

Middletown Public Schools
Middletown, Rhode Island

May 17, 2018

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

Members Present: Kellie DiPalma Simeone, Chairman
Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chairman
William O'Connell
Douglas Arnold arrived at 6:00 p.m.

Member Absent: Liana Fenton

Also Present: Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools
Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent
David Fontes, Director of Facilities/Safety and Transportation

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. Administrative staff members present were Michelle Fonseca, Donna Chelf, Gail Ponte, Steve Ponte, and Linda Beaupre.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

Student Awards were presented in the following categories:

- Newport Daily News Student of the Week
- RI Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Association Award
- 2018 RIAEA Outstanding Art Educator of the Year and Secondary Art Educator of the Year Awards
- Scholastic Art Award Silver Key Winner.
- 2018 Teacher of the Year - Mrs. Paula Rearick was introduced as 2018 Middletown Teacher of the Year

The following retirees were honored for their years of service:

LIST OF RETIREES FOR 2017 - 2018

Stephen Fagan	Math Teacher, Middletown High School	28 years
Meredith Frederick	Art Teacher, Middletown High School	29 years
Margaret Pereira	Grade Four Teacher, J.H. Gaudet Learning Academy	21 years
Stephen Ponte	Principal, Forest Avenue School	32 years
Emily Silvia	Grade One Teacher, Forest Avenue School	29 years
Mary Sizeland	Business Teacher, Middletown High School	22 years
Karen Goulart	Special Education Teacher, Forest Avenue School	21 years
Karin O'Connell	Special Education Teacher, Middletown High School	38 years

Marguerite Groux	Special Education Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School	31 years
Maureen West	District/School Administrative Support Personnel (261 Days)	32 years
Elizabeth Gill	Technology Specialist	27 years
Karen Sheely	Data Support Personnel	22 years
Lynn Reynolds	District Data Support Personnel/Help Desk	28 years
Cheryl Franklin	District/School Data Support Personnel B	20 years
Noreen Bahnsen	Special Education Teacher Assistant, J.H. Gaudet School	28 years

Total 408 years

A brief intermission was taken.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Project Lead the Way Engineering Design and Development Class Project”

Middletown High School Career Education Teacher Allen Waite introduced students from his Engineering Design and Development class who demonstrated “The Defender”, a prototype of a door lock that the students developed in the class. The lock is designed to keep the students safe for as long as possible. The cost is less than \$10. This is a good secondary line of defense for a small amount of money. Mr. Waite said that he was very proud of his students for the work they did on the project.

“Using Technology to Break Down Language Barriers for our ELL Students”

Mr. Luis Oliveira, Director of Unified Arts, discussed the different technology related tools that are used to break down the language barriers for ELL students.

- Newsela – Offers students up-to-date articles that meet them at their reading level.
- Flip Grid – Students create videos and share them to learn together.
- Microsoft Translator – Students type in any language and it comes up on the screen in English. Two students from Middletown High School demonstrated how the translator works in their native language.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

No “Student Government” for May 17, 2018.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- K-12 Art Exhibition flyer
- Class of 2018 events

- Commissioner Decision regarding Newport Community School
- Career Tech Superintendent's Meeting notes
- Lunch N Learn flyer
- Wellness Committee Meeting minutes
- Thank you notes on behalf of School Committee
- Navalog picture from Captain Johnson's attendance at the April School Committee Meeting
- NAFIS information regarding vouchers and Impact Aid

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

CORRESPONDENCE

No "Correspondence" for May 17, 2018.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. *To approve the Consent Agenda.*
Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Vouchers

April 2018

Vouchers

Voucher

Number

Date

Total

1215	4/5/2018	\$21,809.20
1216	4/5/2018	\$133,117.45
1225	4/12/2018	\$238,526.15
1233	4/26/2018	\$849,241.84

Total

\$1,242,694.64

- Approval of Vouchers
- Approval of Vendors/Purchases over \$5,000
- Approval of Minutes
 - Minutes of April 12, 2018 School Committee Meeting
 - Minutes of April 12, 2018 Executive Session
 - Minutes of April 26, 2018 School Committee Meeting

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE MAY 3, 2018

Kelsey Layfield

Bus Monitor

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE MAY 4, 2018

Kelsey Layfield Bus Monitor

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE MAY 10, 2018

Patricia Michael Bus Monitor

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE APRIL 20, 2018

Marilyn Lopez Bus Monitor

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

Kristin Scala Reading Specialist, J.H. Gaudet School

NEW BUSINESS

- State School Construction Referendum – This will be on the ballot in November. Senator DiPalma would like to have General Treasurer Seth Magaziner visit Middletown to speak about the bond.

OLD BUSINESS

- FY18-19 Budget Information – A PowerPoint Presentation was shown with follow-up information from the April 28, 2018 meeting with the Town Council. **(See attached)**. The presentation covered funding, enrollment, technology, special education, and layoffs. The Town Council would like us to drill down more, but we need to first see what they will give us then make thoughtful decisions.

ACTION ITEMS

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE POLICY REVISION

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. *That the School Committee approve the revisions to the Director of Finance Policy.* Unanimous vote.

There were very minor changes, including reference to UCOA, to make the policy more comprehensive.

AQUIDNECK SCHOOL AND FOREST AVENUE SCHOOL SHINGLE ROOF PROJECTS BID AWARD

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. *That the School Committee award the Aquidneck School and Forest Avenue School Shingle Roof Projects Bid to Capeway Roofing.* Unanimous vote.

AQUIDNECK SCHOOL MAIN ENTRANCE PROJECT BID AWARD

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. *That the School Committee award the Aquidneck School Main Entrance Project Bid to Martone Construction.* Unanimous vote.

This will provide a handicap access ramp to the entrance. The entrance will be reconfigured where visitors will enter through one locked door, then would need to be buzzed in through the second door.

ELECTRICITY PROCUREMENT

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. *That the School Committee award the bid for the purchase of electricity to Direct Energy.* Unanimous vote.

This rate is higher than what we were paying before. This does not include the capacity tag. Only one sealed bid was received. One bid was emailed, but it was higher than sealed bid.

NATURAL GAS PROCUREMENT

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. *That the School Committee award the bid for the purchase of natural gas to Direct Energy.* Unanimous vote.

This rate is higher than what was budgeted.

RESEARCH PROJECT

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. *That the School Committee approve the districts participation in a doctoral research project.* Unanimous vote.

The School Committee approved a leave of absence for a reading teacher who is completing her PhD and is doing a research project on how reading specialists and special education teachers assess and instruct reading as part of Response to Intervention

REDUCTION IN FORCE

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. *That the Superintendent's Report be accepted and adopted and the necessary letters sent out.* Unanimous vote.

Rhode Island Law requires that school departments notify teachers by June 1st. There are twelve teachers listed for non-renewal.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- **Curriculum** – Mrs. Savastano reported that tomorrow she will attend a R.I. Career Tech Board Meeting where she expects to receive preliminary approval for Middletown's CTE application for Middletown High School to be approved for Engineering and Computer Science CTE Programs. To meet the requirements, the school needs to currently offer Project Lead the Way and show proper certification and training of staff. For the Engineering Pathway, RIDE requires 3 consecutive years of engineering technology coursework, but Middletown requires 4 years. Four years of math, including pre-calculus, are required. Other requirements include Chemistry and Physics and OSHA 10 or equivalent safety training. Students must meet or exceed the standard on a R.I. State Assessment or be assessed to determine their level of proficiency as it relates to established program criteria. There is an appeals process if a student is denied. Safety protocols are followed. A working copy of a planning guide is being developed. Information is available at www.mpsri/islanderssuccess.com.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. *That the School extend the meeting.* Unanimous vote.

- **Financial** – An Impact Aid basic payment was received. Congress will take a floor vote to allocate Impact Aid dollars to go toward school vouchers. Senators and Representatives from military impacted school districts are attempting to stop the vote.
- **Facilities** – Mr. Fontes said that staff are in the process of installing intruder locks at Middletown High School and are working on a storage room under the bleaches at Gaudet School. The softball sign has been installed the high school, but they are

waiting on the solar panel to power the sign. There was a meeting last week with administrators to discuss safety protocols. Mr. Fontes has met with the architect and bidder of the window project to discuss the Gaudet Main Entrance project.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

There were no Reports of Officers and Committees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. *To go into Executive Session 42-46-5 (a) 1, 2,5,8,9 at 8:05 p.m.* Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Simeone announced that no vote was taken in Executive Session.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. *To seal the minutes of Executive Session.* Unanimous vote.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. *To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 8:32 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,



Rosemarie K. Kraeger
Superintendent of Schools