

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUSINESS SESSION

OCTOBER 10, 2017

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

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES
METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
BUSINESS SESSION
OCTOBER 10, 2017

This Business Session of the Methuen School Committee was held in the Methuen High School, Media Center, and was posted for 6:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb (P)
Mr. Robert F. Vogler (P)
Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm, Vice Chairperson (P)
Ms. Joyce C. Campagnone (P)
Mr. Nicholas DiZoglio, Secretary (Not Present arrived at 6:36 p.m.)
Ms. Jana DiNatale (P)
Mayor Stephen Zanni, Chairperson (Absent)

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb
Mr. Robert F. Vogler
Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm, Vice Chairperson
Ms. Joyce C. Campagnone
Mr. Nicholas DiZoglio, Secretary (Arrived at 6:36 p.m.)
Ms. Jana DiNatale

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Stephen Zanni, Chairperson

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs. Judith Scannell, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Brandi Kwong, Assistant Superintendent of C.I.A. and Grants
Ms. Haley Hamilton, Student Representative
Ms. Deidre Runge, Public Recorder

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm, Vice Chairperson called this Business Session to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum of members in attendance, and listed above.

a. FLAG SALUTE

Jillian McSweeney, a fourth grade student at the Timony Grammar School, led the Committee in Opening Exercises of this meeting.

2. PARTICIPATION BY OTHERS:

a. SOAR Award

Samuel Delap was the recipient of the S.O.A.R. Award at this meeting. The Science Department chose Samuel for this Award.

Mr. DiZoglio arrived to the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

b. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Michael DeSolo updated the Committee on the Patio

Victoria Ursillo spoke about the Homecoming Dance and the Auditorium dedication to Mr. Nicholson

Henry Nugent spoke about the Homecoming Game and Methuen's win.

Haley Hamilton finished by thanking staff and police officers for volunteering.

Superintendent- Told the Committee over 700 students went to the Homecoming Dance

c. STAFF

None

d. PUBLIC

None

3. APPROVAL OF TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES of MAY 2, 2017, BUDGET SESSION, MAY 22, 2017 PUBLIC HEARING AND BUDGET ADOPTION AND THE MAY 22, 2017 WORKSHOP

MOTION: Mr. Vogler motioned to approve the May 2nd Budget session and the May 22nd Public Hearing/Budget Adoption, and Workshop Minutes

Ms. Campagnone seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 6-0-0 APPROVED

4. STAFF REPORTS:

a. Superintendent's Monthly Report

Superintendent updated the Committee on a few items:

- She has been attending School Council meetings and generating a list of their thoughts
- 8 of our students were invited to the "Craft Leadership at Patriots Place"
- Veterans are coming to speak to students regarding the Vietnam War since this is an anniversary year.

1. IMPACT Testing as requested by Committee Member DiNatale

No questions by the Committee

b. Instructional Technology Monthly Report

None

c. Facilities and Grounds Monthly Update

Superintendent – Mr. Stella called me to let me know the ice rink was melting due to the humidity.

Mr. Vogler asked if we have the new system yet.

Superintendent – No it is earmarked at the end of November

Mr. DiZoglio – I was there Friday and you couldn't see the ice. I talked to Mr. Stella and he said we were 4 to 5 months out.

Superintendent – After this happened they moved the date up to the end of November.

d. Physical Education, Health, F.C.S. & Wellness Monthly Update

None

e. Residency Monthly Update

None

f. School Resource Officers Monthly Update

None

g. Student Services Updates

1. Homeless Update

None

2. PreK Numbers

None

3. Out of District Update

None

4. Medicaid Update

Mr. Vogler – Am I correct that we are getting an estimated 1 million in Medicaid money.

Ms. Bozek – No, that was what they talked about when they tapped into their rainy day fund.

Ms. DiNatale – Where did that one million figure come from?

Ms. Bozek – that was from last year when they tapped into the fund to meet our budget.

This year we will get anything over \$500,000 after that 1 million is met.

Ms. DiNatale – When the \$377,000 is met will the schools be all paid up.

Ms. Bozek – Mr. Kelly put a figure of \$676,000 for this year. \$176,000 and change is what's left over. Anything over that we get.

Superintendent – This was a formula. We did not come up with these numbers. UMass comes up with Medicaid numbers. I do not feel we owe a million dollars. This was our budget figure. That is where they came up with the money to meet our budget figure. I did not borrow this money. This was my bottom line budget figure.

Ms. Bozek – the City researched and analyzes it and came up with an average of \$500,000 a year. This is not from UMass just based with what they received every year.

Mr. Vogler – This dates back to Mayor Manzi, to get the high school built the Mayor made it that 500K would go back to them to get the funding done. As time goes on we never received the remaining money. Superintendent is right we did not say it was a reimbursement. More recently this Mayor said when we go over \$500,000 we will get reimbursed. I do believe we should have a contract in place.

Ms. DiNatale – I want to be clear, we had a budget increase and if other departments get increases do they have to pay it back the next year. This is school monies that I don't think they should take. I don't understand why we are paying this money back. A contract never came before this Committee to take this money. This Medicaid money belongs to the kids.

Mr. DiZoglio – I agree with Mr. Vogler we need to convene with the Mayor, Business Manager, Mr. Kelly and City Council. I also agree this is unethical. Please send a letter out.

Superintendent – May I make a suggestion. I do think this is long overdue but could this Committee consider having the meeting when all the new members are on board.

Mr. DiZoglio – I would still like an initial meeting before then.

Ms. Campagnone – I would like to see letters and figures we should of got replies to and didn't receive. We sent emails to the City Council. The people sitting there now are the ones that did this. I think we should address it now.

Mr. Deeb – I agree I don't think it's a lame duck Committee. We need to sit down sooner rather than later. This school department has been fiscally responsible. We have not asked for anything more and the only department in the City that cut their budget. The schools was the only department to cut their budget.

Mr. DiZoglio – We had a 1.4 million dollar cut and then a 2.5 million dollar increase in chargebacks.

Ms. Kumm – It is disappointing when you find out you owe money and the deal that was made years ago. But I do know the MHS project was going to fall through if the Mayor did not do something fast.

MOTION: Mr. DiZoglio would like a letter sent for a joint meeting after November 7th to all current and new electees.
Mr. Deeb seconded the motion

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: 6-0-0 APPROVED

5. OLD BUSINESS AND OTHER PENDING MATTERS

None

6. NEW BUSINESS

None

7. FINANCE AND OPERATIONS:

a. Expenditure Report - Monthly

NONE

b. Revolving Funds Report – Monthly

1. Methuen High School Auditorium - Update

c. Grants Report - Monthly

None

d. Student Activity Accounts - Monthly

NONE

e. Food Services – Monthly

NONE

f. Bid Awards

1. Grammar School Wireless Network Equipment Bid and 5 year lease - Approval

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to approve the bid and 5 year lease

Ms. Campagnone seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: Mr. DiZoglio – this is a \$1.00 buyout after the lease

Mr. Lussier – Yes it is an add on to a contract we got into 2014/2015. It will assist with Chromebooks in the classroom. This company was part of the design team that build this high school.

Ms. DiNatale – Why do we need this if everyone already is using it.

Mr. Lussier – We have access connectivity issues. This will get us to the point that all testing rooms will have connectivity.

Superintendent – This will help out with MCAS testing. It is very beneficial to us.

VOTE:

6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

g. Contract Approval

None

8. NOTIFICATION OF APPOINTMENTS AND OTHER PERSONNEL MATTERS:

a. Personnel Transactions

NONE

b. Professional Staff

NONE

c. Support Staff

NONE

d. Personnel Matters Requiring Committee Action.

NONE

e. Notification of Vacancy Postings

NONE

9. BUSINESS FROM THE COMMITTEE

***ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business to discuss at this Business Session, Ms. Kumm entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting @ 7:23 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Deeb moved to adjourn the Business Session at 7:23 pm.

Ms. Campagnone seconded the motion

VOTE: 6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,
Deidre Runge, Public Recorder
Methuen Public Schools