

Middletown Public Schools
Middletown, Rhode Island

April 12, 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 Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Administrative staff members present were Stephen Ponte, Gail Ponte, and Linda Beaupre.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

- Month of the Military Child - April is "*Month of the Military Child*". Middletown has a large military population. Captain Ian Johnson, Commanding Officer of Naval Station Newport, attended the meeting and spoke about the sacrifices that military families make. He received a proclamation from the School Committee and another from Governor Raimondo.
- Student Awards - Student Awards were presented in the following categories:
 - Newport Daily News Student of the Week
 - Newport Daily News Athlete of the Week
- Champions for Children - The School Committee recognized members of the Gaudet PTG for all their work in raising funds. Fundraisers include baseball bingo night, Newport Gulls, teacher and staff appreciation, fall and spring book fairs, and dances.
- The School Committee recognized Business Manager Raquel Pellerin, who is leaving Middletown for another district.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

No "Spotlight on Teaching and Learning" for April 12, 2018.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

No "Student Government" for April 12, 2018.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Parent Information Booklet
- Gaudet Wave
- Senior events
- FAQ regarding the lockdown at Gaudet School
- FAQ regarding the school budget
- Middletown Teacher of the Year Paula Rearick
- Month of the Military Child
- Senior Support Day
- Update to Town Council regarding intruder locks
- Senator Reeds R.I. Art Education Scholarship
- Donation of scholarship for a graduating senior who will pursue

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for April 12, 2018.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

March Voucher Summary		
Voucher Number	Date	Total
1193	3/5/2018	\$322,092.43
1192	3/5/2018	\$885,924.79
1195	3/7/2018	\$4,970.62
1196	3/9/2018	\$131,706.38
1119	3/12/2018	\$900.00
1175	3/23/2018	\$350.00
1205	3/23/2018	\$367,304.94
Total		\$1,713,249.16

- Approval of Vouchers
- Approval of Vendors/Purchases over \$5,000
- Approval of Minutes
 - Minutes of March 15, 2018 School Committee Meeting
 - Minutes of March 23, 2018 School Committee Meeting

OLD BUSINESS

- Strategic Plan – Mrs. Kraeger said that the school department needs to go out to bid for a facilitator. Due to prior commitments, the facilitator originally scheduled is not available.
- Bond Projects – Mr. Fontes will update the committee during Superintendent’s Reports.

ACTION ITEMS

LINE ITEM ADJUSTMENTS

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the Line Item Adjustments.* Unanimous vote.

The only line items that are being adjusting are from general fund capital and a few private donations. At the next meeting, adjustments with revenue and grants will be introduced. Once finalized, changes to revenue will be brought back at the next meeting.

Adjustments approved tonight with align with the quarterly report. Adjustments include:

- General Fund – Adjustments for estimated retiree contractual buyouts and after school/other stipends.
- Capital Fund – Adjustments for Special Education, repair and maintenance, athletics, conferences, workshops, purchased property services, and school construction line items.
- Private Donations/State Categoricals – Adjustments for private donations from PTG organizations and Feinstein Foundation. There is also an adjustment in State Categorical for English Language Learners.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- **Curriculum** – Mrs. Savastano reported that the School Department is awaiting approval of a CTE Trust grant for \$50K. A \$150K equity CTE grant has also been submitted. The decision is expected in June. We are also waiting on approval of the Engineering and Computer Science Pathways.

RICASS testing in grades 3-8 has begun. The window for ELA testing is April 2 – May 4 and the window for Math testing is April 3 – May 25. SATSD Primary test date is April 10, 2018. The makeup test date is April 24, 2018. One April 10th, the grade 9 students will attend a field trip and grade 12 students will participate in Senior Support Day where they will receive Capstone support, assistance with scholarships, and listen to a guest speaker from URI. This is paid for by the State. The participation rate needs to be 95%, which is difficult when there is only one testing day and one makeup day, but Middletown is currently at 96% without the makeup day. Snacks, breakfast, and a bag lunch were provided for the 9th grade field trip. Mrs. Savastano thanked all for their support.

- **Financial** – Ms. Pellerin reported that as of February 28th, 94% of the budget has been spent or encumbered. The March 31st report will be sent to the transparency portal. A webinar was held today where the Governor announced the transparency portal will go live on April 24th. Information is being finalized with OpenGov and Workiva. We need to make sure there is a consolidated budget available for viewing electronically before the April 28, 2018 meeting.
- **Facilities** – Mr. Fontes requested from the Town to have intruder locks moved up to this fiscal year. The Aquidneck School LED project is 97% complete. Low use areas and closets still need to be addressed.

Bond Projects – The Aquidneck main entrance reconfiguration project will make the building ADA accessible. The handicapped ramp will be on the left side of the building. A new vestibule with two locking doors could be added. Once a person has gained entrance through the first locked door, they would still need access through the second door. Bulletproof glass would be installed. Mr. Fontes has met with Principal Fonseca and the safety group. A district-wide safety assessment will take place on April 20, 2018.

Gaudet School was originally first in cue for front entrance reconfiguration. After review it was determined that the work, which includes HVAC and plumbing, was more extensive than originally thought and would not be completed in time. It was decided to address the Aquidneck School work first. A parent questioned that if there is not enough time now to complete the project, how can there be time next year. Mr. Fontes said that waiting will allow more time for the drawings to be developed and approved by RIDE. Mrs. Spengler suggested installing another camera at a different angle.

Bids for roof projects are due on April 23, 2018. There will be a brief meeting for bid approval on April 26th at Gaudet Library, prior to the PTG Meeting.

Statewide Bond Referendum – Senator DiPalma will attend the May 17, 2018 meeting to discuss the referendum. Any project that broke ground after January 1, 2018 would be eligible for 5% reimbursement. Middletown needs to make sure it receives funding, not just the urban cities.

Mrs. Kraeger reported that a voter registration drive took place at Middletown High School today. The Secretary of State was in attendance and spoke with students.

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 PK-16 meeting. She also shared information regarding the PrepareRI website regarding career clusters and career pathways. The Annual RIASC Meeting will be held on May 5th.

(Minutes of April 12, 2018 School Committee Meeting, Page Six)

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To go into Executive Session 42-46-5 (a) 1, 2,5,8,9 at 6:50 p.m. Unanimous vote.*

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 8:42 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,



Rosemarie K. Kraeger
Superintendent of Schools