

Middletown Public Schools  
Middletown, Rhode Island

January 25, 2018

**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 Budget Workshop was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by School Committee Chair Kellie DiPalma Simeone. All members were present. Administrative staff members present were Dennis Soares, Donna Chelf, Beth Hayes, and Gail Ponte. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

- Review CIP - At the last meeting, the School Committee approved the Capital Improvement Plan. It is a work in progress while the joint Town/School projects with Jacobs are being reviewed.
- Funding Formula Update - Ms. Pellerin reported one group home has closed, resulting in a \$138K loss of revenue due to losing 8 beds. Middletown is also losing \$240K in State Aid. Part of the Funding Formula is based on enrollment. Based on the average daily membership of last year, we anticipate losing \$20K more.
- Review Benefits - Ms. Pellerin has spoken to the Town Finance Director regarding health and dental benefits. The Town and School Department are going forward with a 7% increase in health and a 5% increase in dental. The Employee Retirement System has a projected increase in pension costs of .21% for certified staff and .73% for non-certified staff. This is a statewide increase. The "Other Post Employment Benefits" increase is .47%. This covers healthcare for retirees.
- Review Staffing - 24% of certified staff are moving up one step. 14% of custodial staff are moving up, and 25% of non-certified staff are moving up. Three additional holidays will be paid for teacher assistants as of the last day of this school year (effective 18-19 school year).

The total increased Expenses/Compensation is \$580K due to increase in required steps, prior contractual agreements, and an increase in health/dental.

Next Steps - The Capital Improvement Plan is pending final approval of the Town Administrator. At the February 8, 2018 Budget Workshop, there will be a presentation by

Sarah Kraeger, Director of Special Education, and Assistant Superintendent Linda Savastano will report on Teaching and Learning.

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To adjourn from the Budget Workshop at 5:00 p.m.* Unanimous Vote.

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Administrative staff members present were Dennis Soares, Beth Hayes, Donna Chelf, Gail Ponte, and Steve Ponte. Mrs. Simeone thanked all who participated in the Commissioner's Visit at the high school.

### **PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS**

- Project Purple – Hannah Gibbison and Carolyn Craft, MHS Seniors and members of Islanders Committed, read the Project Purple Proclamation. They will attend the March 15<sup>th</sup> School Committee Meeting to report on the Project Purple events. Purple ribbons were passed out to School Committee Members.

### **SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING**

#### *“College and Career Readiness”*

College and Career Readiness Director John Cunic reported to the Committee on about the duties that are performed and the resources available to students for college, testing, and choosing college majors. Mr. Cunic meets with students one on one to complete their essay. Evening workshops are held with the R.I. College Planning Center regarding financial aid and the FAFSA. Transportation to some events is provided by MEC grants. Over \$55,000 has been awarded to Middletown High School students. Scholarship Day is April 18<sup>th</sup>. Letter writing seminars were conducted to help with recommendation letters.

There was discussion about following students after graduation and exit surveys.

### **STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

No “Student Government” for January 25, 2018.

### **INFORMATION**

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- High School Art Show January 26-27 at DeBlois Gallery in Newport
- Notification of Homeless Grant Award which will be used to support homeless students with after school programs, summer programs, credit recovery, and

transportation to these programs. This is also for students who are homeless in Middletown who are living in another district. Middletown pays for 50% of the transportation costs so students can remain in Middletown schools.

- Middletown Wellness Committee Minutes – Mr. Ponte reported that Aquidneck School has launched a recycling program and Forest Avenue School has gone to three lunches and two recesses. At Gaudet School, Chartwell’s employees met with students to discuss food items and MHS got rave reviews on their diverse menu items. Emails go out weekly from Chartwell’s to parents to remind them about low balances, which has resulted in fewer students with no funds in their accounts. Mr. Ponte also reported that students no longer receive just a cheese sandwich when their lunch account has reached zero funds. Mrs. Spengler complimented the district and said it is setting a precedent on how to handle this. The next meeting will be on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.
- Donation letters.

### CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for January 25, 2018.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Ronald Heroux spoke about the Gaudet Library and the need for certified staff. He complimented the Aquidneck School MakerSpace lab and the hiring of the two MakerSpace positions.

### CONSENT AGENDA

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

Voucher Number	Date	Status	Total
1140	12/5/2017	Posted to G/L	\$15.00
1119	12/5/2017	Posted to G/L	\$308,861.84
1128	12/7/2017	Posted to G/L	\$331,131.64
1141	12/13/2017	Posted to G/L	\$30.00
1130	12/20/2017	Posted to G/L	\$330,706.27
1139	12/28/2017	Posted to G/L	\$401,382.65
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			\$1,372,127.40

- Approval of Vendors/Purchases over \$5,000
- Approval of Minutes
  - Minutes of December 14, 2017 School Committee Meeting
  - Minutes of January 9, 2018 Budget Workshop
  - Minutes of January 9, 2018 Executive Session

**SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL**

**APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE JANUARY 26, 2018**

Anne Coogan	MOST Grade K-3 After School Intervention Teacher - Literacy
Bobbie Nicol	4-Hour Teacher Assistant, J.H. Gaudet School
Marilyn Lopez	Bus Monitor (as needed)
Misty Parra	Bus Monitor

**APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 8, 2018**

Kathy Donato	Data Support Teacher Assistant, J.H. Gaudet School
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**ADVISOR APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE JANUARY 26, 2018**

Ron Dumais	J.H. Gaudet School Computer Club Advisor
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**RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2, 2018**

Lindsey Pribula	Bus Monitor
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**RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT EFFECTIVE THE END OF THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR**

Margaret Pereira	Grade Four Teacher, J.H. Gaudet Learning Academy
Mary Sizeland	Business Teacher, Middletown High School
Meredith Frederick	Art Teacher, Middletown High School
Stephen Fagan	Math Teacher, Middletown High School
Emily Silvia	Grade One Teacher, Forest Avenue School

**RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT EFFECTIVE JUNE 29, 2018**

Elizabeth Gill	Technology Specialist
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**RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2018**

Karen Sheely	Data Support Personnel
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## OLD BUSINESS

No "Old Business" for January 25, 2018.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **MHS Program of Studies** - Principal Gail Ponte introduced Mr. Chris Richards, Director of Humanities. There are no new courses this year in Humanities. The department is looking for ways to gear up for the SAT and PSAT prep. The Capstone process is being reviewed. Mrs. Spengler commented on Grade 8 night at MHS and the enthusiasm of what is being offered. The PSAT and the SAT are on the same day in April. Last year was the first year that the State paid for the testing.

Mr. Kevin Zahm, Director of Science, Math, and Physical Education, said there are no new courses. There are no plans to change science courses. Mr. Zahm, Mrs. Savastano, and Mr. Soares will attend a RIDE workshop on Wednesday about the new assessment. There are no plans to change the PE and Health offerings. The Fitness Center is being updated.

Mr. Luis Oliveira, Director of Unified Arts, said that changes to the Program of Studies include name changes; Woodworking is now Manufacturing. In Music, Intro to Guitar and Other Strummed Instruments was changed back to Guitar 1. Percussion is now World Percussion. There were no changes to Visual Arts.

In World Language, it is being requested to add French 5. The Department is trying to build up the French program. There are students that are able to take a Level 5 language, but are not interested in an AP course.

Future Project Lead the Way course offerings include Civil Engineering & Architecture, Computer Science Essentials, and Cybersecurity. These are all one-year courses.

- **MHS Graduation** - Academic requirements remained the same, with the exception that students are now required to take a half-year technology course. Electives are now called Personalized Learning Courses. Assistant Principal Dennis Smith said that all graduating students must complete 20 hours of community service and all students will complete a Capstone Project, which will be done during their senior year. Another requirement for graduation will be the completion of an electronic portfolio and an ILP (Individualized Learning Plan). Mrs. Ponte said she is hoping to obtain a new system called Naviance that will house the ILP and tracks the student after graduation.

Beginning with the Class of 2021, three Council Designations will be available for students to earn, validating achievements. The three designations are:

- Commissioner's Seal Council Designation certifying that a student is proficient in the standards aligned to high school expectations in ELA and Math.
- Seal of Biliteracy Council Designation certifies that a student has demonstrated skill in the use of the English language and one or more other world languages.
- Pathway Endorsement Council Designation certified that a student has accomplished deep learning in a chosen area of interest and is prepared for employment or further education in a career path.

All pathways require an internship, advanced coursework, and a proficiency-based graduation requirement aligned to the pathway. There is a Transitional Experiential Pathway for students with IEP. This pathway needs to be selected by the end of the sophomore year and 22 credits need to be completed. Other requirements are to complete a transition plan, internship and Capstone Project, and state assessments.

Reference to MIC3 (Military Interstate Compact) was added.

- **Strategic Plan** – Mrs. Kraeger said that Middletown is due for a new Strategic Plan. She is working on getting a facilitator to look at our current Strategic Plan and move forward with a new one.

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O’Connell. *To move up the Action Item for the custodian contract.* Unanimous vote.

#### **CUSTODIAN CONTRACT**

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the R.I. Council 94, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, Local 1823 Contract effective July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021.* Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Kraeger said that they worked informally with the negotiating team and settled a fair contract. The average increase is 2% each year for the length of the contract. A Fiscal Impact Statement will be provided to the Town Council and Public. The Town Council still needs to ratify the contract. Mrs. Simeone thanked all and said it is a fair contract.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **COORDINATOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES JOB DESCRIPTION – 2<sup>nd</sup> READING**

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O’Connell. *That the School Committee approve the Coordinator of Human Resources Job Description – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading.* Unanimous vote.

#### **LED LIGHTING PROJECT BID AWARD**

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee award the LED Lighting Project Bid to C&K Electric Company.* Unanimous vote.

The bid price is \$28,175, \$50,260 less the National Grid incentive of \$22,085. This is for Aquidneck School.

#### **MHS PROGRAM OF STUDIES**

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

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS 2018 - 1<sup>ST</sup> READING**

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the High School Graduation Requirements 2018 Policy – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.* Unanimous vote.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- Curriculum – Mrs. Savastano said that there have been a lot of changes to State assessments. Both the PSAT and the SAT will be administered on April 10<sup>th</sup>. The new science assessment for grades 5, 8, and 11 will be administered between May and June. RICASS for grades 3-8 will replace PARCC. All of the assessment will be completed online. We are currently in the middle of the WIDA ELL assessment.
- Financial – Ms. Pellerin reported that RIDE was in Middletown for the administrative review for school lunch. The programmatic findings will be discussed at the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. There are two pending budget amendments that need Town Council approval. Mrs. Kraeger, Mrs. Savastano, and Ms. Pellerin attended an OpenGov administrative training. This year's budget will be completed with real time charts and graphs.
- Facilities – Mr. Fontes will attend a meeting with Jacobs on Monday regarding facilities projects. He will also attend a meeting tomorrow with Lt. Haggis of the Middletown Fire Department regarding borrowing infrared equipment to perform thermal imaging testing of the electrical systems. This will assist in developing a predictive model for electrical infrastructure replacements/upgrades. The roofing projects are complete, with the exception of a few punch list items. The FY19 projects will go to RIDE for schematic approval. After the installation of the new boiler at Forest Avenue School, the heating costs are 22% lower.

**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 distributed an article, "The Future of Work and Learning" regarding artificial intelligence and automation in the workforce and what type of skills students need to have. STEM and PLTW both fit into this. Mrs. Fenton stressed that the career pathways need technology. On February 14<sup>th</sup>, the Providence Business News is conducting a workshop on this.

**ADJOURN FROM MEETING**

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 7:36 p.m.* Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosemarie K. Kraeger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Rosemarie K. Kraeger  
Superintendent of Schools