

Middletown Public Schools
Middletown, Rhode Island

August 28, 2018

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

Members Present: Kellie DiPalma Simeone, Chairman
Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chairman left at 5:55 p.m.
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
Cynthia Brown, Director of Finance and Administration

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Administrative staff member present was Beth Hayes.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

No "Proclamations/Awards" for August 28, 2018.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

No "Spotlight on Teaching and Learning" for August 28, 2018.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

No "Student Government" for August 28, 2018.

INFORMATION

No "Information" items for August 28, 2018.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

No "Public Comments on Agenda Items" items for August 28, 2018.

CORRESPONDENCE

No "Correspondence" for August 28, 2018.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

Kayla MacIntyre	.5 Kindergarten, Forest Avenue School
Jason Douglas	Biology Teacher, Middletown High School
Anna Larson	Pre-Engineering/Technology Teacher, Middletown High School
Karen Sheely	Data Analyst Consultant
Caitlin Coyne	Lead Teacher, Grade Four, J.H. Gaudet Learning Academy
Leslie Gilman	Lead Teacher, Aquidneck School
Toni Cawley	Lead Teacher, Forest Avenue School
Tess Brantingham	4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Forest Avenue School

COACHING APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE AUGUST 29, 2018

Erica Buchanan	6/7/8 th Grade Girls' Soccer
Richard Bonvegna	6/7/8 th Grade Boys' Soccer
Paula Guarino	6/7/8 th Grade Coed Cross Country
Arthur Bell	Varsity Football
Zachary Yates	Assistant Varsity Football
Andrew Leys	Assistant Junior Varsity Football
Marc Haskell	Girls' Varsity Soccer
Jeff Boldt	Girls' Assistant Varsity Soccer
Luis Oliveira	Boys' Varsity Soccer
Tom Conrad	Boys' Assistant Varsity Soccer
Claire Baggesen	Varsity Volleyball
Emily Lipinski	Assistant Varsity Volleyball
Jennifer Mahoney	Fall Cheerleading

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE DATE TO BE DETERMINED

Kimberly Colicci	Data Support Teacher Assistant, Middletown High School
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APPOINTMENT PENDING TEACHER ASSISTANT PROGRAM TRAINING

Natalie Holden	4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School
Diana Cotto-Torres	4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Forest Avenue School
Ruth Flis	4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE AUGUST 22, 2018

Eden Younkin Long-Term Substitute English Teacher, Middletown High School

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE AUGUST 28, 2018

Robin Westmoreland 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Forest Avenue School

RECALL

Taylor O'Connor Grade 1 Teacher, Aquidneck School

- Approval of Vouchers
Middletown Public Schools

**Vouchers
7/1/18 to 8/16/18**

Vouchers	Date	Total
1024	07/06/18 \$	335,411.21
1025	07/10/18 \$	4,890.98
1026	08/15/18 \$	336,374.05
1027	08/16/18 \$	55,432.53
1028	08/16/18 \$	4,882.63
1029	08/16/18 \$	623,038.33
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	\$	1,360,029.73

- Approval of Vendors/Purchases over \$5,000
- Approval of Minutes
 - Minutes of August 7, 2018 Regular School Committee
 - Minutes of August 14, 2018 Regular School Committee and Executive Session

The agenda will be adjusted to move up Action Items.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the agenda be adjusted and Action Items be moved up.* Unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS

TUITION RATE

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

Ms. Brown reported that the tuition rate had been at the same for a number of years and slight adjustments were made. Elementary was \$12,154 and is now \$12,460.

Middletown School was \$14,317 and is now \$14,194. High School tuition was \$14,420 and is now \$16,415 and \$13,249 for approved CTE programs. Special Education tuition will be negotiated individually based on needs outlined in the Individual Education Plan. If a Special Education student from out of the region would like to attend, their needs will be reviewed with the Director of Special Education.

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 18-19-03.* Unanimous vote.

RELEASE OF INFORMATION AND SPOKESPERSON FOR THE DISTRICT - 2ND READING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the Release of Information and Spokesperson for the District Policy - 2nd Reading.* Unanimous vote.

SPIRIT ROCK AT FOREST AVENUE SCHOOL

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the Spirit Rock at Forest Avenue School.* Unanimous vote.

The PTG came before the School Committee last month seeking approval for this project. Guidelines were developed by the Principal and parent group.

GAUDET MAIN ENTRY VESTIBULE PROJECT

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee award the bid for the installation of a security/monitoring system at Gaudet School Vestibule to DaneTech.* Unanimous vote.

A letter needs to be drafted to Dr. DaSilva next week with the revised plans. A meeting will then be set up to review and forward to the Commissioner. In the meantime, a secure vestibule will be created with a second set of doors and a camera/intercom system will be installed, totaling \$6,930.40. Once the new scope of work is approved by RIDE, the project will go out to bid in November. After groundbreaking, the anticipated completion time is 5-6 months. It would be ideal to get the foundation in before winter to allow Middletown staff to begin interior work.

RIDE CAPITAL FUND APPLICATION

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve submitting a RIDE Capital Fund application to correct safety/security issues at the Middletown High School and Forest Avenue School Main entry vestibules.* Unanimous vote.

Governor Raimondo introduced a \$10M bond for safety/security in school buildings. This does not include cameras, but does include infrastructure. Mr. Fontes is requesting

to install a door and camera. Applications for funding are due on September 19th and districts will be notified on November 7th if they are approved. The projects need to be completed by the end of December. The cost for this is approximately \$18,700, but if funding is not received, Mr. Fontes suggests finding the funding. Aquidneck and Gaudet Schools would have secure vestibules. The Town Council allotted the School Department \$92,000 for cameras. Cameras that can record will be installed at Aquidneck School. Funding for this will be coming out of the bond project.

JOINT BUILDING AND ENERGY COMMITTEE

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve establishing a joint Building and Energy Committee, with representatives from the School Committee, Town Council, Administration, parents, and students. Unanimous vote.*

The School Department will be partnering with the Town to look into energy use at all buildings. This committee will be a good joint effort which is strictly for the schools now, but if the Town decides to join at a later date they can. Mr. O'Connell suggested the use of solar panels. Mr. Fontes said that if the partnership with the Town does not happen, it would be good to investigate.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Opening Day** - New Teacher Orientation will take place on August 30th at 8:30 a.m. at Oliphant Administration. Opening Day is September 4th. Staff will meet at Gaudet Cafeteria. New staff will be introduced. Julie Steiny from the *Youth Restoration Project of Rhode Island* will be the speaker. Bus schedules are on the school department website and will run in the Newport Daily News this weekend and will be sent out on school listservs. Ms. Brown is holding small group orientation for new employees, giving them the opportunity to fill out paperwork and ask questions.
- **Enrollment** - Over 350 registrations were processed thus far this summer. There are still about 20 enrollment appointments outstanding. Enrollment is currently at 2146. The incoming Grade 9 at MHS is larger than last year.
- **Strategic Plan** - During the Administrator Retreat in August, there was discussion about the Strategic Plan. *Vision* - All felt that the Vision did not need to be changed, except for the addition of the word "To".

The new draft *Mission* is as follows - "*Middletown Public Schools is committed to a collaborative culture of professional learning communities, where we challenge, inspire and empower ALL students. Through innovation and personalization, we ensure that all students acquire the skills, knowledge and confidence necessary to become college and career ready.*" Mrs. Savastano said that we are mirroring RIDE's Strategic Plan.

Beliefs - Other Strategic Plans have headings or categories with beliefs under each category. It was decided to cross-walk shared commitments that were completed a few years back.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Bond Update - Facilities Projects** - At **Forest Avenue School**, new gutters and downspouts have been installed. The flat roof will be finished next week. New insulation to meet building code will save on heating costs. At **Gaudet School**, two sections of the roof that were part of the bond will be finished up in the next few weeks. The apron around the concession stand is complete and has addressed the draining issue at the track. More handicapped parking spaces were added. At **Aquidneck School**, the rusted steel beams and flagpole have been removed and will be replaced with a new flagpole. The handicapped ramp has been installed as well as the handrails at the main entrance. The first set of doors will be installed tomorrow and the second set on Friday. A transaction window with bulletproof glass and intercom will be installed soon.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- **Curriculum** - Mrs. Savastano reported that September 12th will be a Professional Development Day for staff and there will be no school for students since it is Primary Day in Rhode Island. Educators will have a chance to work all day on predetermined focus areas that align with the curriculum. Opportunities for shared learning will be provided. Courses include Bullying 101, Vaping 101, ALICE Safety Refresher, and Phonics for K, 1, and 2. NWEA, Microsoft and RICOH will present workshops at no cost.
- **Financial** - Ms. Brown reported that her staff is focusing on closing the fiscal year and are working on purchases associated with FY19. This is challenging because the budget has not been totally settled and there are areas where there will clearly be adjustments. They are preparing for the first teacher payroll and working on the OPEB evaluation to go to the Town.
- **Facilities** - Mr. Fontes reported that the HVAC Building Management system at Aquidneck School is complete and 99% complete at Gaudet School. The Forest Avenue School LED Lighting project is 99% complete. He thanked his staff for their work during the unbearably hot summer.

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 attended a National School Board Convention in Chicago and distributed information about Fostering Safer Schools. Information was also provided regarding frameworks for writing articles, which gives a good idea on what to include.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O'Connell. *To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 6:35p.m.* Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger
Superintendent of Schools