

**TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC RECORD**

**OF**

**THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**BUSINESS SESSION**

**OF**

**DECEMBER 14, 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:**

**DEIDRE RUNGE, PUBLIC RECORDER**

**TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC RECORD**  
**METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**BUSINESS SESSION**  
**DECEMBER 14, 2015**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb	YES
Mr. Robert F. Vogler	YES
Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm, Vice Chairperson	YES
Ms. Mary Jean Fawcett, Secretary	YES
Ms. Jana DiNatale	YES
Mayor Stephen N. Zanni, Chairperson	YES

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb  
Mr. Robert F. Vogler  
Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm, Vice Chairperson  
Ms. Mary Jean Fawcett, Secretary  
Ms. Jana DiNatale  
Mayor Stephen N. Zanni, Chairperson

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms. Judith Scannell, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Brandi Kwong, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Ian Gosselin, Business Administrator  
Ms. Rosemary Mahoney, Student Representative  
Ms. Deidre Runge, Public Recorder

**1. Call to Order**

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

**a. Flag Salute**

Diya Bellacini, a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student at the Comprehensive Grammar School, led the Committee in Opening Exercises of this meeting.

**2. Participation by Others**

**a. SOAR Award**

Alyssa Farnkoff was the recipient of the S.O.A.R. Award at this meeting. The Social Studies Department chose Alyssa for this Award.

**b. (2) Superintendent Excellence Award Recipients**

Alyssa Farnkoff Ranked # 2 in the class and  
Natalie Perry Ranked #1 in the class received these awards.

**(1) 2015 Winners 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Poster Contest**

The following students received an award and Citation from the Veterans Office Mr. Hargreaves and Mayor Zanni:

K-2 Winner – Mackenzie Laschi

K-2 Runner up – Nathan Roukes

3-5 Winner – Evan Lugli

3-5 Runner up – Michelle Delacruz

6-8 Winner – Mary Rose Moschetto

6-8 Runner up – Katherine Delap and Natasha Mota

There was a 2 minute recess @ 7:00

**(2) Student Advisory Committee**

Laura Staugler, Sophomore told the Committee about the Homecoming Dance

Michael Hajjar, Junior told them about the Annual Powder puff game and the

Ranger Football Thanksgiving Day win over Dracut.

c. Staff – None

**3. Approval of Minutes – Transcript of the October 13, 2015 Business Meeting and the October 26, 2015 Workshop**

**MOTION:** Mr. Vogler moved to adopt the Recorded Transcripts of October 13, 2015 as presented and waived the reading;

Ms. Fawcett seconded the motion to approve as presented.

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** 6-0-0 APPROVED

**MOTION:** Mr. Vogler moved to adopt the Recorded Transcripts of October 26, 2015 as presented and waived the reading;

Ms. Kumm seconded the motion to approve as presented.

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** 5-0-1 APPROVED (Ms. DiNatale voted present)

**4. Staff Reports**

**a. Superintendent's Monthly Report**-Superintendents Scannell pointed out that the next meeting will be January 11, 2016. It will be our 1<sup>st</sup> meeting with our new members.

**b. Instructional Technology Monthly Report**

No Action

**c. Facilities and Grounds Monthly Update**

No Action

**d. Physical Education, Health, Family Consumer Science & Wellness Monthly Update**

No Action

**e. Residency Monthly Update**

Ms. Carmen Aguilar Cruz, Records/Residency Secretary provided the Committee with the Residency Monthly Update Report.

No Action

**f. School Resource Officers Monthly Update**

A monthly report from Sgt. Joseph Aiello was given on each of the schools.

No Action

**5. Old Business and Other Pending Matters**

**a. Revised & Readopted S.C. Policy #JKAA-Physical Restraint Policy and Procedures – Second Reading**

**MOTION:** Ms. Kumm moved to approve the second reading of policy #JKAA  
Mr. Vogler seconded the motion to approve.

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** 6-0-0 APPROVED

**6. New Business**

**a. Revised & Readopted S.C. Policy #IFAB-MPS Selection Policy for Media Resources and Materials – First Reading**

**MOTION:** Mr. Deeb moved to approve the first reading of policy #IFAB  
Mr. Vogler seconded the motion to approve.

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** 6-0-0 APPROVED

**b. Spring Testing Update**

Superintendent – The decision has been made to have MCAS for our spring testing. The bottom line is 99% of the districts that took MCAS last year are sticking with MCAS this spring. Our results show the growth we have been looking for.

Ms. Kumm – As a parent I am glad to hear we are going with MCAS. All our plans have been made around MCAS. My question is, are there any guidelines yet looking forward to 2017.

Superintendent – No guidelines as of yet but we will have to time prepare our staff accordingly with professional development and get our students ready.

Mayor – I am sure we all concur with the Superintendent. This year we were 1 point away from moving to the next level. It is important we keep moving forward in a direction good for the city.

Mr. Deeb – I want to echo it is the right thing to move ahead with MCAS. As the Superintendent told us things seem to change hour by hour. I am sure we will have lots more discussions in the future on this matter. Mayor have you got a response back on the letter several of us were asked by you to sign to send to Governor Baker.

Mayor – No response yet but I was in Boston last Monday and he received a lot of letters he hasn't responded to. Not sure if you are aware that a bill passed in the Senate to get rid of Common Core. There's a little hold on everything, I don't think they are sure the direction they want to go.

**c. Accountability Update**

Mr. Vogler – We've made some very good strides. We should commend staff, administrators and students. I think to be 1 point away from being level 2 is good. I think we can achieve that.

Ms. DiNatale – I echo that and go further. This is the result of the hard work of the teachers to make this happen. It shows are students are getting what they need. They are doing a fine job.

Dr. Kwong – I wanted you to see the trend over the last four years. It is different when you are talking about numbers than seeing it all together. We are closer to level 1 status and I cannot say enough about the high school's growth in all categories and their extra credits. We agree the things in place are working.

**7. Finance and Operations**

**a. Expenditure Report - Monthly**

Business Administrator Ian Gosselin submitted the Monthly Expenditure Report to the Committee.

**DISCUSSION:**

No Action

**b. Revolving Funds Report – Monthly**

Business Administrator Ian Gosselin submitted the Monthly Revolving Report to the Committee.

**DISCUSSION:**

No Action

**1. Methuen High School Auditorium Update**

Ms. Kumm asked what they are doing about advertisement.

Mr. Gosselin we are right now looking at putting up a website.

Mayor – We have a lot of people already calling to use it.

**c. Grants Report – Monthly**

No Action

**d. Student Activity Accounts - Monthly**

Business Administrator Ian Gosselin submitted the Monthly Student Activity Report to the Committee.

**DISCUSSION:**

No Action

**e. Supervisor of Food Services – Monthly**

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

**DISCUSSION:**

No Action

**f. Bid Awards**

**(1) Snowplowing/Removal Services for FY'16 – Approval**

**MOTION:** Mr. Vogler moved to approve the bid award to Frank DeLucia & Son, Inc.

Ms. Kumm seconded the motion to approve.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Deeb – this is not the person we used last year.

**Mayor** – Yes he has been the low bidder.

**Mr. Deeb** – How many bids do we get

**Mayor** – 3 this year and they were the lowest.

**VOTE:** 6-0-0 APPROVED

**g. Contract Approval**

No Action

**h. 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**

**(1) Appointment of a School Committee Member to Fill a Vacancy – Approval**

The Mayor asked Mr. Deeb to step out of the meeting. He went on to tell the Committee about the Charter and if there is a member who resigns what happens. Mr. Sweet resigned on November 30<sup>th</sup> therefore D.J. Deeb will be sworn in on January 3, 2016 with the rest of the Committee.

**MOTION:** Mr. Vogler moved to appoint Mr. D.J. Deeb to the vacant School Committee vacancy  
Ms. Kumm seconded the motion to appoint Mr. Deeb.

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** 5-0-0 APPROVED

Mr. Deeb came back to the meeting.

**e. Notification of Vacancy Postings**

No Action

**9. Superintendent's Reports, including Communications & Recommendations on Financial Matters, Old & New Business**

No Action

**10. Business from the Committee**

**a. Building Committee Update by S.C. and Bldg. Committee**

Mayor – We are going back and forth on a bill for the top lot. Everything else pretty well set. We are looking at a January meeting.

**b. Chargebacks' Sub-Committee Update by S.C. Member Fawcett.**

No Action

**c. S.C. Policy Review Sub-Committee Update by S.C. Member Deeb**

No Action

Mayor Zanni spoke of Ms. Fawcett retiring. He thanked her for all her work.

Superintendent read a few Citations that she had from the School Committee, Senator Ives, and Representative Campbell. She then gave her a departing gift.

Ms. Fawcett thanked the Committee for the beautiful lamp.

Superintendent – You represented what's best for all students.

Mr. Deeb – You were a phenomenal asset.

Mr. Vogler – Your goal since you started as a teacher has always been for the kids.

Ms. Kumm – It has been amazing to work with you. You brought a breath of knowledge to the table.

Ms. DiNatale – It was really nice to have you to go to with my questions.

Mayor – We work as a team we might disagree but we think of kids first. Mary Jean added a lot to that.

**11. Executive Session**

- a. Negotiation**
  - b. Litigation**
- No Action

## **12. Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss at this Business Session, Mayor Zanni entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 pm, thus concluding this Business Session for the evening.

**MOTION:** Mr. Vogler moved to adjourn this Business Session at 7:37 p.m.  
Mr. Deeb seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,  
Deidre Runge, Public Recorder  
Methuen Public Schools