

PIC Meeting
Minutes for February 7, 2012
Co-Chair – Judy Saydah/Maria Wheaton

Please note items discussed at PIC that are in the developing and or a transition state are subject to change.

Amy Gallagher/Business Administrator

Presented background information about the 2012-2013 budget, which included a handout that addressed the following:

- All districts in the state received additional aid that was 1% of their 2009-2010 budget. In Middletown this was equal to \$1,445, 978, which was used to hire the new math specialists and social behavior support specialists. They hope to use the remainder of the funds to increase staff support and update technology. This increase will remain next year.
- The district also received \$694,714 in Education Jobs funds that will likely not be received next year, so they need to adjust for this.
- The district's mid-year budget review with the county office of the NJ Department of Education has been completed and results in all areas were favorable
- The board is involved with two contract negotiations. The board and the MTEA have reached a tentative agreement. The Teamsters groups contract expires in June 2012, and negotiations have not begun.
- The district's 2011-2012 budgeted tax levy increase was 1.3%, below the 2% state tax levy cap, which amounts to \$907,166
- Middletown is one of 205 districts in the state to spend below adequacy budget amount that is determined by the NJ Department of Education to provide a thorough education. As of the 2010-2011 year Middletown was under by \$2,190,134.

Discussed also the current budget-impacting initiatives:

- Formation of a new strategic plan as the previous plan is at the end of a 5-year cycle
- With regards to health insurance, the Governor passed a law which will increase employee contributions over the next 4 years. There is a new broker, who is assessing self-insurance, which may save money as well as forming of a wellness committee
- The district is looking into sharing services with the Township in the areas of cooperative purchasing, space use, garbage collection
- Payroll processing has moved in house as a cost-saving measure
- Energy savings through purchase of energy-efficient equipment

Addressed the following items:

- The board voted to approve a resolution that moves school board elections to November and eliminates vote on school budget as long as the budget stays within 2% tax levy cap. Candidates for school board positions will have to file nominating petitions by June 5.
- The Governor's budget address is scheduled for February 21, and state aid is revealed two days later.
- The district is analyzing the following items that may significantly affect the budget:
 - The state will be requiring districts to choose an observation/evaluation model which most likely will bring costs for implementation
 - The new Director of Student Services, Bob Dunn, is reviewing all programs
 - The current curriculum is being evaluated and plans are being made to revise where needed
 - The district is analyzing technology needs with a district-wide meeting held on January 20th and another on February 15th. Building level meetings were held prior to discuss needs of all grade levels.

Vita McKenzie/Principal for Transition of Instruction / Testing and ESEA Coordinator

Presented information on HIB and SES (Supplemental Educational Services).

- There is current legal challenge to New Jersey's anti-bullying law. The state has announced that districts are to continue to implement it as it should have no impact on the schools. The law will stand, but the court has 60 days to issue a decision and the Legislature can make any modifications to the law so a version can stand legal challenges.

- Many schools PTO/PTA/PFA's have taken the opportunity for HIB training. Three schools in January and three schools in February have been visited, with a total of 173 parents (this includes Bayview and Lincroft) school volunteers trained to date. Mrs. McKenzie will visit Thomson (3/12), Nut Swamp (3/13), Leonardo (3/14), and High School South (3/22). She will post on curriculum page all upcoming dates and locations.
- Thorne and Bayshore are Title I schools that have received funding for Supplemental Educational Services. There are approximately 50 kids between the two schools that have elected to participate in this program and receive free tutoring after school. Parents of eligible students have been contacted multiple times to encourage their participation.

Dr. Jill Takacs/Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Presented testing data and what is new with curriculum and instruction.

- District Report on Testing Data can be found on Curriculum page on district website.
- Dr. Takacs clarified that the elementary and middle school data is an aggregate of 3 grades (grades 3-5 for elementary and 6-8 for middle school)
- Seven schools did not make 2011 AYP: Fairview in LAL 38 out of 40 indicators, Leonardo in LAL 39 out of 40, Nut Swamp in LAL 39 out of 40, Port Monmouth in LAL 39 out of 40, Thorne in LAL 38 out of 40, High School North in LAL 39 out of 40, High School South in LAL & MATH 38 out of 40 they all show improvement.
- The data shows that our district compares well against other districts in the state as well as districts in our factor group.
- After School Learning Academies are under way. Both high schools, all three middle schools, and seven elementary schools have implemented the program. Information can be found on the Curriculum page of the district website.

Dr. George/Superintendent

Dr. Takacs/Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

- The parent portal was determined to be down for 2.5 hours on first day of report cards. Dr. George said it was human error, and took full responsibility the issue was quickly fixed and back up again. The employee who was in charge of the parent portal retired Feb. 1, 2012 and a new staff member has been hired to manage it.

MTFODL Update (Middletown Friends of Different Learners):

- A meeting was held in January with 60-70 people in attendance. They met with Bob Dunne, the new Director of Student Services, Dr. George and Dr. Takacs, and discussed where parents would like to see improvement.
- MTFODL are working to create a baseline for parents concerns. They have created a Google Doc available for parents to add to and surveys to assess student's needs. (Links have been emailed to PIC representatives)
- A workshop by POAC (Parents of Autistic Children) on "Hidden Dangers" will be presented in March. (time and place tbd)

Joan Minnuies/Board Of Education President

- Workshop next Wednesday night will be brief because they are going into budget meeting immediately after.
- Monday night (Feb 13th) there will be a curriculum meeting with Dr. Takacs.
- Charlene O'Hagan is the new Director of Curriculum. She will move into place in the spring after testing.
- The agreement with MTEA is tentative.
- Graduation dates will be picked at end of March.