

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC RECORD

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUSINESS SESSION

OF

SEPTEMBER 9, 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:
DEIDRE RUNGE, PUBLIC RECORDER**

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METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
BUSINESS SESSION
SEPTEMBER 9, 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 p.m.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs. Judith Scannell, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Brandi Kwong, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Deidre Runge, Public Recorder

1. *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. Mayor Zanni asked the Committee to accept the agenda as presented.

MOTION: Mr. Robert Vogler moved to accept the agenda as presented

SECONDED: Mr. Evan Chaisson seconded the motion to approve as presented.

VOTE: 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED

1a. Flag Salute

Leah Kiberstis a 4th grade student from the Tenney Grammar School led the Committee in Opening Exercises of this meeting.

Mayor Zanni took a moment to thank Committee Member Deborah Quinn who will be moving out of Methuen before the next meeting. He thanked Ms. Quinn as Mayor of the City for all she has done, City Council, School Committee, Methuen Sub Committees.... The Superintendent also thanked Ms. Quinn for being very supportive to her and the school system during her service as a School Committee member.

2. PARTICIPATION BY OTHERS:

a. SOAR Awards

No Action

b. Students

No Action

c. Staff

The Superintendent asked the Principals in attendance to come up one at a time and introduce their new Administrators:

- Mr. Reeve, CGS introduced Paula Simone as his new Dean of Students. During her interview she stood out. Her dedication to Methuen students as an English teacher at Methuen High School for the last 20 years.
- Mr. Sierpina, Marsh Grammar School introduced Brandon Parker his new Dean of Students who has been in Haverhill Schools for 16 years as a K-8 Principal and Assistant Principal. He is a strong leader and there is a positive tone in the building.
- Mr. Gosselin, Tenney Grammar School introduced Carl DeReubis his Dean of Students that was born and raised in Salem, NH. He is part of the UMass Lowell leadership program and has been in the field for 19 years. He has a wealth of knowledge and will be a great asset.
- Mr. Miller, Timony Grammar School introduced Kerry Calobrisi as their new Dean of Students. She will fit right into our team. She has been an educator for 17 years. She has already used and has lots of knowledge of the PBIS behavioral incentive that we introduced last year and the new teacher evaluation tool.
- Jane Sigillo the Director of Language Acquisition introduced the new Supervisor of Language Acquisition Heidi Perez. Ms. Sigillo shared her gratitude with the committee for approving the Direct and Supervisor Positions. Ms. Perez is stand out with 20 years of experience in language acquisition.
- Mr. Giuca and Mr. Hill introduced Edward Lussier as the Director of Instructional Technology. With 15 years of experience he is a major player during the transition of Methuen High School.
- Mr. Giuca then introduced Jeffrey Osgood as the Supervisor of P.E., Health, FCS and Wellness. Mr. Osgood has been here for 12 years as a health teacher and has a great amount of knowledge to fill this position.

d. Public Participation

No Action

The Mayor asked for a 2 minute break at 6:50. The meeting started up at 6:52

3. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING TRANSCRIPT

None

4. STAFF REPORTS:

a. Superintendents Monthly Report

Superintendent Scannell told the Committee what a wonderful opening day. Busses went very smoothly. I must thank Ms. Colleen McCarthy and Central Staff for all their work. They stepped up to the plate to make sure all went smoothly. Mr. Giuca

said just to watch the students' faces was amazing. We have always had a nice first day but the tone with the new school was wonderful. The kids were very happy. The Superintendent said only a little work was still needed in South house to be completed in the new section. The workers are being very respectful of the students. She also mentioned that the preliminary numbers were good. They did add a program assistant to the Timony Kindergarten and they may still have to add a second one there.

b. Assistant Superintendent Monthly Report

Dr. Kwong told the Committee that as they could see by their packet we were obviously busy working on mapping. Teachers worked tirelessly in the spring and summer to provide resources for parents, students and staff on our website. This resource is an easy access for us to share the curriculum mappings with the public. Mapping takes a lot of time and money so not all are subjects are done but we are working on it. Foreign Language started their mapping this summer. She went on about the writing curriculum. She believes all are glad to see this back. Teachers were also excited to know they are all using the same curriculum throughout the system. She also mentioned how the kids liked taking a test on line. We did have some internet kinks but we are working them out. Ms. Kumm thanked Dr. Kwong. She was happy to see that we have a uniformed schedule throughout the system. Ms. Grondine said this goes to show the time the teachers put in besides their regular day. Mayor Zanni said some students cannot do cursive and is glad to see writing back in the curriculum.

c. Technology Monthly Report

Timothy Hill, the Director of Technology and Edward Lussier, the Director of Instructional Technology came to the podium. Mr. Hill told the Committee that the IT staff has spent a great part of their time on the high school project. We didn't just upgrade the high school we had to update all buildings. We had to do 2 ½ hour meetings every week to go over what was going on. iPad was a huge project that Bill Silver left in the middle of setting up which left us in the air. Mr. Lussier jumped in and did an outstanding job completing the project started. Mr. Voger said parents, grandparents and students all are excited. It went over really big. I want to thank you guys for all you have done it's a tremendous facility and I am very impressed.

Mr. Chaisson reiterated what Mr. Vogler said. Also said this is why we can not outsource.

Mr. Hill said it would be impossible to outsource the network manager. My staff is working from home helping parents with iPass. They need to spend extra time all the time.

Mr. Chaisson said for the price of what we pay your department we couldn't touch it.

Ms. Grondine said they did a terrific job presenting that even I understood it.

Mr. Lussier said it is a lot of work but very rewarding.

Ms. Fawcett heard parents talking all around town. "Do you know our kids got an iPad" the other parent said "I had to buy my childs."

Ms. Kumm said she appreciated this report. One question I have is our website. I feel our website can be more robust.

Mr. Lussier said we have already been working with vendors on this very thing. Mr. Vogler asked if we have started tracking students electronically so we know how the data is doing. Is this being developed?

Dr. Kwong said test wiz has all our data imputed into it since 2006. This just helps us move forward.

The Mayor said that he will always look at outsourcing to see if it can save us money.

5. OLD BUSINESS AND OTHER PENDING MATTERS

None

6. NEW BUSINESS

None

7. FINANCE AND OPERATIONS:

a. Expenditure Report - Monthly

No Action

b. Revolving Funds Report – Monthly

No Action

c. Grants Report – Monthly

No Action

d. Student Activity Accounts - Monthly

No Action

e. Supervisor of Food Services – Monthly

Discussion:

The Superintendent asked the Direction of School Nutrition Services, Wayne Vespa to come up and talk about his proposal.

Mr. Vespa said he has done an evaluation of the program and as it stands right now he is looking at the program's current needs. Instead of hiring a "chef" he would like to hire an Assistant Director/Chef. He said we still need to figure out what to order, buy it, serve it... It is a huge undertaking. The USDA was and still is a great deal of work. Keeping the public informed with nutrition values on line is huge. This person would keep this information updated. This position would also not affect the school budget it would be part of the revolving account. He went on to say that this year is going to be a building year. Next year is the year to make money. We are currently doing three full service day cares and servicing St. Anne's home. The current salary of a chef would be \$31,000. With the new position I am requesting it would be approximately \$50,000. He did mention that he is spending \$14-15,000 a year on extra work that won't be needed when he adds this position. He wants the Committee to remember we are building a state of the art facility which is untouchable and has lots of possibilities to generate more revenue.

Mr. Vogler said he thinks Mr. Vespa is on the right track. He said he would like to see a job description. My concern is if we pay this out would we lose money. Mr. Vespa said MHS increased by 150 meals a day. It is a great school lunch program.

Ms. Quinn asked about Home Economics do any of those students participate in anything related to the café

The Superintendent said this is part of our vision bringing back this piece.

Mr. Vespa said he is currently working with Special Education kids. They work in the kitchen. We actually pay one of these students. It is a worthwhile program.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Vespa for having the foresight to introduce the new nutrition guidelines. Because of this we had no problem meeting those guidelines.

- f. Bid Awards**
No Action
- g. Contract Approval**
No Action
- h. 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**
No Action
- e. Notification of Vacancy Postings**
No Action

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS, including Communications and Recommendations on Financial Matters, Old and New Business

- a. Residency Monthly Update**
Mrs. Turonis submitted a report to the Committee.
- b. School Resource Officers Monthly Update**
None

10. BUSINESS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Ms. Quinn addressed the Committee "I want to thank the City and Methuen School Committee for these proclamations. I enjoyed the 6 years I served on various panels/committees. I wish Methuen the very best. I just urge all people to get involved and be part of making a difference in Methuen.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE:

- a. Negotiations**
- b. Litigation**

12. ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor asked if we needed to go into executive session and the Superintendent said no. The Mayor looked for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to adjourn this Business Session at 7:42p.m.,
Ms. Grondine seconded the motion

VOTE: 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,
Deidre Runge, Public Recorder
Methuen Public Schools