

Middletown Public Schools
Middletown, Rhode Island

March 23, 2018

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

Members Present: Kellie DiPalma Simeone, Chairman
Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chairman
Douglas Arnold
Liana Fenton arrived at 2:35 p.m.
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 2:32 p.m. by School Committee Chair Kellie DiPalma Simeone. All members were present. Administrative staff members present were Beth Hayes, Dennis Soares, Michelle Fonseca, and Donna Chelf.

ACTION ITEMS

BUDGET ADOPTION

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. *That the School Committee adopt the FY 18-19 school budget in the amount of \$42,870,603. Unanimous vote.*

Mrs. Kraeger discussed how the budget is developed and how the loss of State Aid and the impact of level funding will affect budget. To reach a balanced budget at 4%, the following will need to occur:

- The reduction of two certified staff positions. These are retiring teaching positions that will not be filled.
- The reduction of budgeted NCRSEP transportation
- The reduction of technology supplies/hardware. Some of 1 to 1 would have to be delayed.
- The reduction of PLTW expenditures. Middletown is currently on the brink of being approved for a PLTW Pathway.
- The reduction of school, athletic, and custodial supplies
- The reduction of facility repairs and maintenance

Administration is looking at grant money to fund technology. If the Town Council does not approve 4%, reductions would apply to the Fine Arts program, sports programs, and substitute nurses. One school-based administrator could be eliminated. Mrs. Spengler spoke about the impact on students if these programs are reduced. Substitute school nurse teachers are vital for students with varying health concerns. School

Principals are already stretched thin and it would be detrimental if an administrator was shared between two schools.

Revenue – Due to the continued decrease in the funding formula, Middletown receives \$1.5 million less than in 2011. Of the total budget, the major local revenue streams are Town Appropriations, Capital Funding fees for services such as tower rental and private donations and grants. At the State level, revenue is from the Funding Formula and State grants. Federal aid is derived Impact Aid, Medicaid reimbursement and Federal grants.

Expenditures – Increases in expenditures include healthcare, State retirement system and other post-employment benefits, as well as salary and step increases and additional paid holiday for teacher assistant, per their new contract. Increases in special education include additional positions for social emotional needs and increases in out of district tuition. The majority of expenditures are for salary (51.4%), benefits (18.5%), and contracted services (19.4%).

The Next Steps – The budget will be presented to the Town Council in April. Central Administration will meet with administrators, staff, parent teacher organization, and other stakeholders. A community meeting will be planned. Public Hearing will be held in May and the budget will be adopted the end of May or early June.

Business Manager Raquel Pellerin said that line item adjustments will be presented to the School Committee in April. Administration is currently working with the Town for the OpenGov update. The narrative part of the budget is still being developed.

Impact Aid is being level funded. There is a shift in funding for lunch reimbursement and an increase in the RIDE mini leadership grant. There is a slight reduction in consolidated resource. For private contributions/donations, there is no VanBuren grant this year.

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1) _____, 2) _____ . *That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 17-18-10.*

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To table the motion.* Unanimous vote.

2018-2019 SCHOOL CALENDAR

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the 2018-2019 School Calendar.* Unanimous vote.

Changes to the calendar include the addition of the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and moving the PD Day to Primary Election Day on September 12th. High School graduation will be on June 8th and the last day of school will be June 19th.

CHANGE ORDER APPROVALS

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the following change orders Torrado Associates.* Unanimous vote.

HVAC services is included in the FY19 budget. The work will interface with the window wall systems they are designing.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 3:56 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