

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC RECORD

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUSINESS SESSION

OF

DECEMBER 8, 2014

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 8, 2014

This business meeting of the Methuen School Committee was held in the Great Hall of Searles Building, City Hall, and was posted for 6:30 PM.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs. Judith Scannell, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Brandi, Kwong, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Ian Gosselin, Business Administrator
Ms. Sara Ospina, Student Representative
Mrs. 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.

ATTENDANCE

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb	Yes
Mr. Robert Vogler	Yes
Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm	Yes
Ms. Mary Jean Fawcett	Yes
Mr. Bryan P. Sweet	Yes
Ms. Jana DiNatale	Yes
Mayor Stephen N. Zanni	Yes

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to accept agenda as presented
Ms. Fawcett seconded the motion to accept the agenda

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

a. Flag Salute

Liana Dela Cruz a 4th grade student from the Timony Grammar School led the Committee in Opening Exercises of this meeting.

2. Participation by Others

a. SOAR Award

The Social Studies Department chose Caroline Noel Mulligan for this Award.

b(1) Students – Veteran Poster Contest Winners

Mr. Hargreaves from the Methuen's Veterans Office awarded the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.

- Kameron Madden 2nd grade at the CGS
- Katrina Wong 4th grade student at the CGS
- Raymond Kenyon IV 4th grade student at the Tenney Grammar School

b(2) Student Advisory Committee

- Cameron Bolduc gave the Committee an update on the November 21st Home Coming Dance and how awesome the Grand Staircase at MHS entrance was.
- Student Representative Sara Ospina talked about the energy at the 2nd Annual Pep Rally.

c. Staff

No Action

d. Public

No Action

3. Approval of Minutes:

Transcript of October 27, 2014 Business Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to adopt the Recorded Transcript of October 27, 2014 as presented and waived the reading;

Mr. Sweet seconded the motion to approve as presented.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

4. Staff Reports

a. Superintendent's Monthly Report

The Superintendent reviewed her FYI packed she sent to the School Committee:

#1 - Thanksgiving Day Snow Removal – Update by Bruce Stella

Superintendent told the Committee that Mr. Gosselin and she received a call at 5:45 a.m. Thanksgiving morning that the football game might not happen. She shared with the Committee a memorandum from Mr. Stella how the DPW and the MPS staff, students... collaborated to get the football game off.

#2 - Q1 Grade Distribution of Spanish II Students req. by Committee Member Kumm

The Superintendent gave the Committee a breakdown that 38 of the 45 Spanish I 8th grade students were recommended for 9th grade Spanish II Level 4.

#3 - JROTC – Update

The Superintendent shared the great news that the Junior ROTC made "Honor Unit with Distinction for the 2014/2015 School Year.

#4 - Cleaning Product Used req. by Committee Member Kumm

The Superintendent spoke to the cleaning products being used to be pro-active against germs/bacteria associated with the neuro-virus.

#5 - Attleboro Public Schools Inquiry req. by Committee Member Kumm

Dr. Kwong explained that we are heading in the right direction. Attleboro is using Race to the Top (RTT) funds which is lots of money to use.

Ms. Kumm – Thank you for looking into this I wanted to see the comparison.

Ms. DiNatale – Are any of the schools that received RTT Funds sharing what their resources?

Dr. Kwong – Most school districts are not sharing teacher resources and lessons.

#6 – The Superintendent shared a memorandum sent to the Mayor about the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Roles.

b. Instructional Technology Monthly Report

Ms. Kumm thanked Mr. Lussier for including an organizational chart in his memo for the Committee.

Mr. Deeb – I too want to thank you for monthly updates. Just to see some of the things our students are doing. Amazing what elementary school students are doing also.

c. Facilities and Grounds Opening of Schools Update

Mayor – I had a minute to meet with the DPW Director about what happened also Thanksgiving morning. He handed the Committee a memorandum.

d. Physical Education, Health, Family Consumer Science and Wellness – Update

No Action

5. Old Business and Other Pending Matters

a. Revised and Readopted S.C. Policy ADF – School District Wellness Program – Second Reading

MOTION: Ms. Kumm moved to approve the second read
Mr. Vogler seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: Mr. Deeb - I voted against the first read. Federal mandates are what I have a problem with. I am going to vote against this again for the same reason.

Ms. Kumm – I agree and am going to join you in voting against the Federal mandate.

Ms. DiNatale – the Wellness Policy is great. They get to use many advantages of the public.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb	No
Mr. Robert Vogler	Yes
Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm	No
Ms. Mary Jean Fawcett	Yes
Mr. Bryan P. Sweet	Yes
Ms. Jana DiNatale	Yes
Mayor Stephen N. Zanni	Yes

VOTE: 5-2-0 APPROVED

b. Revised & Readopted S.C. Policy JICFB–Bullying Prevention & Intervention Plan– Second Reading

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to approve the Second read
Mr. Sweet seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Government Donation of Computer - Approval

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to accept the donation
Ms. Sweet seconded the motion

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

d. Pricing Rental Change – Discussion

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to approve naming of MHS TV Studio
Ms. Fawcett seconded the motion

DISCUSSION:

Superintendent – The Business Manager, high School principal, Athletic Director and his secretary, and the Fine Arts Supervisor and his secretary all met. We have done a lot of comparisons with school systems. No one mirrors anybody they are all unique.

Mr. Walters - did some research of a couple of folks from the Performance Centers in the area. Timberlane saw our draft he thought it was good.

Mr. Vogler - I asked it to go on the agenda. i hope to develop a policy. i see that timberlane is used to fundraise.

I would like a revolving account so all monies go to the upkeep of the Auditorium.

Superintendent - I would like your feedback on page 4. all auditoriums are same rate. MHS is the best and people want to come

Mr. Vogler - should we pay someone to work at advertising out auditorium.

Superintendent - that is in the #1 figure for \$325. per hour as well as ushers.

Mr. Vogler - \$325.00 that's not much by the time you pay them all for working there's not much profit.

Mr. Walters - You are right. But it has a market value. You have to see how much you can charge. We don't want to price our self out. Marketing is the key.

Superintendent - There is no monies in the budget for a marketing manager position. We agree with you 100% in budgeting for that position. We need to utilize people now and hopefully we will make the money to pay for that position.

Mr. Sweet - I'm on-board to make money to pay for this position.

Ms. Kumm - I would like to see money go into the classrooms and schools.

Mr. Vogler - I agree kids come first

Ms. DiNatale -I was looking at page 2 about safety and conduct

Mr. Walters - The Fire and Police Departments tell us what we need to supply. Certificate Insurance, Liability Insurance agree with all comments. Students come first. I think its a reasonable rate.

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

7. FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

a. Expenditure Report - Monthly

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

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Fawcett – Mr. Gosselin I get nervous when I see negatives numbers.

Mr. Gosselin – They are ok right now. Contractual is covered by Circuit Breaker which we have not received yet. Also some salaries were not encumbered yet.

Mayor – He read off a list of numbers which he questioned including transportation

Mr. Gosselin – The report was run off the day before those lines were encumbered.

Superintendent - As far as transportation we never know if special education students that move into the district will need transportation

Ms. Bozek – I will get you a detailed report of the Special Education students that moved in and out and a transportation update.

Superintendent – Homeless services mandate that we have to provide transportation. This is a budget buster.

Ms. Bozek – yes this is unpredictable because homeless come from other districts and we have to share transportation cost.

Mr. Deeb – Isn't residency established by living in the district for 30 days.

Ms. Bozek – McKinney Vento temporary is not defined. Once students are identified as homeless in a school year they have the right to remain in the school district when a home is found for the remainder of the year but we are not responsible for transportation then.

Mayor – I know we just received a cherry sheet showing the City owes \$600,000 for Essex Aggie students.

b. Revolving Funds Report – Monthly

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

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Gosselin – the Ice Rink will be fixed with the income here

Ms. Kumm – On page 13 we raised ticket prices for various events. That money should go into an account.

Superintendent – We only went from \$5 to \$7 with hardly any home games. The Athletic Department also gave \$10,000 to the stadium project.

Mayor – there were only 4 out of the 10 football games at home.

Mr. Vogler – Thought we were getting an amount of money made at the games

Mayor – maybe we can have a breakdown

Superintendent – a big piece of this money goes to the police department. This money is not as much as you think.

Ms. Kumm – check because that money was suppose to go into the account for fields.

c. Grants Report – Monthly

The Grants Department submitted the Monthly Grants Report to the Committee.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Vogler – I heard they are cutting Century 21 funds

Superintendent – I will have Mr. Kfoury come in to update. All grants are being cut

d. Student Activity Accounts - Monthly

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

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Vogler – What happens when a class graduates and they have a balance in their account?

Mr. Gosselin – The class spends it down then they spend on class gifts.

Superintendent – All past presidents came in and they rolled that money over to scholarships to clean up.

e. Supervisor of Food Services – Monthly

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

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Kumm – Can you elaborate on the new chief table.

Mr. Vespa – the chief table is to get kids interested. The students can watch them work.

The grammar school satellite programs I developed eight years ago definitely is something that helps my department out. I can do things that cost me more and different from typical café food.

Mayor – it makes a profit and we thank you.

f. Bid Awards

No Action

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. Bookkeeper for School Nutritional Services to Level II – Approval

Mayor – is this a union position? Don't we have to negotiate it?

MOTION: Ms. Kumm moved to approve the recommendation to Level II

Mr. Vogler seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: Mr. Gosselin – there is no effect on the school budget and we are working hand in hand with the union.

Mr. Vespa – yes this is long overdue.

Mayor – Are there level 2 positions in this union?

Ms. Kumm – It's not bearing on our budget and you have a good faith agreement with the union?

Mayor – and will level 1 positions go away?

Ms. McCarthy (HR Director) – yes there are level 2 positions and level 1 positions do go away.

Superintendent – Mr. Vespa approached me last year. The budget is growing and there is a lot more work.

Mr. Vogler – there is no problem with me you are self sufficient. I just want to make sure we get a copy of the agreement.

Mayor – there is nothing in front of us from the union.

Ms. McCarthy - I spoke to the union. If School Committee was to approve they would bring an MOU forward stating that this is not

president setting. This did happen a few years ago. We just cannot make a title change without your approval.

Mr. Deeb – We have collective bargaining contracts at home we can look it up. I have trust in our Administrators. I think we move this forward today. I think it's justified.

Ms. DiNatale – I think all do a great job but would like to have had something in front of me.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb	Yes
Mr. Robert Vogler	Yes
Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm	Yes
Ms. Mary Jean Fawcett	Yes
Mr. Bryan P. Sweet	Yes
Ms. Jana DiNatale	No
Mayor Stephen N. Zanni	No

VOTE: 5-2-0 APPROVED

2. Secretary to the Director of Nutritional Services to Level II - Approval

e. Notification of Vacancy Postings

MOTION: Ms. Deeb moved to approve the recommendation to Level II
Ms. Fawcett seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: Ms. Kumm – You did state the MOU will say non president setting.
Ms. McCarthy – Yes
Ms. DiNatale – I do think all are doing an amazing job.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb	Yes
Mr. Robert Vogler	Yes
Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm	Yes
Ms. Mary Jean Fawcett	Yes
Mr. Bryan P. Sweet	Yes
Ms. Jana DiNatale	No
Mayor Stephen N. Zanni	No

VOTE: 5-2-0 APPROVED

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

a. Residency Monthly Update

No Action

b. School Resource Officers Monthly Update

No Action

10. Business from the Committee

a. Building Committee Update – S.C. and Bldg Committee Member - Bryan Sweet

Mr. Sweet – the building is pretty much done. We continue to work on the punch list and budget.

Mayor – we will close out in January.

b. Consolidation Committee Update – S.C. Member –Bryan Sweet

Mr. Sweet – Ms. Kumm has something to say

Ms. Kumm said that she needed to step down and won't be able to continue because she needs to put all her efforts into the "Power Plant". She went on to say this was a hard decision for me to make.

Mr. Vogler – Ms. Kumm has worked very hard on this.

Mayor – Ms. Kumm is passionate for her schools and community. I have to follow the process.

c. Ameresco Project Update by Mayor Zanni

Mayor - The City is moving forward. The City is talking about maybe bringing the ice rink in.

d. Net School Spending Update by Mr. Gosselin

Mr. Gosselin – we revised and it is almost identical to the original only difference gives School Committee a say. We have also been sitting down with solar companies and ways for us to cut costs. He thanked Mr. Vogler, Ms. DiNatale and Ms. Fawcett for sitting in.

Mayor – gave a breakdown of the process of getting the agreement settled. He said Mr. Jay Sullivan, DESE said in a letter that it was an oversight that School Committee had to approve. I looked at the legislation and it wasn't an oversight.

Ms. Kumm – can we vote

Mayor – I am in agreement with this document

Ms. Fawcett – My frustration is School Committee did need to be involved with this. If it was a 4 year we didn't need to but since it is no we did. There was more in the newspaper than shared with us. School Committee was left out of this. I agree this is what the Mayor wants. I'm feeling good.

Mayor – I didn't need School Committee approval for \$356,000.

Mr. Vogler – I think this could have been resolved without the letters. I think School Committee should have been involved. School Committee is a team.

Ms. Kumm – We can vote on it January 12th.

e. FY'14 End of Year Report Update by Mr. Gosselin

No Action

f. Chargebacks by S.C. Member Fawcett

No Action

11. Executive Session

a. Negotiations

b. Litigation

12. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss at this Business Session, Mayor Zanni entertained a motion to conclude the Business Session for the evening and enter into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Vogler motioned to adjourn this Business Session 8:45 p.m. and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Litigation.

Ms. Kumm seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb Yes

Mr. Robert Vogler	Yes
Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm	Yes
Ms. Mary Jean Fawcett	Yes
Mr. Bryan P. Sweet	Yes
Ms. Jana DiNatale	Yes
Mayor Stephen N. Zanni	Yes

VOTE: 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,
Deidre Runge, Public Recorder
Methuen Public Schools