls' Cross Country
Christos Agoros	Girls' 6/7/8 th Grade Girls' Soccer

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE AUGUST 28, 2017

Timothy Sullivan Full-Time Custodian, 2nd Shift

APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

Sandra Shaw	4 French Teacher, Middletown High School (One Year Only)
Caitlin Coyne	Grade Four Lead Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School
Dena Dynan	Elementary Spanish Teacher (Pending Certification)
Brittany White	.8 Spanish Teacher, Middletown High School
Tess Brantingham	4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Forest Avenue School (One Year Only)
Nancy Champagne	3-Hour Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School (Pending Completion of Training)
Sarah DeVito	School Library/Makerspace Specialist
Nathan Dinez	Full-Time Custodian, 2 nd Shift

TRANSFERS EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

Amy Kalif	From .8 Spanish, Middletown High School, to Full-Time Spanish, Middletown High School
Jennifer Grant	From Library Media Specialist to School Library Media/Makerspace Specialist

REASSIGNMENT EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

Lisa Moore From Middletown High School to Aquidneck School

APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

Dr. Hakan Durudogan	School Dentist
Dr. Martha Ullman	School Physician

RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT EFFECTIVE JULY 24, 2017

Susan O'Connor Grade One, Aquidneck School

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE AUGUST 8, 2017

Lindsey Bucci 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE AUGUST 24, 2017

Andrew Longo Assistant Principal, Middletown High school

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 8, 2017

Devin Geer Lead Night Custodian and Middletown High School

NEW BUSINESS

- Enrollment/Staffing Updates – Mrs. Kraeger reported that Kindergarten enrollment is being closely monitored and all classes are close to cap. A Grade One classroom has been closed at Aquidneck School, a Grade Two and a Grade Three at Forest Avenue School were opened, and a Grade Four at Gaudet School was closed. Enrollment is consistent with last year.

As a result of budget reductions, the following positions have been reduced; one custodian, two teacher assistants, and the Gaudet School Dean. The Student Assistance Counselor at Gaudet School will not be increased to full-time. Recalled teachers include Grade 5, Kindergarten, .5 Grade 6, .6 PE/Health and .4 College and Career Readiness.

- Charter Changes – Mrs. Kraeger met with Christopher Semonelli from the Charter Review Committee. They discussed Article VIII, Section 803, “Filling Vacancies”. It was suggested that in the event of a School Committee vacancy, a subcommittee made up of two Town Council members and two School Committee members receive applications, interview, then recommend a candidate to the Town Council.

OLD BUSINESS

No “Old Business” for August 17, 2017.

ACTION ITEMS

SURPLUS VEHICLE

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Douglas Arnold. *That the School Committee approve the surplus of the 2002 Ford E250 van.* Unanimous vote.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN MPS AND MPD

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Douglas Arnold. *That the School Committee approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Middletown Public Schools and the Middletown Police Department.* Unanimous vote.

MIDDLETOWN PREVENTION COALITION STUDENT SURVEY

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Douglas Arnold. *That the School Committee approve the RISS Survey.*

Coalitions have been tasked with being the liaison between the Department of Behavioral Healthcare Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals and the school department. This has been approved and recommended by the R.I. Department of Education and will be administered January through March in grades 7-12. Schools receive a \$500 incentive for completing the survey. Questions fall under the categories of “Drugs and Alcohol”, “Bullying”, “Violence”, and “Behavioral Health”. The survey is confidential, anonymous, and

voluntary. It takes approximately 16 minutes for High School and 22 minutes for Middle School students to complete. Mr. O'Connell stated that he is against questions 3 and 4 regarding gender.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. *That the School Committee approve the 2018 Rhode Island Student Survey.* Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. *To approve the survey with corrections.* Unanimous vote.

CHEMICAL HEALTH AND STUDENT SAFETY POLICY REVISIONS

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. *That the School Committee approve the revisions to the Chemical Health and Student Safety Policy.* Unanimous vote.

The name of the policy was changed to "Substance Use and Student Wellness". There was conversation regarding the "Philosophy" section. This will be kept the same, except for the addition of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS). It will be reviewed more with coaches and advisors.

Ms. Abromitis said that we need to be more specific on activities. Are scrimmages considered games and not a practice? How many times does a student need to meet with the Student Assistance Counselor when there is a violation? There will be more information available to students this year regarding stress management, nutrition, and sleep.

Regarding infractions, Mrs. Spengler commented that there is a different level of maturity between a freshman and a senior.

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Douglas Arnold. *That the School Committee approve the request from AFSCME, Council 94, Local 1823 to begin contract negotiations.* Motion passed 3 to 1

YEA

Kellie Simeone
Theresa Spengler
Douglas Arnold

NAY

William O'Connell

FOOD SERVICE CONTRACT

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. *That the School Committee award the Food Service Contract for the 2017-2018 School Year to Chartwells.* Unanimous vote.

The contract is currently in year four of five and needs to be reviewed and approved annually.

SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA/MAKERSPACE SPECIALIST JOB DESCRIPTION, 1ST READING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. *That the School Committee approve the School Library Media/Makerspace Specialist Job Description, 1st Reading.* Unanimous vote.

Historically there have been traditional librarians in the schools. This year, a STEM teacher was added to the budget. Administration worked with the librarians to merge the two positions into two Librarian/STEM positions (Makerspace). Three of the days would be devoted to STEM and Makerspace, with the other 2 days being traditional library work. This position bridges the traditional librarian with STEM. Mr. Arnold welcomed the new positions, but said that Gaudet School is still lacking. Mrs. Savastano said that this is a step to get us where we need to be.

DATA ANALYST JOB DESCRIPTION, 1ST READING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. *That the School Committee approve the Data Analyst Job Description, 1st Reading.* Unanimous vote.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Curriculum – Mrs. Savastano reported that the STEM position came to fruition from the meetings with the elementary planning time group. The group shared areas in the curriculum that they thought would be exciting for students. Grades K-3 will all receive Spanish instruction 1 out of 6 days, and Grade 4 will have French 1 out of 6 days. Grade 5 will have French 2 out of 6 days for a trimester. Grade 6 and 7 have Spanish 2 out of 6 days for a trimester. In grade 8, student select Spanish or French and will have class every day for the school year. This counts as a Level I course.
- Financial – The Rhode Island Department of Education has released the updated funding formula schedule. There is no change for Middletown. The five-year forecast was released yesterday and will be available at the next School Committee Meeting. Middletown filed a preliminary report for FY 16/17 under the Regulations of Transparency Law. Comments and feedback are given. Middletown ended the year with a fund balance of \$9.8M, of which \$9.6M is the net difference of the recognition of the bond revenue of \$10M and the remaining is a combination of private donations and general fund excess revenue (Impact Aid/Medicaid). The regular annual payment was received on June 30th. We are waiting on the final numbers for transportation.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

- Opening Day will be on September 5, 2017. All School Committee Members are invited.
- On September 12, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. there will be a Special School Committee Meeting to discuss the Regional Special Education Report.
- The next Regular School Committee Meeting will be on September 21, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. *To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 7:25 p.m. Unanimous vote.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger
Superintendent of Schools