



Office of the Superintendent
Cultivating the Brilliance in Each Student

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**Middletown Board of Education
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2025**

Present: Natalie Forbes, Finance Director
Harold Panciera, Chairperson
Susan Owens, Board Member
Callie Grippo, Board Member
Mike Skott, Director of I. T.

I. The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m.

II. The minutes were approved for the December 9, 2024, meeting. No meeting was held in January, 2025.

III. The Finance Director reported on the monthly transfers. She also took questions about the following items:

a- Clarified the term UNKNOWN ATTRITION, and addressed the large amount set aside for certified & classified staff, paraprofessionals, and duty aids.

b- Explained why the projected deficits were showing for FICA and MEDICARE.

c- Deficits projected for professional services (\$320,000) & professional education services (\$50,000) were reviewed again. The lack of staff to fill certain positions requires that the district contract out for services.

d- The jump in the projected deficit for gasoline: it seems that usage has increased and will continue.

e- Tuition paid to private sources jumped about \$ 106,000 from last month. Additional students needing a special program caused this jump.

IV. Update on the budget process: Ms. Forbes reported that the budget process continues on schedule, with meetings still scheduled with some departments and principals. There should be more information to report at next month's meeting.

V. Plans are taking shape for what will be called the Middletown Legacy Academy (MLA). It will be located at the former Keigwin School. The goal is to put in place two or three programs in order to help those with documented special needs, and those having little success in the regular education classroom. The intention is to have small classes, with a team of teachers and support staff to carry out and develop educational plans for all enrolled.

VI. There is the threat that the district could lose grant money from the state that is federally funded as a result of decisions made in Washington. Among the programs that could be affected are money for free lunches, after school programs, and special education programs. It is too early to panic, as the actual impact is unknown for now.



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On a more positive note, Governor Lamont announced that he supports giving more grant money to towns who develop special education programs that will keep more students in their district. This would be very helpful as we plan for the Middletown Legacy Academy. In addition, the educational cost sharing grant could be modified to make more funds available to Middletown. We look forward to these proposals becoming law.

VII. No other budget questions from committee members.

VIII. No suggested topics for next month's meeting.

IX. Motion to adjourn from Susan Owens. and seconded by Callie Grippo at 6:07.