

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC RECORD

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUSINESS SESSION

OF

DECEMBER 9, 2013

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
NOVEMBER 12, 2013

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

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Stephen N. Zanni, Chairperson
Ms. Barbara Grondine, Secretary
Ms. Mary Jean Fawcett
Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm
Mr. Robert Vogler

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs. Judith Scannell, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Brandi Kwong, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Frank Antonelli, Interim Business Manager
Ms. Devon Heffernon, Student Representative
Ms. Deidre Runge, Public Recorder

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Evan Chaisson, Vice Chairperson

1. *CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Zanni called this meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum of members in attendance, and listed above. Mayor Zanni asked the Committee to accept the agenda as presented.

MOTION: Ms. Barbara Grondine moved to accept the agenda as presented
Mr. Robert Vogler seconded the motion to approve as presented.

VOTE: 5-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED

1a. Flag Salute

Meghna Mehta a 4th grade student from the Comprehensive Grammar School led the Committee in Opening Exercises of this meeting.

2. PARTICIPATION BY OTHERS:

a. SOAR Awards

Samantha Elizabeth Perry was the recipient of the S.O.A.R. Award at this meeting. The Social Studies Department chose Samantha for this Award.

b. Students

No Action

c. Staff

No Action

d. Public Participation

No Action

The Mayor asked for a moment of silence for the one year anniversary of “New Town.”

3. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING TRANSCRIPTS OF 10/15/13, 10/28/13, 11/12/13 and 11/25/13

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to adopt all the Recorded Transcripts as presented and waived the reading.

Ms. Kumm seconded the motion to approve as presented.

VOTE: 5-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED

4. STAFF REPORTS:

a. Superintendents Monthly Report

The Superintendent talked about what the high school and middle school students brought back from the “stand up to bullying” conference.

Mr. Vogler thanked the Superintendent for putting the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Recipients which is a State School Scholarship that students receive for doing well on the MCAS tests.

Ms. Kumm wanted to congratulate the JROTC for their successful placement at the competition. She also wanted to thank the Grammar Schools for acknowledging students on the honors lists it shows that “academic excellence is honored.”

The Mayor asked that the Superintendent send a Congratulatory letter from the Committee to the JROTC for a job well done.

The Superintendent told the Committee that the Methuen High Choral show would be at the Music Hall at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 19 and that all are invited.

The Mayor asked about PARCC and if we were going to be included.

The Superintendent said certain grades but it won’t be rolled out until January when firmed up with DESE. DESE had asked if we wanted to be exempt and we said no.

Dr. Kwong said we are looking at two classrooms per grade level for the pilot testing.

Mayor Zanni said he was pleased this way we will know what to expect in 2015.

The Superintendent said “please note the high school is not being included.

Dr. Kwong said that DESE decided the pilot should be done in the K-8 schools.

b. Technology Monthly Report

None

c. Instructional Technology Monthly Report

Ms. Kumm wanted to thank the Superintendent for putting the link to the wonderful video on Methuen High School. The Superintendent said she was pleased too but sorry the TV school station was still down due to construction. She did say they should be up and running again in eight weeks or so.

d. Facilities and Grounds Monthly Update

None

5. OLD BUSINESS AND OTHER PENDING MATTERS

None

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. MHS French Club Field Trip to Lyon France - Approval

This was removed from the agenda due to the cancellation of the trip because there was not enough students interested.

b. MHS Trip to Italy – Approval

MOTION: Mr. Robert Vogler moved to approve the high school trip to Italy
Ms. Mary Jean Fawcett seconded the motion to approve

DISCUSSION: Mr. Giuca told the Committee that “Italian Night at the Sons of Italy”
to help raise money for Toys for Tots.

VOTE: 5-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED

c. Donation – Quota International of Lawrence, MA - Approval

MOTION: Mr. Robert Vogler moved to accept the donation of audio equipment
Ms. Kumm seconded the motion to approve

DISCUSSION: The Mayor asked we send a thank you letter to Quota International.

VOTE: 5-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED

7. FINANCE AND OPERATIONS:

a. Expenditure Report - Monthly

Ms. Kumm asked about the ice rink encumbrances. “I see them and wonder if it is for a project.” Mr. Antonelli said that we encumbered all the salaries for the entire year. Ms. Kumm said is this the same as the GLEC account. Mr. Antonelli said yes we invoiced them for custodial services and they pay us. Ms. Kumm had one last question, when we started charging more money for tickets do we have a separate line item. Mr. Antonelli said no but the Athletic Director has it broken out and knows to use this only on improvements.

b. Revolving Funds Report – Monthly

No Action

c. Grants Report – Monthly

The Superintendent apologized for not having a cover sheet talking about grants statuses in the packet and handed one out one to each of the Committee members. She said if they had any questions to please call her.

d. Student Activity Accounts - Monthly

The Mayor asked Mr. Antonelli if we will be putting a ceiling on money not in these accounts. Mr. Antonelli said “the Superintendent and I are meeting with principals to recommend maximum amounts for each school and we will bring to the Committee for approval.”

e. Supervisor of Food Services – Monthly

Mr. Vogler commented that he was glad to see the program is doing well. He had heard from a couple of teachers and hopes that when there is a school related function that we do not make money and we only charge at cost. Mr. Antonelli said that we should not be making money. Mr. Vogler said that the teachers said that there seems to be a dramatic increase and they can get it cheaper outside.

f. Bid Awards

No Action

g. Contract Approval

1. HVACR Services Renewal – Informational Purpose Only

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to not exceed \$100,000

Ms. Grondine seconded the motion not to exceed

DISCUSSION: Mr. Vogler asked if we can have the costs for the last 2 or 3 years to compare. The Superintendent said yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED

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

No Action

e. Notification of Vacancy Postings

No Action

9. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS, including Communications and Recommendations on Financial Matters, Old and New Business

a. Residency Monthly Update

Ms. Lawlor submitted a report to the Committee. The Superintendent told the Committee that we did do a third and final letter to the parents that did not respond at all. The letter informed them if they did not prove residency by December 23 that they will be not be allowed back in. Ms. Kumm said this was a huge undertaking.

b. School Resource Officers Monthly Update

None

10. BUSINESS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Ms. Grondine said the Blue and White Newspaper from the high school had wonderful information.

Ms. Kumm asked for an Ameresco update. The Mayor said by January we should be started.

Mr. Vogler reiterated how proud he was of the Blue and White. He never seen it before and the kids and advisors should be very proud also.

The Mayor thanked the choral group for singing at the tree lighting.

Superintendent Scannell asked the Committee to join her in bidding farewell to Barbara Grondine. She thanked her for her strong voice for all the right reasons and her twenty four years of service over the years to the Methuen Public Schools. Mr. Vogler said he totally enjoyed working with her over the years. We work well as a team. Ms. Grondine thanked the voters for putting their trust in her over the years and hopes the new Committee continues to support the Superintendent.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE:

- a. Negotiations**
- b. Litigation**

12. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss at this Business Session, Mayor Zanni entertained a motion to adjourn at 7:06 p.m., thus concluding this Business Session for the evening.

MOTION: Ms. Grondine moved to adjourn this Business Session at 7:06 p.m.,
Ms. Kumm seconded the motion

VOTE: 5-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,
Deidre Runge, Public Recorder
Methuen Public Schools