Board of Education Regular Meeting  
September 10, 2019, 6:30 PM  
Middletown Common Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Members Present: Deborah Cain, Anita Dempsey-White (arrived 6:33 PM), Chris Drake, Edward Ford, Jr., Sean King, Lisa Loomis, Cheryl McClellan, and Jonathon Pulino (arrived 6:37 PM)

Board Member Absent: Marilyn Rios

Others Present: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Conner, Chief of School Operations and Communication Mark Gaylord, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Amy Clarke, Chief of Administration Christine Bourne, Director of Technology Mike Skott, Director of Instructional Technology Michelle Gohagon, Manager of Human Resources Michele DiMauro, Manager of Transportation Mark Langton, Finance & Resource Management Specialist Cheryl Walcott, the Curriculum Team, Macdonough School Principal Damian Reardon, Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Secretary Marcy Poppel, and seven (7) visitors.

Board Chair Drake called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Board member Edward Ford Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Move to adopt the Agenda was made with a motion by Mr. King and a second by Ms. Loomis.

MOTION: Move to amend this evening’s agenda to add Board action on Line Item Transfers passed with a motion by Mr. King and a second by Mr. Ford, Jr. – unanimous vote.

MOTION: Move to adopt the agenda, as amended passed with a unanimous vote.

IV. DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS – EARLY MINDS 2022 STRATEGIC PLANNING TEAM

Dr. Conner recognized Early Minds Committee members in the audience and thanked them for their efforts.

V. PUBLIC SESSION

Chair Drake explained the rules of Public Session.

No one addressed the Board in Public Session.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Move to approve the Consent Agenda, as amended, passed with a motion by Mr. Ford, Jr. and a second by Ms. Loomis – unanimous vote.

VII.A. Minutes of August 27, 2019 BOE Regular Meeting

VII.B. Policy #6161.3 Comparability of Services - Second Reading

VII.C. Extended Field Trip - MHS VoAg Mechanics to Big E in MA 9-14-19

VII.D. Extended Field Trip - MHS Vo Ag trip to Big E in MA 9-25-19
VII.E. Extended Field Trip - MHS Boys' & Girls' Crew Race in NY 10-26 - 10-27-19
VII.F. Extended Field Trip - MHS VoAg to FFA Convention in IN 10-29 - 11-2-19

VIII. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

VIII.A. Financial Report

Item added this evening for Board review and action:

**Line Item Transfers**

Finance and Resource Management Specialist Cheryl Walcott explained the line item transfers and responded to questions.

**MOTION:** Move to approve the line item transfers passed with a motion by Ms. Cain and a second by Mr. Ford, Jr. – unanimous vote.

Ms. Walcott reviewed the Financial Statement noting that this report does not include projections and is the ending Financial Statement from the last fiscal year. She explained the use of carry over money.

VIII.B. Personnel Report

Manager of Human Resources Michele DiMauro reported that the Human Resources Department had a very busy summer highlighting that 47 new certified staff were hired on the report and we still have approximately six more teacher slots to fill. She said in the area of non-certified staff, approximately 117 new employees were hired. She thanked the Human Resource staff for their efforts. Ms. DiMauro responded to questions.

VIII.C. Transportation Report

Manager of Transportation Mark Langton reported that the school year started on a busy note with changes. He has observed some concerns and complaints about buses and is addressing them. He provided an update on road construction.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Conner called Dr. Keri MacLean and Ms. Michele Di Mauro forward. They are leaving the district. He presented each of them with a plant and his thanked them for their contributions to Middletown Public Schools (MPS) and wished them success.

IX.A. Opening of School Overview

Dr. Conner said that he and Mr. Gaylord walked over 30,000 steps visiting all eleven schools on the first day of school. He said it was an amazing opening and looks forward to a year of growth. He said the district’s position statement this school year is “Know your Why”.

He said the final stages are underway in the Chief Academic Officer search and provided an update. A recommendation will be made to the Board in October.

Dr. Conner recognized the hard work of the Curriculum team, Administrators, Unions, and Central Office team.
IX.C. 2019 SBAC and SAT Presentation
Dr. Conner called Dr. Keri MacLean and Ms. Michelle Gohagon forward. They distributed a PowerPoint presentation and gave a brief overview of the 2018 – 2019 Smarter Balance gains from this year to last year, SAT results, and 2019 – 2020 Strategies. There was a discussion on the district’s progress. Anita said it is so exciting to see the numbers rise like that. The BOE thanked the Curriculum Team.

IX.B. Food Services Plan - First Review
This item will be a presentation and action item at the October meeting.

IX.D. District News

X. COMMITTEES

X.A. Budget Committee
Budget Committee Chair Sean King provided a summary of last evening’s meeting.

X.B. Curriculum Committee
Curriculum Committee Chair Lisa Loomis stated she had nothing new to report and the next meeting will be on October 17th.

X.C. Facilities Committee
Facilities Committee Chair Deborah Cain reported the committee will meet next on Sept. 18th and this year committee meetings will be at various schools in the district.

X.D. Policy Committee
No report.

X.E. Representative Reports
Jon Pulino shared that he is coaching a little league baseball team and he players – boys or girls.
Marilyn Rios shared that on October 6, 2019 from 9 AM to Noon there will be a Walk to end the Silence against Domestic Violence hosted by the Middletown Police Department.

X.F. New Middle School Building Committee
Board Chair Drake said the Committee met two weeks ago and said Phase I is finishing up and Phase II will begin in November.

XI. ACTION ITEMS

XI.A. Middletown 2021 Priority Implementation Steps
Dr. Conner said this evening he is asking for BOE approval of the Strategic Operating Plan (SOP) implementation steps. The strategy remains the same, however annually in September the BOE will be asked to approve the new school year’s implementation steps.

MOTION: Move to approve the Middletown 2021 Priority Implementation Steps passed with a motion by Mr. Pulino and a second by Mr. Ford, Jr. – unanimous vote.

XL.B. Early Minds 2022: Pathways to Equity and Readiness Strategic Operating Plan (SOP)
Dr. Conner said this is the understudy of Middletown 2021. This plan has a strong emphasis on early childhood education. It is a community collaborative involving school readiness and non-school readiness
partners. Bridge to Brilliance and social emotional learning are embedded within the plan. We are looking to expand pay-based learning. These initiatives will help close the access gap, as well as the preparation gap to ensure that all students are Kindergarten-ready by the time they matriculate into Middletown Public Schools.

MOTION: Move to approve Early Minds 2022: Pathways to Equity Readiness Strategic Operating Plan (SOP) passed with a motion by Mr. Ford, Jr. and a second by Mr. King – unanimous vote.

Dr. Conner expressed his thanks to Board member Ed Ford, Jr. and the entire Early Minds 2022 Planning team for their hard work.

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

XII.A. New Items

Chair Drake said there will be a Special BOE meeting at the end of the month to address the New Middle School Naming, probably at Middletown High School and Board members should watch for the agenda. Chair Drake stated he tried to schedule Freedom of Information Act training, however, the facilitator is not available on October 8th before the Board meeting.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Move to adjourn at 7:26 PM passed with a motion by Ms. Cain and a second by Ms. Dempsey-White – unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl A.P. McClellan
Acting Secretary

CAPM/mp