

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC RECORD

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUSINESS SESSION

OF

APRIL 8, 2013

SUBMITTED FOR THE APPROVAL OF:

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

AND

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

“AN OPEN MEETING ADVANTAGE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF METHUEN”

**RECORDED BY:
MARTHA SIROIS, PUBLIC RECORDER**

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC RECORD
METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
BUSINESS SESSION
APRIL 8, 2013

This meeting of the Methuen School Committee was held in the Great Hall of Searles Building, City Hall, and was posted for 6:30 PM.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Stephen N. Zanni, Chairperson
Mr. Evan Chaisson, Vice Chairperson (Arrived @ 6:35P.M.)
Ms. Barbara Grondine, Secretary
Ms. Mary Jean Fawcett
Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm
Ms. Deborah R. Quinn

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Mark Graziano

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Judith Scannell, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Brandi, Kwong, Interim Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Glenn Fratto, Business Administrator
Martha Sirois, Public Recorder

1. Call to Order

Mayor Zanni called this meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum of members in attendance, and listed above. Mr. Mark Graziano was absent from this meeting

a. Flag Salute

Abigail Poulin, a 4th grade student at the Timony Grammar School, led the Committee in Opening Exercises of this meeting.

2. Participation by Others

a. SOAR Award

Angel Baez was the recipient of the S.O.A.R. Award at this meeting. The Physical Education Department chose Angel for this Award.

b. Student

1. Student Advisory Committee-Andrew Le spoke about the MHS trip to Washington D.C. Sara Ospina spoke about the MHS Best Buddies Pageant.
2. Girls Hockey Team-MHS Associate Principal James Weymouth spoke about the Girls Hockey Team and all their accolades and accomplishments. The Coach, Kim Bruff, spoke about the team and how well the girls played and how proud she was of them. She also thanked the School Committee for allowing them to create a team.

The mayor asked for a 2 minute recess at 6:50 P.M.
6:52 P.M. the meeting resumed

c. Staff

1. Tom Walters spoke about receiving the Lowell Mason Award.
2. New Staff

Superintendent Scannell introduced the new football coach Thomas Ryan.

Mr. Ryan thanked everyone for the opportunity. The Mayor thanked him for coming to Methuen and hopes he brings back the winning tradition.

Superintendent Scannell introduced the new Marsh Grammar School Supervising Principal Stephen Sierpina. Mr. Sierpina thanked everyone for the opportunity.

The Mayor welcomed him to Methuen and said that he will be a great addition to the Marsh School.

d. Public

No Action

3. Approval of Minutes -

Transcript Business/Organizational Session of February 11, 2013

MOTION: Mr. Chaisson moved to adopt the Recorded Transcript of February 11, 2013 as presented and waived the reading; Ms. Quinn seconded the motion to approve as presented.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Transcript Business/Organizational Session of February 25, 2013

MOTION: Mr. Chaisson moved to adopt the Recorded Transcript of February 25, 2013 as presented and waived the reading; Ms. Grondine seconded the motion to approve as presented.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Transcript Business/Organizational Session of March 11, 2013

MOTION: Mr. Chaisson moved to adopt the Recorded Transcript of March 11, 2013 as presented and waived the reading; Ms. Grondine seconded the motion to approve as presented.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

4. Staff Reports

a. Superintendent's Monthly Report

Superintendent Scannell congratulated the MHS Blue and White newspaper for receiving the second place award in a very prestigious competition. She also congratulated the Food Service Department for receiving the healthy US School Challenge Healthy Meal Award. She congratulated the Food Service Department and our Physical Education Department. They work hand in hand together.

Also in the packet are upcoming event dates. The MHS reconstruction is moving along. Enclosed are notes from each elementary school.

Mayor-Very pleased about how well the MHS reconstruction project is going.

Ms. Hajjar-Kumm-She is excited that the National Junior Honor Society will be coming to the CGS. It will now be in all our Elementary schools.

b. Interim Assistant Superintendent's Monthly Report

Dr. Brandi Kwong submitted her first monthly report and update.

Mayor: When will the schools be doing more Bench Mark Testing?

Dr. Kwong: The second round starts in June. Next year we will be doing Bench Mark Testing in all grades up to grade 11.

Ms. Hajjar-Kumm-If parents have questions and/or comment about the report cards

Dr. Kwong is available to talk to them.

Dr. Kwong-That is correct but they really should speak with the school principal first.

Thursday we will be having an iPad presentation at the Grade 9 Campus and you are all invited.

Superintendent-We are really moving forward with technology and this is a great opportunity for parents to come in and see what it is all about.

Dr. Kwong-She has also attached information on the Atlas Software and the mapping process and a template of what it will look like.

5. Old Business and Other Pending Matters

None

6. New Business

a. Authority to Transfer Funds - Approval

The Superintendent told the Committee that at this time of year we are in the process of cleaning up accounts and need permission to transfer funds.

MOTION: Mr. Chaisson moved to approve the authority to transfer funds

Ms. Quinn seconded the motion

VOTE: 6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

b. 2012-2013 Last Day of School – Approval

The Superintendent asked the Committee to officially set the last day of school as June 26, 2013.

MOTION: Mr. Chaisson moved to approve the last day of school as June 26, 2013.

Ms. Quinn seconded the motion

VOTE: 6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

c. 8th Grade Final Assembly Attendance:

CGS, Marsh and Timony will be held on Friday, June 21, 2013. Tenney has not completed their survey whether they will hold the assembly at night or in the morning.

d. Unit B Ratification-Moved to Executive Session

e. Unit C Ratification-Tabled

f. Naming of the Tenney Grammar School-Upper School Gymnasium Approval:

The Superintendent is requesting approval that the Tenney Grammar School Upper School Gymnasium be named the "Bill Blood Tenney Gymnasium".

MOTION: Ms. Quinn moved to approve the Tenney Grammar School Gymnasium be named the Bill Blood Tenney Gymnasium. Mr. Chaisson seconded the motion.

VOTE: 6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

g. Proposal to Increase Nurse's Daily Substitute Rate Only-Tabled

h. 2013-2014 School Calendar Approval-Tabled

7. FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

a. Expenditure Report - Monthly

Business Administrator Glenn Fratto submitted the Monthly Expenditure Report to the Committee.

DISCUSSION:

No Action

b. Revolving Funds Report – Monthly

Business Administrator Glenn Fratto submitted the Monthly Revolving Report to the Committee.

DISCUSSION:

No Action

c. Grants Report – Monthly

The Grants Department, submitted the Monthly Grants Report to the Committee.

DISCUSSION:

Superintendent-We are waiting patiently to hear from the State and the Federal Government on Grant Funding. It will take a while to hear from them.

Ms. Quinn-What is the Perkins Grant used for?

Superintendent-Supplies, salaries and professional development.

d. Student Activity Accounts - Monthly

Business Administrator Glenn Fratto submitted the Monthly Student Activity Report to the Committee.

DISCUSSION:

No Action

e. Supervisor of Food Services – Monthly

Direction of School Nutrition Services, Wayne Vespa submitted the Monthly Food Service Report to the Committee

DISCUSSION:

No Action

f. Supervisor of Custodians and Maintenance – Monthly

Director of Facilities, Bruce Stella submitted the Monthly Custodians and Maintenance Report to the Committee.

DISCUSSION:

No Action

g. Bid Awards

No Action

h. Contract Approval

No Action

i. Budget Transfers

No Action

8. Notification of Appointments and Other Personnel Matters

a. Personnel Transactions

No Action

b. Professional Staff

No Action

c. Support Staff

No Action

d. Personnel Matters Requiring Committee Action

1. Assistant Super

Superintendent Scannell recommended Dr. Brandi Kwong as Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

MOTION: Mr. Chaisson moved to appoint Dr. Brandi Kwong as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. Ms. Quinn seconded the motion to approve as presented.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Kumm: She is excited about Dr. Kwong's appointment. She works tirelessly for the kids. She works hard and she is a good asset for the Superintendent. She will move the schools in the right direction.

Ms. Grondine: Dr. Kwong is a good fit and will work well with the Superintendent.

Mayor: She brings a great education background. We look forward to working with her. She has a good work ethic.

Superintendent: We have a lot to accomplish. Her work ethic is great. She has worked non-stop on the new teacher evaluation tool.

Mayor: She has also moved to Methuen and her daughter attends Methuen Schools.

VOTE: 6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

e. Notification of Vacancy Postings

No Action

9. Superintendent's Reports, including Communications & Recommendations on Financial Matters, Old & New Business

a. Transportation Monthly Update

Mr. Fratto for Mr. Brian Fowler, Supervisor of Transportation and Emergency Management submitted a memo updating the Committee on Monthly Transportation.

No Action

b. Residency Monthly Update

Ms. Diana Turonis, Attendance Secretary provided the Committee with the Residency Monthly Update Report.

c. School Resource Officers Monthly Update

A monthly report was given on each of the schools.

10. Business from the Committee

No Action

11. Executive Session

- a. Negotiations
- b. Litigation

12. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss at this Business Session, Mayor Zanni entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for negotiations and litigation, at 7:28 pm, we will be adjourning back into the Business Meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Chaisson moved to into Executive Session at 7:28pm.
Ms. Grondine seconded the motion.

VOTE: 6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

The Committee reentered the Business Meeting at 8:38pm.

6d. Unit B Ratification

Motion: Mr. Chaisson moved to approve the Unit B Contract.
Ms. Grondine seconded the motion.

Discussion: NONE

VOTE: 5-1-0 with Ms. Lynn Hajjar-Kumm voting no.

With no further business to discuss at this Business Session, Mayor Zanni entertained a motion to adjourn from the Business Session, at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Sirois Public Recorder
Methuen Public Schools