

Middletown Public Schools
Middletown, Rhode Island

September 21, 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 5:30 p.m. by School Committee Chair Kellie DiPalma Simeone. All members were present. Administrative staff members present were Gail Ponte, Dennis Soares, Michelle Fonseca, and Linda Beaupre.

Reconsider vote taken at previous meeting – Mr. O'Connell would like the School Committee to reconsider participation in the 2018 Rhode Island Student Survey that will be administered to students in grades 7-12 during January, February, and March. Mr. O'Connell's feels that the nature of the questions are very personal.

Mrs. Spengler agrees with Mr. O'Connell on some aspects, but also feels that some questions are appropriate. She feels we need to have a policy in place and also look at the questions in the future. The majority of the questions are critical in determining where our students are in regards to substance abuse.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Project Search”

Project Search is instrumental in helping students in the Special Education Program attain real world experiences to secure and maintain a job. Students are accepted for one year. Each intern will complete three different work rotations. There are currently three programs in Rhode Island; Newport Hospital, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Miriam Hospital. This is a true collaboration between so many organizations to guide employment. The goal is employment and independence and students have a portfolio when they complete the program.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

- Ocean State Transportation – Mrs. Kraeger introduced Margie Rigo and Terry Deveau from Ocean State Transportation. They were recognized for their work in what was one of the most seamless school openings that we have had. Mrs. Kraeger said they were particularly great with their response to parents and staff. Ms. Rigo and Ms. Deveau were formerly in East Providence.
- Lucy’s Hearth – Ms. Jennifer Berrera, Program Director at Lucy’s Hearth, was recognized for her work with homeless students and mothers. Lucy’s Hearth has been in Middletown for 35 years. Located in the new building is an area where children go to receive help with homework and other academic needs.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Student Government President Julia Psaras and Vice-President Teddy Thibeault gave an overview of the activities planned for this school year. Activities are centered around “Unity” and include the following:

October – Spirit Week, Pep Rally, Homecoming, PSAT Community Service Day

November – Food Drive, Volunteering, Student ID’s

December – Adopt-A-Family, Coat and Mitten Drive, Movie Nights

Mrs. Spengler suggested asking the Town to support transportation to the beach or wherever students will be volunteering because transportation is costly. Mrs. Fenton suggested talking to the bus company to see if they can assist with bussing.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Newport Daily News coverage of Ramon’s Retreat
- Letter regarding Impact Aid prior year payment
- Information from Career Tech District Meeting at Rogers High School on September 13th
- Donation letters

Mrs. Spengler mentioned the Aquidneck School Library that has been transformed into a library/STEM lab, with the help of grant money. Only one school in Rhode Island and one in Massachusetts received the grant. The President of National Grid and Celtics players were in attendance at the opening.

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 Vouchers
August Voucher Summary

Voucher #	Date	Status	Total
1032	8/2/2017	Posted to G/L	\$23,301.72
1031	8/2/2017	Posted to G/L	\$305,672.32
1028	8/2/2017	Posted to G/L	\$314,452.35
1033	8/4/2017	Posted to G/L	\$4,846.52
1034	8/11/2017	Posted to G/L	\$262,407.57
1041	8/18/2017	Posted to G/L	\$20,477.08
		Total	\$931,157.56

- Approval of Vendors/Purchases over \$5,000
- Approval of Quarterly Report
- Approval of Minutes
 - Minutes of August 17, 2017 School Committee Meeting and Executive Session
- Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel
 - Appointments
 - Resignation
 - Transfers
 - Correction
 - Contract

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

Brittany Burgess	Grade 5 Math & Science, J.H. Gaudet School
Callie Jackson	Grade 6 Long-Term Substitute, J.H. Gaudet School
Taylor O'Connor	Kindergarten, Aquidneck School
Kayla MacIntyre	.5 Kindergarten (One Year Only), Forest Avenue School
Julia Casberg	Grade 8 English Language Arts, J.H. Gaudet School

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

Star Sanchez	Bus Monitor
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APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 22, 2017

Dennis Soares	Assistant Principal, Middletown High School
Bonnie Sieben (Pending Certification)	3-Hour Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

Caroline McNamara .8 Spanish, Middletown High School

TRANSFER EFFECTIVE AUGUST 20, 2017

Karen Potter From District/School Office Support Personnel, Oliphant Administration, to J.H. Gaudet School

TRANSFER EFFECTIVE AUGUST 28, 2017

David Beebe Custodian, Oliphant Administration, to
Day/Lead Custodian, Aquidneck School
Richard Ford Custodian, J.H. Gaudet School, to
Custodian, Oliphant Administration

TRANSFER EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

Sonya Silvia From Data Support Assistant, J.H. Gaudet School, to
Data Support Teacher Assistant, Middletown High School

COACHING APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 22, 2017

Frank Wiley Freshman Football
Ryan Flick Assistant JV Football
Blair Alexander 6/7/8th Grade Boys' Soccer

CORRECTION

Thomas Conrad From JV Football Coach, to Boys' JV Soccer Coach

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE AUGUST 21, 2017

Nancy Champagne 3-Hour Teacher Assistant, Forest Avenue School
Susan Linde Grade 5 Math & Science, J.H. Gaudet School

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

Grainne Phelps Math, Middletown High School

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

John Milliken Bus Monitor

OLD BUSINESS

- Enrollment/Staffing Update – A Grade 1 and 2 at Aquidneck School were eliminated. A Kindergarten class was opened at Aquidneck School. A Grade 4 classroom at the Gaudet Learning Academy was eliminated. A Grade 2 and 3 were added at Forest Avenue School.

Staffing Needs – A Dean of Students at Gaudet School is needed. All line items are being looked at to see if it is feasible.

- Charter Review Committee – Mrs. Simeone would like all members of the committee to review Article VIII of the Town Charter to see if there are any revisions that they would like made, especially in Section 803 “Filling Vacancies”.

NEW BUSINESS

- Lean Team Classroom Redesign Plan – Mr. Fontes reported that two teams will be created; one for high school and one for elementary and middle. Students will be included at the secondary level. Teams will include teachers and administrators. The kick-off meeting will take place in October and there will be meetings in November and December, with a report to the School Committee in January. Furniture is part of the Capital Improvement Plan. The Learning Center at Forest Avenue and the Library at Gaudet School are examples of this.
- Impact Fees – New legislation has been passed regarding calculating Impact Fees. In order for a community to continue to collect, there needs to be a needs assessment every five years. Middletown would like to participate in an assessment. Middletown has not seen an increase in enrollment so we would need to make a case for it. Another NESDEC enrollment student should be completed.
- Shared Departments with Town (Finance and Facilities) – Mrs. Kraeger has met with the Town Administrator regarding this and it has been put on the docket by a Town Council Member. A meeting has been scheduled to see if there are any options for synergy. Mrs. Kraeger has spoken with other districts who have shared departments and has found that there are no significant savings, but efficiencies were found.

ACTION ITEMS

504 POLICY, 1st READING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the 504 Policy, 1st Reading.* Unanimous vote.

Middletown has always had a policy, but the new policy will have updated forms which have been reviewed by the School Department’s Attorney.

SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA/MAKERSPACE SPECIALIST JOB DESCRIPTION, 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the School Library Media/Makerspace Specialist Job Description, 2nd Reading.* Unanimous vote.

DATA ANALYST JOB DESCRIPTION, 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the Data Analyst Job Description, 2nd Reading.* Unanimous vote.

BID AWARD - MHS WATER METER AND BACK FLOW

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee award the MHS Water Meter and Back Flow Bid to Arden Engineering.* Unanimous vote.

BID AWARD - ARCHITECTURE/ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR BOND PROJECTS

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee award the Architecture/Engineering Services for Bond Projects Bid to Torrado Architects.* Unanimous vote.

The low bid was disqualified. Torrado Architects was the next lowest bid.

CELL TOWER CONTRACT EXTENSION

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the Cell Tower Contract Extension.* Unanimous vote.

CONTRACT CONTINUATION RESOLUTION

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve sending a letter to State Senators and Representatives to not override the Governor's veto of H5593, mandating that, "All contractual provisions contained in a collective bargaining agreement, entered into pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, shall continue until such time as a successor agreement has been reached between the parties."* Unanimous vote.

BUDGET TRANSFERS

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the 2017 budget transfers, as discussed.* Unanimous vote.

Ms. Pellerin reported that the Fiscal Year 2016/17 Final General Fund Line Item adjustment was presented with no change to revenue. The adjustment included changes with salary/benefits, supplies, purchase services, and other educational costs.

The Fiscal Year 2016/17 final revenue changes were also presented. These adjustments decreased the budget by \$502,374. The majority of the decrease was due to the adjustment of approved grants to actual expenditures. Other adjustments included

decreasing the use of fund balance within the general fund, reduction in school lunch program based on actual revenue, and adjustments to capital to recognize the full value

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of the capital bond. Prior approved FY 2017/18 revenue adjustments were also reviewed and will be presented to the Town Council at the October 2, 2017 meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Curriculum – Mrs. Savastano reported that there has been a significant increase in Math scores in grade 3 at Aquidneck and Forest Avenue Schools. Grade 8 Math also had a significant increase and grade 8 Algebra continues to set the bar very high with 100% proficiency. The State average is 63%. There has been a 10 to 15% increase in ELA scores in Grades 3,5,6, and 8.

Middletown will be transitioning from PARCC to RICAS (Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System) testing.

Professional Development Day is September 29th. The primary focus of the day will be to provide time to work with PLC teams. PLC agenda's will be submitted to building principal prior to the date. Optional workshops will be offered and are based on survey feedback from June 2017. Workshops include CPR, One Note, Flip Grid, and Compass Learning. The School Committee is welcome to stop by any session.

The October 27th Professional Development Day is supported by the van Buren Foundation. This will take place at Kickimuit Middle School. There will be over 70 sessions offered, most presented by Middletown or Bristol staff.

Teacher Evaluation – During the 2017-18 school year, teachers will be given the option to participate in a pilot that would change the way evaluation is conducted. An embedded practice model would use ongoing data discussion to look for progress with their students. This is optional for teachers.

- Financial – In the past when the five-year forecast was brought forward, it was approved by the School Committee, then the Town Council, then was sent to the State. Now, administration prepares the report, the Town prepares theirs and is then forwarded to the state with documentations.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To extend the School Committee Meeting.*
Unanimous vote.

- Facilities – Mr. Fontes reported that the R.I. Department of Education has held technical briefings and he has attended one at South Kingstown High School. Their recommendations are on the RIDE website. A task force has been put together by the Governor. Some of the recommendations submitted are to change the funding ratio from 35% to 30%. Middletown Schools listed \$38M in deficiencies, but \$10M are bond

items. The report highlighted districts that have safety issues and are not conducive to learning.

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Boiler work at Forest Avenue School is 99% complete. Some of the funds from the project were transferred to the storm water mitigation site work. Middletown Facilities staff completed some of the work, which saved money for the district. Installation of bookcases and flooring work at the Aquidneck School Makerspace Room were also completed by Middletown staff. The LED lighting project cost \$5,500, but was mostly paid for by rebates.

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 attended a meeting with Ed Gerety who spoke about leadership and goals. He will be giving another presentation at the middle school. Mrs. Fenton mentioned that "Leaders Guide to Problem-Solving" is a great read and would be willing to purchase it for principal if they are interested.
- Mrs. Simeone shared that Middletown was one of only 7 School Committees in the state that completed the 7 hours of Professional Development.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 7:49 p.m.* Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger
Superintendent of Schools