

Middletown Public Schools
Middletown, Rhode Island

November 16, 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 4:30 p.m. by School Committee Chair Kellie DiPalma Simeone. All members were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To go into Executive Session 42-46-5 (a) 1,2,5,8,9 regarding grievance hearing and negotiations.* Unanimous vote.

The meeting reconvened to open session at 5:35 p.m. Administrative staff members present were Gail Ponte, Dennis Soares, Beth Hayes, Donna Chelf, Linda Beaupre, Michelle Fonseca, and Stephen Ponte.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To seal minutes of Executive Session.* Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To deny the grievance, but ask the Superintendent to monitor the situation.* Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To move up Proclamations and Awards on the agenda.* Unanimous vote.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

- Student Awards
- Champions for Children - Principals Michelle Fonseca and Stephen Ponte introduced members of their PTG's and thanked them for all their hard work organizing the activities that raise funds to provide extra programs to the students of the school.

A short recess was taken.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“World Language K-12”

Assistant Superintendent Linda Savastano introduced the members of the World Language Department. This is the first year that all students in grades K-12 receive foreign language instruction. Students in grades K-3 learn Spanish, students in grades 4-5 learn French, students in grades 6-7 learn Spanish, and students in grade 8 choose either French or Spanish. When students reach the high school level, they choose either French or Spanish. The courses offered at the high school are Level 1, 2, 3, 4, and AP. In grades 6 and 7, students receive 20 hours of instruction in one trimester and concentrate on culture. One of the strengths of the department is a strong vertical alignment with the middle school. Teachers collaborate on curriculum, professional development, and have ongoing communication. The annual International Festival is held the Thursday before April vacation. Teacher Kristen Lyon works with the Spanish Honor Society and she will also continue the Escuelita Program.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

No “Student Government” for November 16, 2017.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Gaudet School Newsletter
- Sports Award Night Booklet
- Letter from Town Clerk regarding using Middletown school building for elections in 2018
- Letter from NAFIS regarding conference attended by Mrs. Kraeger
- Memo from the Class of 2017 donating funds for the purchase of two water bottle filling stations and a matt for the lobby at Middletown High School.
- Lunch N Learn Wednesdays in November.

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for November 16, 2017.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of Vouchers

October Vouchers

Voucher Number	Date	Total
1068	10/2/2017	\$4,896.66
1070	10/3/2017	\$22,388.85
1069	10/3/2017	\$294,864.00
1072	10/5/2017	\$117,129.58
1071	10/5/2017	\$4,912.84
1092	10/16/2017	\$97.22
1082	10/17/2017	\$244,762.88
1083	10/24/2017	\$353,961.66
1091	10/31/2017	\$727.87
Total		\$1,043,741.56

- Approval of Vendors/Purchases over \$5,000
- Approval of Minutes
 - Minutes of October 19, 2107 School Committee Meeting
 - Minutes of October 19, 2017 Executive Session

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 17, 2017

Ellen Will Chemistry, Long-Term Substitute, Middletown High School

WINTER COACHING APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 17, 2017

Michael Yates	Head Varsity Girls’ Basketball
Jen Mahoney	Cheerleading (Winter)
Shannon Farrell	Varsity Gymnastics
Chris Winnes	MHS Co-Op Head Hockey
Rebecca Duggan	Coed Varsity Swim
Rick Francis	Varsity Wrestling
Raleigh Brennan	Boys’ Assistant Varsity Basketball
William Waterman	Girls’ Assistant Varsity Basketball
Tim Brown	Boys’ 6/7/8 th Grade Basketball
Randy Butler	Girls’ 6/7/8 th Grade Basketball

APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2017

Angela Nunes Dean, J.H. Gaudet School
Harry Clancey Dean, Middletown High School

**GRADE 9-12 AFTER SCHOOL INTERVENTION TEACHER (LITERACY)
APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 28, 2017**

Luis Oliveira
Michele Smith
Gail Sullivan-McCune
Samantha Hines
David Fontaine
Juhn Cunic

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 17, 2017

Emily Lipinski Junior Varsity Volleyball Coach

**RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1,
2017**

Cheryl Franklin District/School Data Support Personnel B

OLD BUSINESS

- Budget FY 2018-19 – Budget development is beginning early. A draft calendar has been developed. The School Department would like to be more transparent. Mrs. Kraeger, Mrs. Savastano, and Ms. Pellerin will attend a workshop on “Smarter School Spending” hosted by RIASBO and RISSA on December 15.

NEW BUSINESS

- Career Pathways – Ms. Linda Larsen from SENEDIA (Southeastern New England Defense Industry Alliance) spoke about careers in cybersecurity. The Mission of SENEDIA is to enable, facilitate, and foster the future workforce. The defense industry is a large economic driver for the State of Rhode Island, with over 30,000 jobs. It supports the defense cluster with awareness and education, workforce development, and economic development. SENEDIA is involved in many educational initiatives including Career and Technical Education Program Advisory, The Jason Project, Cybersecurity Teacher Professional Development, PLTW Industry Partner, and RI Women in Science and Engineering, among others. They are preparing students for the future workforce.
- MHS Program of Studies –

MHS PROGRAM OF STUDIES

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee table the vote on the MHS Program of Studies.* Unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS

J.H.G. GREEN TEAM ADVISOR JOB DESCRIPTION – 1ST READING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the J.H.G. Green Team Advisory Job Description – 1st Reading.* Unanimous vote.

GAUDET BUDDIES ADVISOR JOB DESCRIPTION – 1ST READING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the Gaudet Buddies Advisor Job Description – 1st Reading.* Unanimous vote.

DEAN OF STUDENTS – HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL JOB DESCRIPTION, 2ND READING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the Dean of Students – High School and Middle School Job Description, 2nd Reading.* Unanimous vote.

FUNDRAISING AND FLYER DISTRIBUTION POLICY REVISION

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the Fundraising and Flyer Distribution Policy Revision.* Unanimous vote.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES/FUNDRAISING POLICY REVISION

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the Student Activities/Fundraising Policy Revision. Unanimous vote.*

There were no changes to the contents of the policy. The only revision was to name Fundraising and Flyer Distribution #1326A and Student Activities and Fundraising #1326B.

2017-2018 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the 2017-2018 Budget Amendments. Unanimous vote.*

Ms. Pellerin reported that to meet our policy, FY18 line item adjustments need to be made. At the December School Committee Meeting, revenue amendments will be reviewed.

The following amendments were made to the General Fund:

- Adjustments to special education tuition and services line items
- Adjustments between other salary and stipend line items with benefits
- Adjustments to retiree medical to OPEB payment
- Adjustments between operations and professional services line items

The following amendments were made to Capital-Bond Projects:

- Moved from higher level land improvement line items to more detailed line items

The following Capital-School Funded amendments were made:

- Adjustment from hardware to instructional supplies and operation services

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 17-18-02, 17-18-03, 17-18-04, 17-18-05, 17-18-06, and 17-18-07. Unanimous vote.*

NEGOTIATIONS

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve commencing negotiations with NEAM for a successor agreement to the current contract, which expires on August 31, 2018. Unanimous vote.*

The communication was received at the October School Committee Meeting.

FACILITIES UNIFORM BID AWARD

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee award the Facilities Uniform Bid award to Freeman Graves & Sons. Unanimous vote.*

DUMP TRUCK BODY BID AWARD

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee table the Dump Truck Body Bid. Unanimous vote.*

One bid was received, but it was late. This item will go before the School Committee in December.

FACILITIES TRANSIT VAN BID AWARD

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee award the Facilities Transit Van Bid award to Carhartt.* Unanimous vote.

MOTION TO AMEND THE FACILITIES TRANSIT VAN BID AWARD

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee amend the Facilities Transit Van Bid Award and award the bid to First Ford.* Unanimous vote.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Curriculum – Mrs. Savastano reported on testing data. Boys are not scoring as well as girls. There continues to be gaps with special education students. This was the last year using PARCC for student assessment. In the spring, Middletown will be working in RICASS for assessment in grades 3-8. High school students will be assessed using the PSAT in grade 10 and the SAT in grade 11. There will be one day in April when students can take the PSAT and SAT. The testing will be paid for by the state.

On October 27, Digital Learning Day was held at Kickemuit Middle School in Warren for Middletown and Bristol/Warren teachers. Mrs. Savastano received excellent feedback from the very successful day. Mrs. Savastano thanked Mrs. Fenton and Mr. Arnold for attending.

- Financial – Ms. Pellerin reported that the Business Office is finishing up the annual audit and will be starting the single audit and the administrative review of the school lunch program. The new audit uses the agreed upon procedures for State transparency. The first statewide transparency report will be submitted in January, around the same time the Governor will release the transparency portal. Open Government is utilizing a new budgeting tool town-wide. A team from Open Government will be on site Monday and Tuesday.
- Facilities – Mr. Fontes provided an update on facilities projects. At Forest Avenue School, the boiler and HVAC projects were completed last month. The storm water mitigation is working well, especially after recent heavy rains. The roof projects at Middletown High School and Aquidneck School are complete. A stakeholder meeting was held with Gaudet and Aquidneck school staff regarding the 2019 bond projects. Another meeting will be held next week. Projects will be reviewed then will go before RIDE to get approval for schematics. The Lean Classroom Redesign Team Meeting went well. Budget numbers were developed. Work to pilot this program in ten classrooms will be put into the CIP.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

- Mrs. Spengler and Mrs. Fenton attended the MIC3 Opening Reception in Providence on October 25th.
- Mrs. Fenton will be attending a State Career Tech Meeting on November 17th.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 7:30 p.m.* Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rosemarie K. Kraeger
Superintendent of Schools