

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC RECORD

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUSINESS SESSION

OF

OCTOBER 9, 2012

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 9, 2012

This meeting of the Methuen School Committee was held in the Great Hall at the Searles Building, City Hall, and was posted for 7:00 PM.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Stephen N. Zanni, Chairperson
Ms. Barbara Grondine, Secretary
Ms. Mary Jean Fawcett
Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm
Ms. Deborah Quinn

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

1. *CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Zanni called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with a quorum of members in attendance, as listed above. Evan Chaisson and Mark Graziano were absent from the meeting.

a. Flag Salute

Emily Angelari, a fourth grade student at the Marsh Grammar School, led the Committee in Opening Exercises of this meeting.

2. PARTICIPATION BY OTHERS

a. SOAR Award

Anthony Joseph DiMario was the recipient of the S.O.A.R. Award at this meeting. The English Department chose Anthony for this Award.

b. Student Advisory Committee

Mayor Zanni took a moment to introduce and welcome the new MHS Student Representative for School Committee Meetings Mr. Brian McGrath.

1. Brian Cole a Junior from MHS updated the Committee on the progress of all sports at MHS and how excited they are for the Swim Team and Girls Field Hockey.
2. Biyanka Patel talked about all fundraising going on to support Allie Hawkes who graduated last year and is fighting cancer for the 4th time. Allie was also on the Relay for Life Committee while in high school.
3. Micaela Doyle told the Committee what it is like being down half a school "What this means to us". She told the Committee we walk ¼ mile to classes, we have science labs in trailers.... BUT all in all we are all staying positive in anticipation of a new high school in the future.

c. Staff

No Action

d. Public Participation

No Action

3. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING TRANSCRIPT OF 9/10/12

- MOTION:** Ms. Grondine moved to adopt all the Recorded Transcripts of 9/10/12 as presented and waived the reading.
Ms. Quinn seconded the motion to approve as presented.
- DISCUSSION:** None
- VOTE:** 5-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED

4. STAFF REPORTS:

a. Superintendents Monthly Report

The Superintendent updated the Committee on the following:

- There have been no complaints regarding the construction and that any issues that have arisen were minor and solved daily.
- Dr. Kwong has sent out two connect-ed calls about the technology night hopefully we will have a good turnout.
- Dr. Kwong held a district wide report card meeting. There was not a large group but those that attended offered great comments and feedback.
- She invited the Committee to come to the “Taste of MPS” she was holding for School Council so all can see what Mr. Vespa offers for meal selections in our schools.
- The College Fair that will be held at MHS has a large number of Colleges and Universities attending.

Ms. Kumm told Dr. Kwong she was sorry to hear that the report card meeting was not well attended and asked if the presentation was going to be on our website. Dr. Kwong said “it is already there.”

The Mayor at this time wanted to mention that the elevator at the Searles Building will be out of order while they repair it from Monday October 15th through mid November. He also stated that televised meetings will be held during these repairs at the Timony Grammar School Auditorium and non televised meetings will be held at the Quinn building.

5. OLD BUSINESS AND OTHER PENDING MATTERS

None

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Revised and Readopted - BE – School Committee Meetings – First Reading

- MOTION:** Ms. Barbara Grondine motioned to approve the first read
Ms. Mary Jean Fawcett seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: The Mayor asked if business meetings are changed to a start time of 6:30 p.m., should we change the end time from 10:00 to 9:30 p.m.? All agreed. He also wanted to clarify that the workshops can now be held at other buildings and not be televised. The Superintendent said yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED

7. FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

a. Expenditure Report - Monthly

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

No Action

b. Revolving Funds Report – Monthly

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

No Action

c. Grants Report – Monthly

Lyn Griffin, submitted the Monthly Grants Report to the Committee.

No Action

d. Student Activity Accounts - Monthly

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

No Action

e. Supervisor of Food Services – Monthly

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

No Action

f. Supervisor of Custodians and Maintenance – Monthly

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

No Action

g. Bid Awards

1. 2012-2013 Urban Ring Collaborative Grocery Bid – Approval

MOTION: Ms. Barbara Grondine motioned to approve the grocery bid
Ms. Mary Jean Fawcett seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 5-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED

2. 2012-2013 Urban Ring Collaborative Paper Bid – Approval

MOTION: Ms. Barbara Grondine motioned to approve the paper bid
Ms. Mary Jean Fawcett seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 5-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED

3. 2012-2013 State Diversion Contracts – Notification Purposes Only

MOTION: Ms. Barbara Grondine motioned to approve
Ms. Mary Jean Fawcett seconded the motion
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: 5-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED

4. 2012-2013 Urban Ring Collaborative Grocery Bid – Approval

MOTION: Ms. Barbara Grondine motioned to approve the grocery bid
Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm seconded the motion
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: 5-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED

5. 2012-2013 State Diversion Contract – Tyson Sales - Notification Purposes Only

MOTION: Ms. Barbara Grondine motioned to approve
Ms. Mary Jean Fawcett seconded the motion
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: 5-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED

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

No Action

e. Notification of Vacancy Postings

No Action Needed

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

a. Transportation Monthly Update

Mr. Fowler submitted a report to the Committee.

DISCUSSION: The Mayor heard Brian Fowler was out. Mr. Fratto told the Committee he was in a bad accident but we have everything covered and all is running smoothly.

The Mayor asked Mr. Fratto to send the Committee’s well wishes.

No Action

b. Residency Monthly Update

Mrs. Turonis submitted a report to the Committee.

No Action

c. School Resource Officers Monthly Update

The Principals submitted their monthly reports to the Committee.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Kumm asked why the Tenney Grammar School had 31 for a total of the SRO attending classes and assemblies. This number is much higher than other schools. The Superintendent said she would check it out and let her know.

No Action

d. October 1st Enrollment

Ms. Kumm asked if this is what is considered October 1st data. The Superintendent said yes. The Mayor asked about the low classroom numbers in the CGS. Dr. Kwong formerly the Supervising Principal answered “these are SEI classrooms. SEI children are mainstreamed at least half a day with their peers for specialist classes and lunch. They are in the smaller classrooms for subjects like English.” Ms. Fawcett asked how flexible is the number of SEI students moving in and out of the district. Dr. Kwong said that kids are pulled out of the schools to travel for some time and then return again sometime not attending school elsewhere. The Mayor asked why numbers dropped from 8th to 9th. The Superintendent said that’s when children leave to go to vocational and other private high schools. The Mayor asked than why is 12th grade high do they come back and the Superintendent said yes.

10. BUSINESS FROM THE COMMITTEE

a Consolidation Committee Update

Ms. Kumm wanted to update the Committee about the Consolidation Committee that was formed. She said during the budget cycle it was asked by both City and School to get a Consolidation Committee up and running. Councilors Atkinson and Ciulla, along with School Committee Members Mark Graziano and myself have begun meeting. We are comparing City and School to see if any departments can save us money or run more efficiently. We already met on September 26, 2012 and I will be taking intensive minutes and sharing them with you. Ms. Fawcett asked if the Mayor and Superintendent can go to these meetings. Ms. Kumm said yes, the meetings are posted and they will be informed where and when the meetings are held. No decisions or votes can be made without them.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE:

a. Negotiations

b. Litigation

12. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss at this Business Session, Mayor Zanni entertained a motion to assemble into an Executive Session of the Committee at 7:40 PM, thus concluding this Business Session for the evening.

MOTION: Ms. Grondine moved to adjourn this Business Session at 7:40PM, Ms. Quinn seconded.

VOTE: 5-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,
Deidre Runge, Public Recorder
Methuen Public Schools