

Middletown Public Schools
Middletown, Rhode Island

June 19, 2018

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

Members Present: Kellie DiPalma Simeone, Chairman
Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chairman
William O'Connell
Douglas Arnold
Liana Fenton

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To go into Executive Session 42-46-5 (a) 1,2,5,8,9 at 4:06 p.m.* Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *Motion to seal the minutes of Executive Session.* Unanimous vote.

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Administrative staff members present were Dennis Soares and Gail Ponte.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

Student Awards were presented in the following categories:

- RIMEA All-State Chorus and All-State Band Awards
- Air Force Association Teacher of the Year - Mr. Luis Oliveira was recognized as Teacher of the Year by the Newport Blue & Gold Chapter of the Air Force Association for his work with STEM and Technology. He was presented with a check for \$250.
- Foreign Language Awards for grades 8-12 students who took the National French and Spanish Exam.
- The Boys' Lacrosse Division II Champions will be recognized at a future meeting. The School Department will donate \$10 per athlete towards the purchase of Championship Apparel.

A short recess was taken.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Rise with STEAM”

Mr. Luis Oliveira reported that 23 students attended a “Rise with STEAM” day at Quonset point. Nine schools in Rhode Island sent representatives. Students Emma Kalif and Shelby Alexander spoke about the day. They created posters about where we are in technology today and where they want to be in the future, highlighting the obstacles that are faced.

“Scholarship Opportunity”

Mr. John Cunic introduced Mr. Timothy Wordell, a MHS graduate who is establishing a \$5,000 annual scholarship for students going into the trades; carpenters, electricians, HVAC, and plumbers. Mr. Wordell would like to have all schools on Aquidneck Island participate and eventually make the scholarship statewide. A golf tournament will be held each year to raise funds.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

No “Student Government” for June 19, 2018.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Gaudet Times
- The Wave
- Programs from the MHS Spring Music and Band Concerts
- Programs from Senior Athletic and Awards Banquets

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Parent Anna Hallett spoke about the possible elimination of the wrestling team and urged the committee not to cut the program. Her older son was on the cross-country team, which was cut. She suggested rotating the cuts so that the same students would not have to fundraise every year.

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for June 18, 2018.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of Vouchers

May 2018 A/P Vouchers

Voucher

Number	Date	Total
1238	5/1/2018	\$461,149.27
1236	5/1/2018	\$300,532.50
1235	5/1/2018	\$23,104.58
1249	5/15/2018	\$218,006.94
1258	5/24/2018	\$381,628.93
1237	5/29/2018	\$4,926.04

Total May 2018 Vouchers **\$1,389,348.26**

- Approval of Vendors/Purchases over \$5,000
- Approval of Minutes
 - Minutes of May 17, 2018 School Committee Meeting
 - Minutes of May 17, 2018 Executive Session
- Superintendent’s Recommendation on Personnel
 - Appointments
 - Resignations
 - Leave of Absence

APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE JULY 9, 2018

Kevin Lendrum	9-12 Credit Recovery Teacher - Science
Andy Leys	9-12 Credit Recovery Teacher - Social Studies
David Fontaine	9-12 Credit Recovery Teacher - Literacy
Casey Wright	9-12 Credit Recovery Teacher - Math
Samantha Hines	9-12 Summer Intervention - Literacy
Brittney Schuchmann	K-3 Summer Intervention - Literacy
Deb Prentiss	K-3 Summer Intervention - Literacy
Tara Mellow	K-3 Summer Intervention - Literacy
Tess Brantingham	K-3 Summer Intervention - Literacy
Jen Pesare	K-3 Summer Intervention - Literacy
Samantha Woznicki	K-3 Summer Intervention - Literacy
Alison Brochu	K-3 Summer Intervention - Literacy
Jillian Woodward	K-3 Summer Intervention - Math
Kayla MacIntyre	K-3 Summer Intervention - Math
Casey Wright	4-8 Summer Intervention - Math
Laurie Oliveira	4-8 Summer Intervention - Math
Caley Mulcahy	4-8 Summer Intervention - Literacy
Callie Jackson	4-8 Summer Intervention - Literacy
Annelise Difilippantonio-Pen	4-8 Summer Intervention - Literacy

APPOINTMENT – EFFECTIVE JULY 16, 2018

Cynthia Brown Director of Finance and Administration

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE MAY 25, 2018

Patricia Michael Bus Monitor

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE JUNE 7, 2018

Lisa Moore Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School

RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT EFFECTIVE THE END OF THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

Sarawyn Berrett Special Education Teacher Assistant

UNPAID LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2018-2019 AND 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEARS

John Cunic Director of College and Career Readiness, ELA Teacher,
Middletown High School

NEW BUSINESS

- Town/School Collaboration – Mrs. Kraeger said that the school department needs to take a look at what services can be shared with the Town. She will be attending a meeting tomorrow with the Town Administrator to discuss this. There has been discussion about establishing a committee, which would consist of 1 or 2 School Committee Members and 1 or 2 Town Council Members.

OLD BUSINESS

- Gaudet Entrance Plan – Mr. Fontes reported that a meeting was held to review the alternate plan for the Gaudet Main Entrance. Plans include a 1900 square foot addition to the building. They are in the schematic design phase now and hope to break ground in the Fall after going out to bid in September. The original plan was 4000 square feet but there was a timing issue with the summer work. The new plan is less costly and more efficient. Existing bond money will be used. After the

professional cost estimate is received, the item can be placed on the Town Council agenda.

- State School Construction Referendum – The referendum was approved in the General Assembly. The General Treasurer would like to do an informational session in Middletown.

ACTION ITEMS

REOPENING CERTIFIED EARLY RETIREMENT

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve reopening Early Retirement for Certified Staff until July 31, 2018. Unanimous vote.*

RENEWABLE ENERGY

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee authorize the Town Administrator to sign the renewable energy contract on behalf of the School Department.*

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

AMENDED MOTION

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee authorize the Town Administrator to sign the renewable energy contract on behalf of the School Department, pending Town Council approval.*

HVAC BID AWARD

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee award the bid for HVAC to Automatic Temperature Control.*

This is a replacement of the building management control at Aquidneck School and will bring the building up to current technology. The total cost is \$17,500 and is the same system as Forest Avenue School. The bid was contracted out and is part of the 17-18 operating budget.

2018-19 BUDGET

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the amended budget in the amount of \$41,958,464. Unanimous vote.*

The Town Council has set the bottom line and we are required by law to transmit a budget to the Town. We are currently in the budget reduction process. Items being looked at are the delay in hiring open positions, reviewing all special education positions within the General Fund, reviewing grants for funding possibilities, reviewing all professional service items and supply lines, and reviewing multi-year fund balance projections with special education.

The Budget Reduction Plan includes:

Budget Reduction Plan

Reduction of Municipal Appropriation for Education	\$786,850
Additional Revenue/Use of Fund Balance (Medicaid/Regional Special Education)	<u>250,000</u>
<i>Sub Total – Reduction after Use of Fund Balance</i>	<i>\$536,850</i>
Define efficiencies in overall district/school staffing operations	(\$100,000)
Reduction of Athletics and Athletic Supplies	(\$ 22,793)
• Freshman Football	
• Wrestling	
• Winter Cheerleading	
Reduction of Certified Staff	(\$272,051)
• Principal	
• Reduce Music 1.0 to .5	
• Eliminate .4 French	
• Eliminate .6 PE/Health	
Reduction of Non-Certified Staff	(\$103,648)
• Custodian	
• Special Education Teacher Assistant	
Reduction of Supplies and Other Expenditures	(\$ 38,358)
	<hr/>
	\$0

The Superintendent has met with the Athletic Director and reviewed numbers for each sports. It was decided to eliminate freshman football, wrestling, and winter cheerleading. The athletes have other opportunities, such as Pop Warner. Athletes can also participate in co-ops. Title 9 needs to be balanced. There were only 10 participants for wrestling. The athletes could fundraise. Winter Cheerleading has a low participation rate. Those athletes could go to gymnastics.

Regarding certified staff, the Principal position is not funded, but Forest Avenue School will not be left unsupervised. The reduction of the music position from full-time to .5 will compromise some classes at the high school. A .4 French teacher will be eliminated at the high school. This teacher taught two class. The students could possibly be absorbed into other classes.

The next steps are to meet with the elementary and middle school principals to discuss action plans.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- **Curriculum** – Mrs. Savastano reported that we will be reexamining the Technology Capital Improvement Plan. The budget will not be able to support the teacher laptop and student 2 to 1 laptop plans. This summer’s projects are to get equipment to last as long as it can. Middletown and Bristol Warren applied collaboratively for a LeadRI Grant to provide leadership training for instructional coaches. Technology Coaches and Head Content Teachers will participate. The work will begin in August. The grant is for \$78,000. Linda Savastano and Dennis Soares have been selected to participate in the LeadRI Initiative during the 2018-19 school year. There is no cost to the district. Jackie Zahm and Kellie Sorel will participate in the Open SciEd Project training. There is no cost to the district for this.
- **Financial** – Mrs. Kraeger introduced Cindy Brown, Director of Finance and Administration, and welcomed her to Middletown.

- **Facilities** – Mr. Fontes gave an update on the summer bond projects:
 - The Aquidneck School Main Entrance project will begin on June 26th
 - The Aquidneck School Shingle Roof Project will take place from August 14-20th.
 - The Forest Avenue and Gaudet Flat Roof Projects are scheduled for July 23 through August 17th
 - The Forest Avenue Shingle Roof Project will take place from July 31 through August 13th

The utility RFP's were signed. The gas contract was lower, but the electricity was higher. Intruder locks at Middletown High School will be completed over the next 2 weeks. The softball sign is up. The sign and solar panel was donated. The sewer issue at the high school was due to a manhole in front of the cafeteria that needs replacement once school is out. The Department of Public Works and the Fire Department assisted.

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 will be attending the Attorney Generals Open Government Summit on July 27th. Mrs. Fenton attended a School Committee Chairs meeting on May 31st. There was discussion about the new reporting system.

Mrs. Spengler attended the Middle School Band Concert and said that the 5th grade band was excellent. She also attended the 8th grade field trip to Boston and the students were very well behaved.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 7:35 p.m.* Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rosemarie K. Kraeger
Superintendent of Schools