

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC RECORD

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUSINESS SESSION

OF

OCTOBER 14, 2014

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 PUBLIC RECORD
METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
BUSINESS SESSION
October 14, 2014

This business 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:

Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm, Vice Chairperson
Ms. Mary Jean Fawcett, Secretary
Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb
Mr. Bryan P. Sweet
Mr. Robert Vogler

ABSENCENT FROM THE MEETING

Mayor Stephen N. Zanni, Chairperson

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Judith Scannell, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Brandi, Kwong, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Ian Gosselin, Business Administrator
Deidre Runge, Public Recorder

1. Call to Order

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

MOTION: Mr. Sweet moved to accept agenda as presented
Ms. Fawcett seconded the motion to accept the agenda

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 5-0-0 APPROVED

a. Flag Salute

Trevor Giles a 4th grade student from the Comprehensive Grammar School led the Committee in Opening Exercises of this meeting.

2. Participation by Others

a. SOAR Award

There were two SOAR recipients this night. The English Department chose Shane Godek for this Award. Also Joseph Wakim was chosen by the Science Department for this Award

b. Student Advisory

Student representative Sara Ospina was stuck at a swim meet and will be at the November meeting.

- Nancy Pocoli, Senior spoke about the Dutch Exchange Trip. They attended a Dutch Play of Ann Frank wearing earphones that played it in English as they watched and went to a VIP

reception and met the entire cast. They also visited Paris for the second part of their trip. This was a fantastic Trip.

- Angie Jones a Sophomore spoke about the Multicultural Club and Italian night held at the Italian Club.

c. Staff

The Superintendent introduced Donna Gogas and Carl Fowler. They came up and introduced themselves as co-presidents to the Methuen Education Association and look forward to working with them.

d. Public

Mr. Phil Lahey of 159 Woodburn Drive came up to the podium and spoke about the Merrimack Valley Prevention and Substance Abuse Program. He told the Committee that Representative Diane Dizoglio organized this program and is very active in the program and that Methuen Schools, Superintendent and Mr. Dean Brouder are very active and receptive of his program.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Transcript of September 8, 2014 Business Meeting and September 22, 2014 Workshop

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to adopt the Recorded Transcript of September 8th and September 22, 2014 as presented and waived the reading;
Mr. Deeb seconded the motion to approve as presented.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 5-0-0 APPROVED

4. Staff Reports

a. Superintendent's Monthly Report

- Superintendent – I decided to review the FYI's in your packet which have lots of information on them. First is the transient numbers. Dr. Kwong will speak more to this at the workshop. It is a piece we struggle with everyday. The numbers are high.
- Mr. Sweet – What is a transient?
- Superintendent – Students come in maybe for a month, a year... then leave and sometimes comeback again. In and out of the District not a student that starts in Kindergarten and stays through grade
- Mr. Deeb – Thank you Superintendent I was looking forward to seeing this comprehensive report. It makes it difficult as a District with many transients. We kept hearing about transients and I thought this would help us better understand the transient population. This was eye opening.
- Superintendent – 2nd is a Concussion memo. Mr. Weymouth and I started this discussion. This is not just athletics it can happen in marching band, physical education classes... We have Mr. Al Delano as the point person to go to the trainings and then working with students for reentry. It is baby steps for reentry.
- Mr. Vogler - This has a budget impact and I will be looking for this whey you come to us.
- Ms. Kumm – Nothing surprises me know you take student safety seriously. Testing is at the end of the season. Superintendent said yes
- Superintendent – 3rd is a Snapshot for Advanced Placements. As you can see the growth is continuing and we are extremely proud of our students

- Mr. Deeb. I was confused about the requirements. Is it true anyone can take AP Courses or is there criteria's to follow.
- Dr. Kwong – AP courses is open and the criterion is that they want to be there. We opened enrollment 5 years ago. We found they are better prepared for college even if they don't get the score.
- Mr. Deeb – can you get us the state numbers for comparison?
- Dr. Kwong Yes
- Superintendent - #4 Abigail Adams Scholarship – we had 127 students receive this tuition free to a state school. These students have a passion for learning.
- Mr. Deeb – This is all our seniors. This seems like a significant number of students. The staff should be commended.
- Ms. Fawcett – there were 458 total students
- Mr. Deeb – that is high. Please congratulate the staff.
- Superintendent – #5 Attached are the initiatives from the workshop per the request of Mayor Zanni
- Superintendent - #6 Cleaning of Schools requested by Lynne Hajjar Kumm
- Superintendent - #7 Bus Stop Review. The police revisited all 310 stops. There were no recommendations.
- Mr. Vogler – can you please remind the City to plow and not leave mountains of snow at bus stops
- Superintendent - We are meeting with the new DPW Director and we will be going over that
- Mr. Sweet – What about the sidewalk and broken concrete listed here
- Superintendent – We do have Sgt. Walsh keeping an eye on these 2 pieces.
- Ms. Fawcett – can you find out for me is clearing sidewalks a school related or public related item.
- Superintendent – I will find out.
- Superintendent - #8 Read Ice Rink Memo
- b. Instructional Technology Monthly Report**
- Mr. Sweet asked what extent of rewiring was done by the technology staff.
- Mr. Gosselin said as a school not many phone lines and computer drops were needed. They needed to set up all the offices with phone and computer drops.
- c. Facilities and Grounds Opening of Schools Update**
- Ms. Fawcett said working in a school she knows how much work is needed to be done around summer classes. Congrats to the custodial staff.

5. Old Business and Other Pending Matters

a. Revised and Readopted S.C. Policy JKAA – Physical Restraint – Second Reading

MOTION: Mr. Sweet moved to approve the second read
Ms. Fawcett seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 5-0-0 APPROVED

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Increase in Rate of Pay for Crossing Guards - Approval

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to Approve Increase in Crossing Guards Rate of Pay

Mr. Sweet seconded the motion
DISCUSSION: The Superintendent told the Committee it is hard getting substitutes. Our School Resource Officers always jump in. We think this increase might help us. Mr. Vogler said the amount of money isn't a lot of money and that 7 years was a long time to go without an increase. Ms. Fawcett agreed with Mr. Vogler and said it should come before the Committee.

VOTE: 5-0-0 APPROVED

b. Additional Bus Requested for Regular Education – Notification Purposes Only

The Superintendent said there was absolute over crowding on the buses. We changed runs, moved students from bus to bus... We spent 5 weeks but for the safety of our students we had no choice but to add a new bus.

c. Additional Bus Requested for Special Education – Notification Purposes Only

Ms. Bozek said we also tried rerouting busses. We had students arriving late to school and missing time. Now students arrive on time daily.

d. CREST – Collaborative for Regional Educational Services and Training Agreement - Approval

MOTION: Mr. Sweet moved to approve the CREST Agreement
Mr. Vogler seconded the motion

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: 5-0-0 APPROVED

e. Newly Adopted S.C. Policy IHBG – Home Schooling Policy – First Reading

MOTION: Ms. Vogler moved to approve the first read
Mr. Deeb seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: Mr. Deeb said this is a good policy and the form is good. I am glad to see thought was put into it. How many students are getting home schooling in Methuen

Dr. Kwong said we have about 150 students across the District.

VOTE: 5-0-0 APPROVED

f. Revised and Readopted S.C. Policy ACAB – Harassment Policy – First Reading

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to approve the first read
Mr. Sweet seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: Ms. Kumm asked if the changes could be hi-lighted for the next reading

VOTE: 5-0-0 APPROVED

7. FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

a. Expenditure Report - Monthly

Business Administrator Ian Gosselin submitted the Monthly Expenditure Report to the Committee.

DISCUSSION:

No Action

b. Revolving Funds Report – Monthly

Business Administrator Ian Gosselin 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:
No Action
 - d. Student Activity Accounts - Monthly**
Business Administrator Ian Gosselin submitted the Monthly Student Activity Report to the Committee.
DISCUSSION:
No Action
 - e. Supervisor of Food Services – Monthly**
Director of School Nutrition Services, Wayne Vespa submitted the Monthly Food Service Report to the Committee
DISCUSSION:
No Action
 - 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 & Recommendations on Financial Matters, Old & New Business**
- a. Residency Monthly Update**
No Action
 - b. School Resource Officers Monthly Update**
No Action
 - c. October 1st Enrollment**
No Action
- 10. Business from the Committee**
- a. Building Committee Update – S.C. and Bldg Committee Member - Bryan Sweet**
 - Mr. Sweet –told the Committee that there was minimal to discuss next Wednesday and that it should be the last meeting for awhile.

b. Consolidation Committee Update – S.C. Member –Bryan Sweet

Mr. Sweet told the Committee that the next meeting October 29, 2014.

c. Ameresco Project Update by Mayor Zanni AND

d. Net School Spending Update by Mr. Gosselin

Mr. Gosselin spoke to both 10c and d here. We are looking at separating our timeline to have NSS locked up for our budget. The crunch time is on Ameresco.

- Mr. Deeb – we have been told there would be a plan for us to consider. Any timeline when we will receive one.
- Mr. Gosselin - The mayor can best answer that.
- Mr. Vogler – Hopefully the Mayor will have something for us in November. I know the town is setting a tax rate and I hope no one places this on School Committee. It is the stat that said they have been underfunding kids for several years.
- Mr. Sweet – How long has it been in City’s court
- Mr. Gosselin - October 1st the day we met they were suppose to go over numbers and get back to us Monday
- Mr. Sweet – How do we move on
- Superintendent – If School Committee is asking us to reach out we can.
- Mr. Deeb – I thought this was an urgent matter. I know we have to wait for the Mayor. Should we change the October workshop.
- Ms. Kumm – we have too much at the workshop I personally think it should stay a workshop. Important to have workshop and off site.
- Ms. Fawcett – Looking at my calendar was it due to us on the 6th.
- Superintendent yes
- Ms. Fawcett – Can we request that we get it at the workshop.
- Mr. Gosselin – I gave a verbal but you can put it in writing

MOTION: Ms. Fawcett motioned that we receive for informational purposes at the October workshop the proposal sent to the city
Mr. Deeb seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 5 – 0 – 0 Unanimous

- Ms. Kumm – I expect whatever agreement comes to us the workshop stays at Methuen High School

e. FY’14 End of Year Report Update by Mr. Gosselin

Mr. Gosselin – The EOY report should be to the state at the end of the month.

f. Chargebacks by S.C. Member Fawcett

Ms. Fawcett – There are some ongoing issues. I sent Jay Sullivan at DESE a copy of the agreement and budget and awaiting a response.

11. Executive Session

a. Negotiations

b. Litigation

12. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss at this Business Session, Ms. Kumm entertained a motion to conclude the Business Session for the evening at 7:57p.m. and enter into Executive Session.

MOTION: Mr. Vogler motioned to adjourn this Business Session and enter into Executive session for Litigation at 7:57 p.m.

Mr. Sweet seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb - Yes

Mr. Robert Vogler - Yes

Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm - Yes

Ms. Mary Jean Fawcett - Yes

Mr. Bryan P. Sweet - Yes

VOTE: 5-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,
Deidre Runge, Public Recorder
Methuen Public Schools