MIDDLETOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 19, 2026
Regular Meeting 5:30 PM

MINUTES

1.0 Opening Items

1.1 Call to Order: Chair Gregory Huet called the School Committee meeting to order at 5:31 pm at Michael S. Pinto Conference Room, 26 Oliphant Lane, Middletown, Rhode Island 02842.

1.2 Determination of Quorum: School Committee Members – Chair Gregory Huet, Vice-Chair Wendy Heaney, Tami Holden, Clerk William Nash and Theresa Spengler

School Department Administrators present - Superintendent Willliam Niemeyer, Assistant Superintendent and Director of Teaching and Learning Michelle Fonseca, Facilities Director Ed Collins, Director of Student Services Leslie Brow, MHS Principal Donna Sweet, GMS Principal Gerald Haas, Forest Ave Principal Rebecca Silveira

REGULAR SESSION

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
1.4 Moment of Silence:
1.5 Public Forum / Comment: None
1.6 Correspondence: Emails provided to School Committee members from students regarding the possible reduction to the French program/classes

2. Consent Agenda:

MOTION: 1) Wendy Heaney, 2) William Nash
That the School Committee approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

2.1 Vouchers
2.2 Invoices
2.3 Minutes
Special Meeting, October 9, 2025
Regular Meeting, February 26, 2026
Special Meeting, February 26, 2026
Special Meeting, March 4, 2026
Joint School Committee Meeting, March 4, 2025
Policy Sub Committee Meeting, March 13, 2026

2.4 Review, Archive and Minor Modifications of Policies
#2300 Guidelines for the Use and Abandonment of Schools Building
#4135 Family and Medical Leave
#4213 Weather Emergency Decision Protocol and Building Coverage
#4220 Employees Telecommunications Equipment and Use
#6120 Dissection
#6140 Foreign Exchange Students
#7114 Learning Environment - Suspension Expulsion
#9250 District Branding & Logo

Motion: William Nash, moved to table the following items to allow for additional time to review these policies. They will be on the April School Committee agenda.
1) Wendy Heaney, 2) Theresa Spengler Unanimous vote.

#9220 Sponsorship Advertising on School Grounds - ARCHIVED combined with Policy 9230
#4000 Administrative Compensation

2.5 Approval of homeschool instruction requests: 25-26-55
Motion: 1) Wendy Heaney, 2) William Nash Unanimous vote.

3. Action Items

3.1 Consider and Vote on first reading of new policy # 9250 District Branding & Logo

MOTION: 1) Wendy Heaney, 2) William Nash
That the School Committee approve the first reading of policy 9250. Unanimous vote.

3.2 Consider and Vote on first reading of revision, policy # 4220 Employees Telecommunications Equipment and Use

MOTION: 1) Wendy Heaney, 2) William Nash
That the School Committee approve the first reading of policy 4220. Unanimous vote.

3.3 Consider and Vote on first reading of revision, policy # 7114 Learning Environment -Suspension Expulsion

MOTION: 1) Wendy Heaney, 2) William Nash
That the School Committee approve the first reading of policy 7114. Unanimous vote.

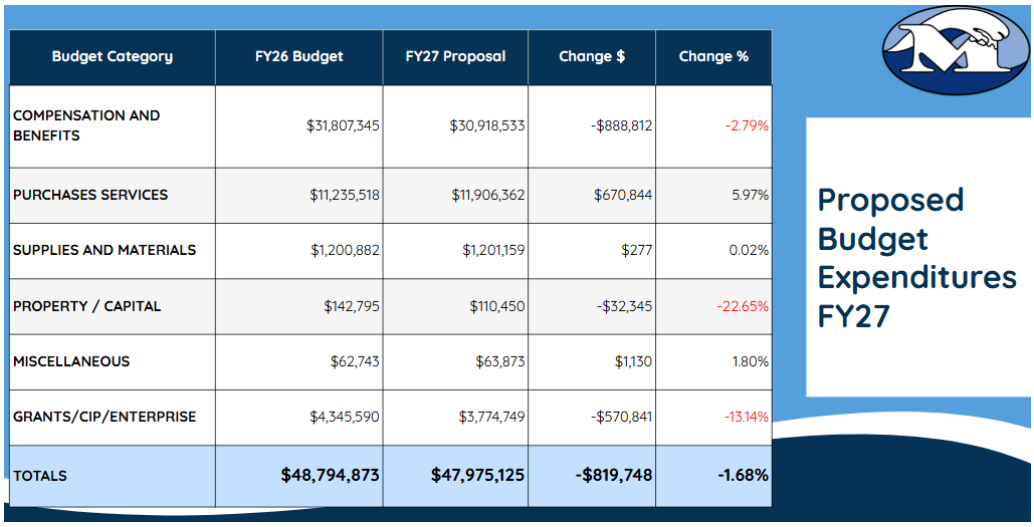
3.4 Consider and Vote on FY 2027 Budget

MOTION: 1) Wendy Heaney, 2) William Nash
That the School Committee approve the FY2027 Middletown School Budget. Unanimous vote.
Superintendent Niemeyer gave a FY27 School Budget presentation
Chair Gregory Huet thanked the Superintendent, staff and School Committee for the hard work and time invested to work together to get to this budget.

Revenue	FY26 Revenue	FY27 Revenue	Difference
Town Municipal Approp with 4%	$ 32,904,494	$ 34,220,674	$ 1,316,180
State Education Aid	$ 6,704,748	$ 6,501,493	$ (203,255)
Federal Direct Education Aid	$ 1,910,175	$ 1,965,960	$ 55,785
State Grants & Categorical Funding	$ 37,618	$ 39,309	$ 1,691
Federal Though State/Federal Direct Grants	$ 1,798,183	$ 1,725,388	$ (72,795)
Local Revenue Sources	$ 1,234,400	$ 1,512,250	$ 277,850
Private Contributions/Donations	$ 351,652	$ 362,375	$ 10,723
Capital Improvement Program Funding	$ 400,000	$ 395,477	$ (4,523)
Enterprise Fund Revenue	$ 438,000	$ 1,252,200	$ 814,200
Appropriations from Fund Balance	$ 500,000	$ -	$ (500,000)
	$ 46,279,270	**$ 47,975,126**	**$ 1,695,856**

Anticipated Revenue

$1,316,180 - 4% increase



4. Old Business - None

5. New Business - None

6. Student Representative Report/Update: None

7. Reports/Updates from the Superintendent and Staff

7.1 Enrollment

	Totals for MARCH 2026																	
	PKAM	PKPM	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	18-22	TOTALS	Totals MARCH 2025
AQE	22	19	58	58	54	82											293	308
FA			68	72	80	64											284	308
GLA							149	123									272	260
JHG									137	130	138						405	433
MHS												127	115	135	113		490	513
Transition																6	6	7
Special Ed Out of District			0	3	1	2	1	4	1	3	2	3	9	6	7		42	62
TOTAL	22	19	126	133	135	148	150	127	138	133	140	130	124	141	120	6	1792	1891
Choice Out (CTE/GED)								1			1	20	16	13	19		70	43
Choice In (CTE)									1			4	5	4	2		16	12
Home School			3	6	3	4	7	11	10	8	6	6	9	8	6		87	89

7.1 Financial

BUDGET: FY26

1. **GF Budget:** $43,253,817.00
2. **GF YTD Expenditures:** $24,144,787.13
3. **GF YTD Revenue:** $27,192,944.36
4. **GF Encumbrance**: $6,127,482.90
5. **Total Budget:** $46,279,270.00
6. **Total YTD Expenditures:** $26,484,412.95
7. **Total Encumbrance:** $ 6,816,329.00
8. **Total YTD Revenue:** $28,739,889.46

7.1 Personnel

NEW HIRE EFFECTIVE March 3, 2026
Andee Gluchowski, Beyond the Bell Teacher, AQ

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE March 13, 2026
Carlie Rodrigues Baptista, Special Education Teacher Assistant, GLA

NEW HIRE EFFECTIVE March 9, 2026
Michael Schuermann, Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach, MHS
Blair Alexander, Varsity Girls Lacrosse Coach, MHS
Mary Sweeney, Assistant Softball Coach, MHS
Tyra Kutsafti, Assistant Track Coach, MHS

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE June 18, 2026
Sarah Elie, Special Education Teacher, AQ
Kristen Coffey, School Social Worker, AQ
Debra Danis, Art Teacher, GLA
Courtney Hancur, Early Childhood Coordinator, MPS
Sarah Toracinta, Special Education Teacher, GLA
William Murray, Special Education Teacher, GMS

7.2 Status Report

Follow up answer from a question from the February 2026 School Committee meeting:
CTE for the class of 2029 we have 30 CTE students. As of today, for next year's incoming class we currently have 63 students enrolled in CTE academies or our newly created local pathway Sports Medicine (which we will apply for full CTE status this year). A 50% increase is awesome news for MHS and district.

Office of Teaching & Learning

Building teams of staff are helping evaluate new furniture, with pilot classrooms giving us real feedback from both teachers and students. This helps ensure we choose flexible, durable options that truly support how students learn.

An instructional coach worked directly in classrooms across our elementary schools and learning academy, modeling writing lessons and focusing on organization, elaboration, and clear expression. Teachers then followed up in PLCs to reflect and apply what they learned, with this work supported through Title II funding.

Facilities, Safety & Transportation

We're getting fields ready for spring sports as weather allows, while managing a tight facilities budget by focusing on emergency-only maintenance for the rest of the year. We're also reviewing bus ridership for efficiencies and shifting to a team-based summer cleaning model to better support building transitions and ongoing construction.

Family & Community Engagement

We've been actively working with community partners to support families, especially those experiencing housing insecurity, while continuing to expand parent engagement and student opportunities. At the same time, we're strengthening our work with multilingual learners and participating in broader equity initiatives to better support underserved students through collaboration and data-informed planning.

8. Information - None

9. Reports/Updates of Officers - None
9.1 School Building Committee - Continues to meet monthly and the building project remains on time and on budget. The final support beam that will be placed in the gym is available for students and staff to sign before being placed in position in the new building.
9.2 Middletown Prevention Coalition - March is Wellness month. There are many opportunities for staff and the community for things to do.
9.3 Policy Committee - The Policy Sub Committee continues to meet monthly to review district policies. Of the approximately 130 policies, over 100 have been reviewed this past year.
9.4 Others as required - None

ADJOURN FROM MEETING
MOTION: 1) Wendy Heaney, 2) William Nash
To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 6:18 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, April 16, 2026

Youtube Meeting Recording