

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC RECORD

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WORKSHOP SESSION

OF

November 23, 2015

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:
MARTHA SIROIS, PUBLIC RECORDER

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METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
WORKSHOP SESSION
November 23, 2015

This Workshop of the Methuen School Committee was held in the Tiger's Den, Tenney Grammar School, 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. Rober F. Vogler
Ms. Jana DiNatale

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Bryan P. Sweet
Mayor Stephen Zanni

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Judith Scannell, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Brandi Kwong, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Edward Lussier, Instructional Technology Director
Ms. Martha Sirois, Public Recorder

CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

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

Ms. Hajjar Kumm-The Chairperson is not at this meeting tonight because of a tax rate meeting at City Hall. She has asked the City Council Chairperson to review the School Committee schedule so that he will not double schedule his meetings.

1. Webpage Presentation by Mr. Edward Lussier, Instructional Technology Director

Superintendent-We want to share with you this evening Methuen Public School's Webpage. We are very proud of the improvements we have made to the website. Ed Lussier has done a lot of hard work and has trained the building principals to use/update their building websites. The District Calendar is updated daily.

Mr. Lussier gave his presentation:
He reviewed how to use the District Calendar and where to find information within the website.

Ms. Hajjar Kumm-Are the School Committee Meetings live stream?

Mr. Lussier-It is live on Cable TV but not on the website.

Superintendent-We are trying to get away from using so much paper. Many of our forms are online.

Ms. DiNatale-Can the parent forms that they complete at the beginning of every school year be put on the website?

Ms. Hajjar Kumm-Are there any districts in our area that put their forms online?

Ms. DiNatale-They do it at one of the technical schools.

Mr. Lussier-He is researching to add a parent portal.

Mr. Vogler-He thinks that Ipswich schools have that for their parents.

Superintendent-Mr. Lussier is doing a lot of research. To change the district to a new system is a very expensive purchase. She asked that when the School Committee is approached by parents that they direct the parents to the website.

Ms. Hajjar Kumm-When we receive a ConnectEd call does the information also go onto the website?

Superintendent-The ConnectEd calls do not instantly go onto the website. They have to be manually posted to the website. You all have the option to get every ConnectEd call that goes out in the District.

Ms. DiNatale-She would like to receive every ConnectEd call. When parents complete the forms do they add their email address?

Dr. Kwong-Most parents do not give their personal email.

Ms. DiNatale-(Referring to Mr. Lussier's presentation when speaking on Methuen Public School staff online policies that require a signature) Ms. DiNatale stated that she is concerned that the staff signature verifying that they have read and understand the policy is above the actual policy. The signature that they have read and understand a policy should be at the end of the policy.

Mr. Lussier-We can't do that with this system.

2. November 3, 2015 Professional Day Feedback

Dr. Kwong-The Professional Day was for the entire teaching staff and administration. It was a huge undertaking but was a great success. She received 338 responses to the survey regarding the day. Most of the information was positive and will be helpful for the next Professional Development Day.

Other Business:

Superintendent-There are lots of ongoing changes with the M.C.A.S/P.A.R.C.C testing. She has a conference call in her office tomorrow with D.E.S.E. She will bring more information to the Committee when she receives it although the information is changing daily.

Ms. Hajjar Kumm-When is the earliest that there will be a change?

Superintendent-She will find out that information tomorrow.

Ms. Hajjar Kumm-She thought D.E.S.E was allowing Districts to make their own decision.

Superintendent-The decision last week is that P.A.R.C.C was not voted on. The timeline is a mess. The accountability is a mess. Things are changing daily. This will be a decision that the School Committee will make.

Mr. Deeb-He appreciates the Superintendent keeping the Committee updated. He also would like the SAT and PSAT testing to be looked at again. Some colleges have abolished the SATS.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – NEGOTIATIONS/LITIGATIONS: No

***ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business to discuss at this Workshop Session, Ms. Hajjar Kumm entertained a motion to conclude the Workshop Session for the evening at 8:12 PM.

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to adjourn the Workshop at 8:12 PM.
Ms. Fawcett seconded.

VOTE: 5-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Sirois, Public Recorder
Methuen Public Schools