

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUSINESS SESSION

OF

NOVEMBER 14, 2016

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
NOVEMBER 14, 2016

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

ROLL CALL

Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb (P)
Mr. Robert F. Vogler, Secretary (P)
Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm, Vice Chairperson (P)
Ms. Joyce C. Campagnone (P)
Mr. Nicholas DiZoglio (Arrived at 6:35)
Ms. Jana DiNatale (P)
Mayor Stephen Zanni, Chairperson (P)

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb
Mr. Robert F. Vogler, Secretary
Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm, Vice Chairperson
Ms. Joyce C. Campagnone
Mr. Nicholas DiZoglio
Ms. Jana DiNatale
Mayor Stephen Zanni, Chairperson

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs. Judith Scannell, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Brandi Kwong, Assistant Superintendent of C.I.A. and Grants
Mr. Ian Gosselin, Business Administrator
Ms. Nika Nguyen, Student Representative
Ms. Deidre Runge, Public Recorder

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

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

MOTION:	Mr. Vogler motioned to accept the agenda as presented Mr. Deeb seconded the motion to approve as presented.
DISCUSSION:	None
VOTE:	6-0-0 APPROVED

a. FLAG SALUTE

Owen Fulks, a fourth grade student at the Tenney Grammar School, led the Committee in Opening Exercises of this meeting

Nicholas DiZoglio arrived to the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

2. PARTICIPATION BY OTHERS:

a. SOAR Award

- John El-Helou was the recipient of the S.O.A.R. Award at this meeting. The Mathematics Department chose John for this Award.

b. STUDENTS

(1) Student Advisory Committee

Nika Nguyen told the Committee how excited they are that the TedEx Youth Conference is this weekend.

(2) Superintendent's Certificate of Academic Excellence Recipients

Katerina Tsakirellis and Domenic Privitera, two top seniors were recipients of the Certificates.

c. PUBLIC

NONE

d. STAFF

NONE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2016 AND SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to adopt the Transcripts of Recorded Minutes of September 12, 2016 as presented and waived the reading;
Mr. DiZoglio seconded the motion to approve as presented.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to adopt the Transcripts of Recorded Minutes of September 26, 2016 as presented and waived the reading;
Ms. Campagnone seconded the motion to approve as presented.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

4. STAFF REPORTS:

a. Superintendent's Monthly Report

Superintendent – Updated the Committee of all the upcoming events.

Ms. Kumm – Can you update us where we are at with the Academic Bowl?

Superintendent – We are ready to go. The principals are meeting with their staff to talk about positions and we should be ready to start after the Thanksgiving break. They are getting literature ready to send home to parents of 7th and 8th graders.

Ms. DiNatale – At the last School Committee meeting we were looking for an opportunity for PBIS to come in and talk to the School Committee?

Superintendent – We are in the planning stages. They will be doing building based informational meetings for the parents. It is a work in progress.

b. Instructional Technology Monthly Report

NONE

c. Facilities and Grounds Monthly Update

Mr. Vogler - I saw there were no new handicap parking spaces at the high school.

Mr. Gosselin – We are waiting for a price for curb cuts. It is in the process.

Ms. Kumm – Is the CGS Bridge in the capital improvement plan?

Mr. Gosselin – No it's not.

Ms. Kumm – Are you going to look to add it.

Mr. Gosselin – Absolutely, there are some things we can take out of the plan that we were able get them done internally that were in the energy plan.

Mr. Vogler – I know we sent a letter to set up a meeting but I read somewhere there is a timeline for the Mayor.

Mayor – City Council does want to meet with the School Committee first.

Mr. DiZoglio – Can we set up a day and time or a meeting with the City to discuss the capital improvement plan?

Superintendent – Mr. Gosselin, Ms. Bozek and I met with the City Council Finance Sub-Committee. We handed over a copy of the Capital Improvement plan and discussed Medicaid and cleared up a lot of misunderstandings regarding Medicaid. Ms. Bozek will continue to update School Committee on Special Education numbers. We will sit again after the holidays with the finance committee and discuss a joint meeting.

Mr. DiZoglio – Can we have an actual date after January 1st planned.

Superintendent – The State came in and reviewed every building in the District and as soon as I get the report back from them I will get it out to you.

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

Superintendent – Mr. Osgood is very excited he has been working in collaboration with the City and the school system about highlighting waterways in the City.

Ms. Kumm – Is archery starting at the Tenney Grammar School and is the plan to go system-wide.

Superintendent - Yes the Tenney is a pilot program.

e. Residency Monthly Update

Ms. DiNatale –I revisited the residency policy and I don't see in the policy a place that asks who the child's parents are so we can determine if they live in Methuen with an actual parent or legal guardian. Can we legally ask for a birth certificate so we can see who the parents are or even a court document stating that in fact they live with their parents or legal guardian and are our students? I have heard from different people that they don't live with their parents they live with an aunt or cousin.

Superintendent – Yes Methuen Public Schools does require a birth certificate when registering. We do get a "Care Giver Affidavit" which has to be filled out. So I will answer yes to all your questions.

Ms. Kumm – I would love to see the date opened, where we are at and closure of these investigations. I think we are really looking for a turnaround time.

Superintendent – Absolutely, it is just the way it is being written, it is a rollover.

Mr. DiZoglio – Is there a jump in student ratio when we have 30 new 2nd and 3rd graders register and lost only 4.

Superintendent – It equals out we look who got the last student and go to the next classroom.

f. School Resource Officers Monthly Update

Ms. DiNatale – I see MHS went from 7 to 18 incidents but it's hard to see what we should be considering for policies. Can we have a short summary of these issues happening in the schools?

Superintendent – Mr. Barden and I had questions regarding this also. To be honest we are disturbed if we have not been approached but most of these parent complaints could be parking, traffic...

Ms. DiNatale – I do not want specifics. I am requesting information on why we need an SRO involved in a disciplinary case or parent issue.

Superintendent – Absolutely not drug related these are children with medical issues.

Ms. Kumm – Since Labor Day I have had zero calls for issues at the high school. Thank you Principal Barden and. We have fantastic students not every student can be perfect. I hope we can inquiry is not to speak badly of the high school. I am very proud of them. I see it is a very small percentage. I don't want to ignore them though I am just looking to be informed.

Superintendent – We have discussed this previously, medical records are private and this is a public record. I can get you Mass General Law if you would like.

Mayor – When you get your report if you have a concern call the Superintendent she will answer your questions. If there really is a concern, I know when I call I get a call back.

g. Student Services Updates

1. Homeless Update

Ms. Kumm – How does the federal government determine they are Methuen students.

Ms. Bozek – We have to go with their last known residence.

2. PreK Numbers

Ms. Kumm – What is walk in services and is this mandated?

Ms. Bozek – Walk ins are a child turning 3 and is required to receive speech or occupational therapy and does not qualify for one of our other programs but it is required because they are IEP says they are eligible. We report them the same way we do all of our students including enrollment.

3. Out of District Update

NONE

4. Medicaid Update

NONE

5. OLD BUSINESS AND OTHER PENDING MATTERS

a. Revise & Readopt S.C. Policy #GDB-Support Staff Contracts and Compensation Plans – Second Reading

MOTION: Ms. Kumm moved to approve the Second Reading to revise and readopt S.C. Policy #GDB
Mr. Vogler seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: Ms. DiNatale – I would like where it says “School Committee will take in to factors” and change to “may consider several factors including but not limited to” otherwise we are restricting ourselves.
Mayor – This came right from M.A.S.C.

Mr. Deeb – I am not objecting to her but I think the language is fair.

Mr. Vogler – I agree with Mr. Deeb. It is a Committee decision. This is unaffiliated. It was what the Superintendent would come to us with. They get what similar unions may get.

Ms. Campagnone – Do we already have an agreement from previous years.

Superintendent – This language has been cleaned up.

Ms. DiNatale – The language is ambiguous and limits the Committee. I will not support as it stands.

Mayor – This goes back to 88/89. We do not have these positions. It says the School Committee will take in to account. Did our Lawyer look at this?

Superintendent – Yes.

VOTE: 6-1-0 APPROVED (Ms. DiNatale voted No)

b. S.C. Policy Sub Committee Recommendations of Policies to be Eliminated-Second Reading

MOTION: Ms. Kumm moved to approve the Second Reading to Eliminate Policies recommended by sub committee

Mr. Vogler seconded the motion to eliminate the policies.

DISCUSSION: NONE

VOTE: 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

6. NEW BUSINESS

NONE

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to enter into executive session for the purpose to discuss negotiations at 7:30 p.m. and when finished return to the business session

Ms. Campagnone seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: NONE

ROLL CALL

Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb (Y)

Mr. Robert F. Vogler, Secretary (Y)

Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm, Vice Chairperson (Y)

Ms. Joyce C. Campagnone (Y)

Mr. Nicholas DiZoglio (Y)

Ms. Jana DiNatale (Y)

Mayor Stephen Zanni, Chairperson (Y)

VOTE: 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

The School Committee entered back into the Business Meeting at 8:08 p.m.

7. FINANCE AND OPERATIONS:

a. Expenditure Report - Monthly

NONE

b. Revolving Funds Report – Monthly

1. Methuen High School Auditorium - Update

- NONE
- c. Grants Report - Monthly**
NONE
- d. Student Activity Accounts - Monthly**
NONE
- e. Food Services – Monthly**
NONE
- f. Bid Awards**
NONE
- g. Contract Approval**
NONE
- h. Budget Transfers**
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.

(1) Medicaid Billing Assistant Posting

MOTION: Ms. Kumm moved to approve the posting for a Medicaid Billing Assistant

Ms. Campagnone seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: Mr. Deeb – I understand and it is well intentioned that it will be reimbursed by Medicaid funds. I am concerned because it creates a position. I am going to vote no
Mayor – It really doesn't. We had someone who retired. This is late we wanted to get Medicaid billing going so it gets to where it should be. After the City receives its fair share the schools will see money on the school side. That \$20,000 position will make a difference when it creates money.

Superintendent – This is a year to year posting with a one year appointment if it does not work it is gone.

Mr. Vogler – This is an important item. We will have one person working with Ms. Bozek and for \$20,000 with one responsibility will bring in more money. It's a cost effective thing.

VOTE: 6-1-0 APPROVED (Mr. Deeb Voted No)

(2) Auditorium Manager Posting

MOTION: Ms. Kumm moved to approve posting for an Auditorium Manager
Ms. Campagnone seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: NONE

VOTE: 6-1-0 APPROVED (Mr. Deeb Voted No)

e. Notification of Vacancy Postings
NONE

9. BUSINESS FROM THE COMMITTEE
NONE

***ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business to discuss at this Business Session, Mayor Zanni entertained a motion to conclude the Business Session for the evening at 8:25 pm.

MOTION: Ms. Campagnone moved to adjourn the Business Session at 8:25 pm.
Ms. DiNatale seconded the motion

VOTE: 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,
Deidre Runge, Public Recorder
Methuen Public Schools