

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WORKSHOP MEETING

OF

NOVEMBER 27, 2017

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

**TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES**

**METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 27, 2017**

This Workshop Meeting of the Methuen School Committee was held at Methuen High School, Media Center, and was posted for 6:30PM  
Meeting started at 6:43PM when there was a quorum assembled

**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 (NP)  
Mr. Nicholas DiZoglio (P)  
Ms. Jana DiNatale (NP)  
Mayor Stephen Zanni, Chairperson (NP)

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb (P)  
Mr. Robert F. Vogler, Secretary (P)  
Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm, Vice Chairperson (P)  
Mr. Nicholas DiZoglio (P)

**MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms. Joyce C. Campagnone (NP)  
Ms. Jana DiNatale (NP)  
Mayor Stephen Zanni, Chairperson (NP)

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs. Judith Scannell, Superintendent of Schools  
Brandi L. Kwong, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Jeffrey Osgood, Supervisor of Physical Education, Health, FCS and Wellness K-12

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:**

Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm called this Workshop Session to order at 6:43PM with a quorum of members in attendance, and listed above.

Ms. Hajjar Kumm requested a Moment of Silence for the following who passed away this week. Methuen Fire Fighter Patrick McKallagat, long time cafeteria employee Bernice "Bunny" Agnew and School Committee Member Jana DiNatale's uncle David Philbrick.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by School Committee Member Robert Vogler

Ms. Joyce Campagnone entered the meeting at 6:43PM

### **Lower School Health Initiative**

Superintendent-She introduced Jeffrey Osgood, Supervisor of Physical Education, Health, FCS and Wellness K-12. She is very excited about the K-4 Health Initiative that is being piloted by Methuen Public Schools.

Mr. Osgood introduced the new K-4 Health teachers, Kelsi Jarvis, Tenney Grammar School, Catie Keenan, Marsh Grammar School and Jeff Hajj, Donald P. Timony Grammar School.

Mr. Osgood gave his presentation on the Lower School Health Initiative (Handout)

Superintendent-She visited all of the School Councils and told them this pilot program was a possibility. Parents were extremely excited about this. She asked them about curriculum and topics. Empathy came up at every school. When students make the transition to middle school they are not capable of handling some of the issues that surface. It is really communication skills. How can they communicate things that are happening. Hurtful things and hidden disabilities came up in every school. Children could not differentiate the difference in students in a successful manner. Parents are very excited. She met all of the new teachers. They are passionate and take Jeffrey's lead on this and she believes the School District will be in a better place and they will see very positive results down the road.

Mr. Osgood-This will be very transparent. Parents will have access to the document he shared tonight and once the curriculum is completed they will have that as well. They will seek feedback. He would like to hear what the parents have to say. He has a meeting on Wednesday night with parents to come and hear this presentation and ask the questions they need to ask. Our School Resource Officers (SRO's) go into the K-4 classrooms for different topics throughout the year. They do winter safety and fingerprinting with the students. They also go into the 5-8 classrooms as well as the high school. He would like to see collaboration with the SRO's and health teachers.

Superintendent-We have had the Second Step Program in the past. The teachers did not have enough time within their teaching schedules to do this program in the correct manner. This program has been around for many year we just did not approach it in the correct manner.

Mr. DiZoglio-He welcomed the new staff members. This sounds like a great program. Where does this fit into the schedule?

Mr. Osgood-This is fixing a schedule problem. There are more homerooms than specialist teachers. This has allowed students to stay with their homerooms and not get broken up and put in different classes. This does not change the schedule at all it puts the students into the correct classes with their homeroom.

Mr. DiZoglio-Will these teachers see every class every week?

Dr. Kwong-Yes. We have a 5 day rotation but there are 6 blocks of time. Having the 6 teachers, every student is going to the class they need to. The K-4 schedule will now mirror the 5-8 schedule. With this addition the students will get a consistent amount of specialist time.

Mr. DiZoglio-What is the time, date and place of your parent meeting?

Mr. Osgood-Wednesday at 6:00pm in the Donald P. Timony Grammar School Auditorium. He did a Connect Ed call, put it on the website and Twitter. Superintendent Scannell also reached out to the parents last week about the meeting.

Mr. DiZoglio-At which school will each teacher be teaching at?

Mr. Osgood-Catie Keenan will be at the Marsh Grammar School. Kelsi Jarvis will be at the Tenney Grammar School. Jeff Hajj will be at the Donald P. Timony Grammar School.

Mr. DiZoglio-This is being funded by a grant. How long is the grant and where do we see this program going when the grant is done?

Superintendent-This is a 2 year grant. This is a pilot program and will be discussed at budget time. They will look at the positives and make a decision and it will be a School Committee discussion.

Mr. Vogler-Who will be doing the CGS?

Mr. Osgood-This is a pilot program so we chose the schools with the most need.

Mr. Vogler-The CGS will not have this program for 2 years?

Superintendent-We will discuss this during budget time to see if there is a possibility for the CGS. Hopefully we will move forward in that direction.

Mr. Vogler-He would support that. He believes in consistency and would like to see this in every school.

Ms. Campagnone-She feels the CGS with their demographics should also have this. How did they pick the schools that will have this program? She would like to see every school have the same opportunity.

Mr. Osgood-He would like every school to have this as well. There are many more students in these 3 schools and there was a huge need to fix a scheduling problem.

Ms. Campagnone-When this is placed into the CGS will those students be behind the other 3 schools?

Superintendent-Many pieces of this curriculum is embedded in the Guidance Department at CGS. Principal Reeve has been working with his Guidance team. The reason we could do this is that CGS student enrollment is much lower than the other K-8 schools. His Guidance team has the opportunity to go into the classrooms and do many of these lessons so the students will not be behind.

Ms. Campagnone-Our students are very fortunate to have this program.

Mr. Deeb-This looks like a very good program and being a grant it is not costing the taxpayers any money. He appreciates the Health Department's transparency with all of the curriculum being made available online so parents can review it.

Ms. Hajjar Kumm-Other Communities have struggled with Health Education in their schools. She knows that Mr. Osgood is familiar with the parents and knows what they are and are not comfortable with. This is not affecting time on learning. This is an addition, correct?

Mr. Osgood-Correct

Ms. Hajjar Kumm-It is nice to know that the students will have the resources in school for these important lessons that will help them become better learners. She would also like an updated added to Mr. Osgood's monthly report.

**\*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 7:25 pm.

**MOTION:** Ms. DiNatale moved to adjourn the Workshop Session at 7:25 pm.  
Ms. Hajjar Kumm seconded the motion

**VOTE:** 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,

**Martha Sirois, Public Recorder**

Methuen Public Schools