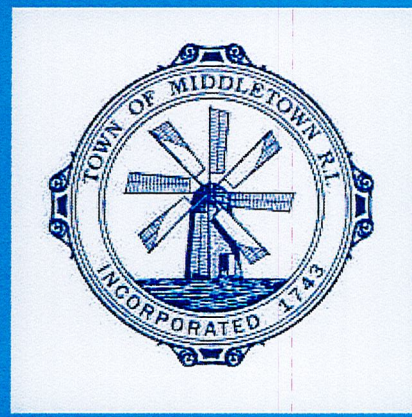
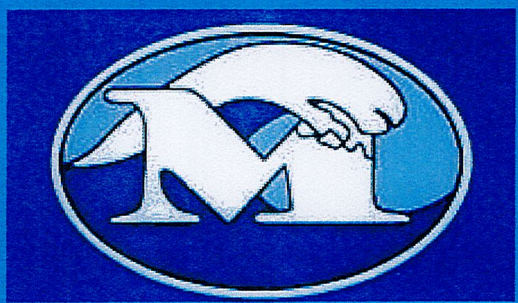


MIDDLETOWN JOINT COUNCIL & SCHOOL
COMMITTEE MTG 04 MARCH 2026
"REGIONALIZATION DISCUSSION"



WHY?

Why is the “HOW” are we going to Regionalize being addressed BEFORE the “WHY” are we going to Regionalize?

Why is the Middletown Council allowing the Newport Council to lead this renewed effort over the strong opposition of its own School Committee?

COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED: "WE NEED TO DO THIS FOR THE KIDS."

- Middletown Residents bear no responsibility for Newport Residents or their students.
- Newport residents voted to not Regionalize in 2022 and as a result Middletown taxpayers incurred a \$190 million dollar Bond to build new schools.
- The Middletown School Committee continues to support working with the Newport School District in all areas that are beneficial through a Memorandum of Agreement – Not Regionalization.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE REPEATEDLY
STATED: "WE NEED TO HAVE THE
VOTERS DECIDE"**

- Is it not prudent to survey Middletown residents regarding their support or lack of support for Regionalization before utilizing limited tax dollars on consultants and expending precious town employee labor and intellect on a questionable endeavor; especially given the fact that every elected member of the School Committee strongly opposes pursuing Regionalization for very valid reasons.
- To date, The Council has failed to respond to the Middletown School Committees' questions and concerns regarding the renewed Regionalization effort, nor have they provided any inkling of what they want the voters to vote on.

COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED: “THERE IS A LOT OF MONEY ON THE TABLE”

- Show me the money. The Council has yet to provide any clarity on the suggested money windfall that is questionably on the table.
- The Council has yet to provide any cost-benefit analysis or impact to the Middletown School Districts’ academic or financial standing under a Regionalized School District.
- The Middletown School Committee has provided an enormous amount of information and has posed specific and valid questions to the Council that continue to go unanswered.

MIDDLETOWN / NEWPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT COMPARISON 2024-2025

The following slides provide factual comparisons of achievement, growth, graduation, attendance, discipline, and spending measures between the Middletown and Newport School Districts.

SCHOOL DISTRICT COMPARISON

| Metric | Middletown | Newport |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Number of Schools: | 5 | 3 |
| Total Enrollment: | 1860 | 1795 |
| Total Educators: | 208 | 224 |
| Per Pupil Expenditure: | \$23,230 | \$31,376 |

2025 (RIDE) REPORT CARD COMPARISON MIDDLETOWN/NEWPORT

| Metric | Middletown % | Newport % | State of RI % |
|---|--------------|-----------|---------------|
| English Language Arts | 47.8% | 18.9% | 36.1% |
| Increase/ Decrease Previous Year | 8.7% | 0.01% | |
| | | | |
| Math | 35.6% | 13.2% | 30.0% |
| Increase/ Decrease Previous Year | 4.4% | 0.06% | |
| | | | |
| Science | 37.9% | 14.8% | 30.6% |
| Increase/ Decrease Previous Year | 0.05% | 4.7% | |
| | | | |
| Chronic Absenteeism (Missing 10% or More Days) | 19.8% | 34.5% | 22.1% |
| Increase/ Decrease Previous Year | 0.01% | 0.01% | |
| | | | |
| 4Year Graduation Rate | 86.7% | 80.8% | 84.1% |
| Increase/ Decrease Previous Year | 2.50% | 3.30% | |

CONTINUED COMPARISONS 2024/2025 Data

| Metric | Middletown % | Newport % | State of RI % |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Teacher Chronic Absenteeism | 2.3% | 13% | N/A |
| Increase/ Decrease Previous Year | 1.2% decrease | 4.9% increase | |
| Suspensions per 100 students | 3.1/100 | 15.4/100 | 10/100 |
| Increase/Decrease Previous Year | 1.0% decrease | 3.9% decrease | |
| Student Chronic Absenteeism | 19.8% | 34.5% | 22.1% |
| Increase/Decrease Previous Year | 1% decrease | 1% decrease | |

School Star Ratings (2025)

MIDDLETOWN

Aquidneck School – ★★★★★
Forest Avenue School – ★★★★
Gaudet Learning Academy – ★★★
Gaudet Middle School – ★★★
Middletown High School – ★★★

NEWPORT

Claiborne Pell Elementary – ★★
Frank E. Thompson Middle School – ★
Rogers High School – ★★

- ★★★★★ Highest performing schools, demonstrating consistent performance across all metrics.
- ★★★★ High performing schools with some opportunities for growth.
- ★★★ Performing near the State average/expected levels.
- ★★ Schools with lower performance that need to focus on improvements.
- ★ Lowest performing schools that require comprehensive support and in some cases, intervention, (CSI Schools).

ROGERS HIGH SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE - Executive Summary

The following information has been quoted directly from the Executive Summary of the investigation conducted by S. O'Donnell into a bullying incident at Rogers HS dated 2 February 2026.

- “The investigation identifies systematic failures in communication, supervision, disciplinary consistency, and trust between staff and administration.”
- “Recommendations focus on administrative accountability, structural reform, improved reporting mechanisms, consistent disciplinary practices, enhanced supervision, and cultural change to ensure student safety and restore confidence.”
- The report has determined that many cultural issues have developed at Rogers High School over time that were ignored or the path of least resistance was taken.
- This incident has exposed and brought to the surface serious systematic failures that must be addressed.”

Common Sense ?

- **WOULD ANY INTELLIGENT BUSINESS PERSON MERGE THEIR EMERGING AND SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS WITH ANOTHER BUSINESS AGAINST HIS/HER OWN BOARDS SUPPORT WHEN THE OTHER BUSINESS IS:**
 - Experiencing financial troubles.
 - In the midst of search for a new CEO.
 - Failing in its core mission requirements (attaining average proficiency standards).
 - Experiencing labor turbulence.
 - In the midst of a national public relations issue over a bullying incident.
 - Has an organizational culture with serious systematic failures requiring corrective action.
- **TO GIVE UP TOTAL CONTROL OF YOUR SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZATION FOR SHARED CONTROL WITH THE TROUBLED ORGANIZATION?**

DECISION TIME

- Based upon the information that was presented, the School Committee requests that each Council Member raise their hand if still in support of Regionalization.
- If willing, explain your position and rationale for support or non-support to the residents of Middletown and most importantly to the families of our students.