

Rangerland Preschool Program Briefing
November 21, 2012

Minutes

On Friday, November 21, 2012, at approximately 12:30 PM, the Superintendent of Methuen Public Schools, met with members of the Methuen School Committee to brief them on information that was being disseminated in the community regarding the Rangerland Preschool Program. Members of the Methuen City Council were also invited to attend the briefing. This topic had been addressed by some City Council members at a City Council meeting held on November 19, 2012. Administrators in the Methuen Public Schools associated with the Rangerland Preschool Program were also invited to attend. No votes or official actions were taken at this briefing.

Present at the briefing were:

Judith A. Scannell	Superintendent, Methuen Public Schools
Stephen N. Zanni	Mayor and School Committee Chairperson
Evan Chaisson	School Committee Vice Chairperson (arrived late)
Mary Jean Fawcett	School Committee Member
Barbara Grondine	School Committee Member
Lynn Hajjar Kumm	School Committee Member
Jennifer Kannan	City Council Chairperson (arrived late)
James Atkinson	City Council Member
Sean Fountain	City Council Member (arrived late)
Gina Bozek	Director of Special Education
James Giuca	Methuen High School Principal
James Weymouth	Methuen High School Associate Principal/Athletic Director

1. Rangerland Preschool Program Briefing. Superintendent Judith A. Scannell addressed the group and provided factual background and an update regarding the Rangerland Preschool Program. Superintendent Scannell informed the group of the following:
 - a. The Rangerland Preschool Program is not a program that the Methuen Public Schools is required to operate. The Methuen Public Schools, however, is committed to continue running this program as long as it is possible.
 - b. Despite reports to the contrary, the Rangerland Preschool Program is not cancelled.
 - c. High School Administration and the Superintendent had to move the location of the Rangerland Preschool Program for this school year due to the renovation of Methuen High School. Superintendent Scannell discussed the efforts that were made to find alternative locations for the program.
 - d. Superintendent Scannell discussed safety concerns associated with the relocation of the program that had been raised by students and the efforts that had been made to ease these concerns. These efforts included considering various busing options, hiring additional school crossing guards, and having either police or school administration escorts as students walk to alternative locations for the program.

- e. Superintendent Scannell discussed communication regarding the program that was made to high school students and parents of the students that participate in the program, as well as parents of the preschool students that participate in the program. This communication consisted of letters and individual meetings to discuss relocation options and the school district's attempts to alleviate any safety concerns. Superintendent Scannell also informed the group that any questions about the program raised by parents should be directed to the Superintendent.
- f. Superintendent Scannell then discussed that students that participated in the program would receive their EEC certifications at the end of the year. Superintendent Scannell also informed the group that she would continue to try and honor parent requests for the school of their choice.

With no questions asked, the briefing was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Scannell
Superintendent of Schools
Methuen Public Schools