

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC RECORD

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WORKSHOP SESSION

OF

May 28, 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**

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METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
WORKSHOP SESSION
May 28, 2013

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

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Stephen Zanni
Mr. Evan Chaisson, Vice Chairperson
Ms. Barbara Grondine, Secretary
Ms. Mary Jean Fawcett
Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Deborah Quinn

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

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

a. Israel Arbeiter Essay Contest Winners-Recognition

Sarah Callar a teacher at the Tenney Grammar School spoke about the contest and introduced the winners from the Tenney Grammar School.

Tim Miller the Principal at the Timony Grammar School introduced the winners from the Timony School.

Contest Winners-Meagan Luu, Second Place, Michelle DaSilva and Andrew DiLeo, who shared third place, Antoine Saab, who was a finalist.

b. Extension of Superintendent's Contract-Approval

A motion was made by Evan Chaisson to extend the Superintendent's Contract for 3 years. The motion was seconded by Robert Vogler.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Mayor-The Superintendent earns less than most Superintendents in the area. She has done a wonderful job.

Superintendent-She appreciates all the support and our goal is to move forward.

c. FY'14 Budget Presentation

Mayor-We need to let Glenn and the Superintendent present the budget with no interruptions. You can meet with the Superintendent 3 at a time at a later date to give your opinions. If you have any general questions tonight that is fine.

Superintendent-You will be contacted by my secretary to set up a date and time to meet. Our goal is to answer every one of your questions. This has been in the works since last August. With no stimulus money our goal is again to have no staff layoffs. We have worked out a way to offer a language class at the middle schools for grade 8 students. The enrichment will be scheduled in June.

Dr. Kwong-The Math and Language Coaches will be offering enrichment in all the schools. We have redone the summer reading program for the entire district grades K-8.

Superintendent-We just had a very intense D.E.S.E audit. They will send us the review in 2-3 months. They were excited about what we have planned for next year.

Dr. Kwong-Handed out new Initiatives and spoke about what they are and how they will help our students.

Mr. Fratto presented the budget.

Ms. Bozek-She spoke about the Special Education Budget.

Ms. Hajjar-Kumm-Are these tuitions checked to make sure we are being charged the correct amount?

Ms. Bozek-Yes they are approved by the State.

Ms. Hajjar-Kumm-When the students move into our district during the school year is there any agreement with the towns and cities that they come from to help pay the cost of the Special Education tuition?

Ms. Bozek-If they move into our district from another Massachusetts district before April 1st of that school year we pay for the remainder of their education. If they move into our district after April 1st of that school year the district they came from continues to pay for their education until July 1st.

Mayor-The Superintendent and Ms. Bozek are trying to bring back as many Special Education students as possible to our district.

Ms. Bozek-We are working quite intimately with the bus company to arrange groupings of transportation students so we can keep the cost of busing as low as possible.

Ms. Grondine-When we meet in groups can we have a breakdown of the charge backs?

Superintendent-Yes

Ms. Fawcett-When she met with the D.E.S.E during their audit they were concerned that the school department is being level funded.

Mr. Vogler-He would like a summary/detailed report of what cuts were suggested by the other group of 3 School Committee Members meeting so each group knows what the other group is proposing.

Superintendent-We will put together a summary after we meet. The D.E.S.E was excited about all the Initiatives. They left here feeling good.

Ms. Grondine-She welcomed Mr. Vogler back to the School Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – NEGOTIATIONS/LITIGATIONS: Yes

***ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business to discuss at this Workshop Session, Mr. Chaisson entertained a motion to conclude the Workshop Session for the evening and enter into executive session for the purpose of negotiations and litigation at 7:26PM.

MOTION: Mr. Graziano moved to adjourn the Workshop and enter into executive session at 7:26PM.
Mr. Vogler seconded.

VOTE: 5-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Sirois, Public Recorder
Methuen Public Schools