

Middletown Public Schools  
Middletown, Rhode Island

**March 15, 2018**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

Members Present: Kellie DiPalma Simeone, Chairman  
Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chairman – Left at 6:30 p.m.  
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 4:31 p.m. by School Committee Chair Kellie DiPalma Simeone. All members were present. Administrative staff members present were Linda Beaupre, Dennis Soares, Gail Ponte, and Stephen Ponte.

- **Budget Discussion** – The school department was level-funded last year. The \$1 million budget request was met by using the fund balance for the Special Education tuition transition plan and the buyout of copy machines. In addition, one certified position was moved from the General Fund to NCRSEP and another to Grant and Categorical Funding. The hiring of support staff was delayed. One custodian and two teacher assistants were eliminated.
- **Revenue Update** – Middletown is losing funds in Basic Formula Aid and Group Homes. There has been a large increase in the cost of transportation for group home students. When homes are closed, children can remain in Middletown schools even if the foster family is in another town. Both towns share the cost of transportation. The projected loss is \$240,105.
- **Compensation/Benefits Increases** – The projected health premium increase is 4.4% and there will be a slight decrease in dental premiums. The Employee Retirement System increase for certified staff is .21% and .73% for non-certified staff. Approximately 24% of certified staff is moving up a step and 14% of custodial staff are moving up a step. Teacher Assistants now have 3 additional paid holidays. Administration is currently in negotiations with certified staff and non-certified Teacher Assistants.
- **Non-Compensation Increases** – There is an increase in out of district tuition for Special Education and Career Tech programs. The cost of programmatic needs are increasing. These include PLTW, Career Tech, World Language K-12, closing the gap in Reading and Math, and Digital Curriculum Needs. We should hear shortly if Middletown qualifies for a CTE with PLTW. There is an increase for safety locks, a new camera system, and school vestibules. The HVAC budget has a 20% decrease from last year. Mrs. Spengler said that we need to look at our buildings as public, not

just school buildings. Mr. Fontes will do another safety walk with the Middletown Police Department.

- **Balancing the General Fund Budget** – Mrs. Spengler stressed that last year we made the budget work. While trying to maintain level services, budget challenges include the continued loss of State Aid, the uncertainty of Federal funding, and increases in expenditures. Administration is working with Special Education to reduce their budget and working with the Town Administrator and Town Finance Director. Meetings have been held with Principals, Directors, and Head Content Teachers to discuss possible reduction. A reduction impact statement is being prepared.

The next meeting will be Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:30 p.m. Mrs. Spengler commented that it is critical that the community and parents get out and encourage the Town leaders to fund the schools.

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To adjourn from the Budget Workshop at 5:30 p.m.* Unanimous vote.

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. Administrative staff members present were Linda Beaupre, Dennis Soares, Gail Ponte, and Stephen Ponte.

### **PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS**

- Student Awards – Student awards were presented for Newport Daily News Students of the week.

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

#### *“Islanders Committed”*

Ms. Lori Verderosa and Mrs. Jennifer Baldwin spoke about activities that the group has participated in this year. Project Purple Week encourages students to make healthy decisions. This year was the most successful event yet. Elementary schools also participated. MHS students Savina Sams and Veronica Morales discussed the events, which included mid-term exam study sessions, yoga, and a Middletown Volleyball Tournament. A parent workshop was held with speaker Dr. Matt Bellace.

MHS Senior Andrew Yang discussed the Lunch n’ Learn Series, which was sponsored by Islanders Committed. Sessions included Finding Your Zen, Your Body in Motion, Attitude of Gratitude, Stress Busters, and Opening the Door to Kindness and Hope. All sessions revolved around alternative choices and coping. The sessions will continue next year. Islanders Committed is trying to move more towards health and wellness and not focus as much on drugs. Mrs. Spengler asked about bringing the sessions to Gaudet School for the 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Social emotional supports are critical to students. Mr. Arnold attended one session and said it was very well organized.

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

No "Student Government" for March 15, 2018.

**INFORMATION**

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Letter from Middletown Police Chief Pesare and Superintendent Kraeger regarding school safety
- Information regarding Greenlove Foundation water bottle filling station at Aquidneck School
- Memo from Gaudet Student Council donating funds for a water bottle filling station at Gaudet School
- Walking Challenge flyer
- Grant approval
- Thank You letter from Project ReGive

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

No "Correspondence" for March 15, 2018.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Approval of Vouchers

February Vouchers		
Voucher Number	Date	Total
1174	2/6/2018	\$4,959.57
1173	2/6/2018	\$23,039.14
1172	2/6/2018	\$301,197.33
1175	2/8/2018	\$725,003.84
1184	2/16/2018	\$212,617.84
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,266,817.72</b>

- Approval of Vouchers
- Approval of Vendors/Purchases over \$5,000

- Approval of Minutes
  - Minutes of February 8, 2018 Budget Workshop
  - Minutes of February 8, 2018 School Committee Meeting
  - Minutes of February 27, 2018 Budget Workshop
  - Minutes of February 27, 2018 Executive Session

**SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL**

**COACHING APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE MARCH 15, 2018**

Kevin Clare	Assistant Varsity Baseball
Kathryn Idstein	Boys'/Girls' Varsity Track
Eric Godin	Varsity Baseball
Michelle Almeida	Girls' Assistant Track
John Cawley	6/7/8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Baseball
Ryan Long	Junior Varsity Baseball

**APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE MARCH 16, 2018**

Sophia Perroti School	Long Term Substitute, English, Middletown High
--------------------------	--

**RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE JANUARY 3, 2018**

Jillian Moreira	Data Support Teacher Assistant
-----------------	--------------------------------

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM APRIL 23, 2018 TO JUNE 4, 2018**

Ruth Lynn Butler

Title One Reading Specialist, Forest Avenue School

**NEW BUSINESS**

No "New Business" for March 15, 2018.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Town/School Collaboration** – Talks are continuing with the Town Administrator regarding collaboration. More of an action plan will be available next month.
- **Charter Changes** – The charter changes will be discussed at the Town Council Meeting on Monday. There will be public comment.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**GUN FREE SCHOOLS RESOLUTION 2018**

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the Gun Free Schools Resolution 2018.* Motion Passed 4 to 1.

Yay – Kellie Simeone  
Theresa Spengler  
Liana Fenton  
Douglas Arnold

Nay – William O'Connell

Mr. O'Connell voted against the resolution stating that he agrees with the concept, but not the title.

**CONTRACT CONTINUATION**

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

**BINDING ARBITRATION RESOLUTION**

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the Binding Arbitration Resolution.* Unanimous vote.

**SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BOND REFERENDUM RESOLUTION**

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the State School Construction Bond Referendum Resolution.* Unanimous vote.

This resolution is in support of the \$250M bond for school facilities across the state.

**CLASSROOM INTRUDER LOCKS BID AWARD**

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee award the Intruder Locks Bid Award to Kamco. Unanimous vote.*

**2018-2019 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

**MOTION:** 1) \_\_\_\_\_, 2) \_\_\_\_\_. *That the School Committee approve 2018-2019 School Calendar.*

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To table the motion to approve the 2018-2019 school calendar. Unanimous vote.*

There was discussion about adding a Professional Development day on Primary Day, September 12, 2018. Another change would be no school the day before Thanksgiving. The last day of school would be June 19, 2019.

**BUDGET ADOPTION**

**MOTION:** 1) \_\_\_\_\_, 2) \_\_\_\_\_. *That the School Committee approve the 2018-2019 Budget in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.*

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To table the motion to approve the 2018-2019 school budget. Unanimous vote.*

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- **Curriculum** – Mrs. Savastano reported that the school department has applied for a \$50K CTE Trust Grant to help support PLTW and career tech work at Middletown High School. Middletown has also applied for another innovative CTE grant through RIDE. This is a 2-year grant for up to \$150K. The first year would be a pilot year and would focus on expanding PLTW into a biomedical area. The second year would solidify that. There will be a Prepare RI Summit at CCRI on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Middletown was invited to attend STEM Talks Rhode Island on March 8<sup>th</sup> at Roger Williams University. There were three innovative speakers. Fifty students attended. Transportation was provided by the PTG. Middletown was awarded a \$78K leadership mini grant through RIDE. Middletown will work collaboratively with Bristol Warren for two days in the summer with a follow-up day in the fall.
- **Financial** – Ms. Pellerin reported that the quarterly report is being prepared in conjunction with the Town. This will be the first one in full format. Amendments have been approved by the Town Council. Of the current \$42.6M budget, \$36.3M is General Operational Fund. Currently, 95% or \$40M of the budget has been spent or encumbered.
- **Facilities** – Mr. Fontes discussed the FY19 bond projects. He has met with RIDE and is scheduled to meet the last week of this month for further approval of projects. The Gaudet and Aquidneck School front entrance project timelines will be flipped due to time constraints. Gaudet School will take longer due to HVAC and plumbing work.

Summer projects include Gaudet and Forest Avenue roofs, and windows and doors at Gaudet School. The rest of the Stage 2 projects are being reviewed. Aquidneck K wing classroom doors all lead to outside so they can remain, saving \$60K that was budgeted. The LED project at Aquidneck School is 75% complete. A thermoanemometer was purchased for \$1,400. This will be a savings since the cost for outside contractors was \$1,200 this year. The 6-month asbestos inspection was completed.

Mrs. Kraeger reported that the students at Gaudet and Middletown High Schools did an excellent job with the walk-ins. Students in grades 4-6 had an assembly on kindness. Students in grades 7-8 had a walkout through the courtyard and signed petitions. MHS students had an assembly in the gym. Mrs. Someone thanked the students for organizing the event and staff for assisting.

**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 said that there will be a RIASC session on Saturday regarding the funding formula.

#### **ADJOURN FROM MEETING**

**MOTION:** 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O'Connell. *To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 6:52 p.m.* Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rosemarie K. Kraeger  
Superintendent of Schools