

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC RECORD

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WORKSHOP SESSION

OF

February 22, 2016

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
February 22, 2016

This Workshop of the Methuen School Committee was held at the Dr. Shirley Forrest Callan Methuen Adult Learning Center, and was posted for 6:30 PM.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Robert F. Vogler, Secretary
Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb
Ms. Jana DiNatale
Ms. Joyce C. Campagnone
Mr. Nicholas DiZoglio

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Stephen Zanni, Chairperson
Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm, Vice Chairperson

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Judith Scannell, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Brandi Kwong, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Ian Gosselin, Business Administrator
Susan Prior, Supervisor of Adult Education
Catherine O'Keefe, Teacher at Adult Education
Ms. Martha Sirois, Public Recorder

CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Robert F. Vogler, Secretary called this Workshop to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum of members in attendance, and listed above.

Mr. Vogler-The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are both out of town tonight and unable to attend this meeting.

1. Overview of the Adult Education Center-Susan Prior

Superintendent-She thanked Susan Prior and Catherine O'Keefe for hosting the School Committee Meeting and also attending the meeting to give an overview of the Dr. Shirley Forrest Callan Methuen Adult Learning Center.

Ms. Susan Prior gave her overview of the Center.

Ms. Prior welcomed the School Committee and thanked the Superintendent and all of her staff for their support of the Center.

Ms. Prior-The Center has been in existence for 26 years. They currently provide English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes as well as prep classes for the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET). They are a grant funded program. They currently serve 105

students. They offer 4 HiSET classes and 3 ELSO classes. They offer open enrollment and once the classes are full the students are placed on a waiting list. 50 percent of the current students are parents of school age children and 60 percent are full time employees. The staff includes 1 secretary and 7 teachers. The Center is evaluated every year by the State of Massachusetts. They have been in the top tier for the past 8 years. In FY'15 they received great marks do to the Intergration of Technology at the Center. They have been invited by the State of Massachusetts to be presenters across the State about their Technology Integrations. She would like to thank Mr. Ed Lussier, Instructional Technology Director for MPS for all his support with their Technology Integration. Their Closing Ceremony will be on June 8, 2016 at Methuen High School.

Mr. Vogler-He looks forward to the Closing Ceremony. The students show so much pride in themselves and have much respect for the Callan Center Staff.

Mr. DiZoglio-How are the students accepted into the program?

Ms. Prior-The student completes a registration application and is immediately tested. If we have a slot available they can start immediately. If we do not have a slot available they are put on a waiting list. There may be as many as 180 students that start at our school each year however because of family and employment issues they may need to drop out of the program.

Mr. DiZoglio-What are the age demographics?

Ms. Prior-The ages range between 17-79 years old. The average age is mid 30s.

Superintendent-We also have high school students that need to support their family that need to leave school and have taken advantage of the program to earn their HiSET.

6:46P.M. the School Committee took a brief break to tour the Center.

6:55P.M. the School Committee came back into session.

2. Ice Rink Facilities and Fee's Discussion-Ian Gosselin

Mr. Gosselin presented his Ice Rink Rates Package.

Mr. Gosselin-He would like to discuss the Ice Rink rates, current and future. He also has a recommendation. He presented a list of ice rink rates in our area. He was unable to contact Merrimack College and Tyngsboro Skate 3. The average per hour at the ice rinks he did contact is \$261.40.

Ms. DiNatale-The chart has a rate for Non Peak-left over hours. She would like to know what the meaning is of left over hours.

Mr. Gosselin-Those are late night hours and random afternoon Ice Rink hours that have not been rented.

Ms. DiNatale-Are these hours posted on line so that people can see what is available?

Mr. Gosselin-We are working on doing that.

Mr. Deeb-What are the regulations for the Ice Rink Revenue.

Mr. Gosselin-The revenue can only be used for Ice Rink operations.

Ms. Campagnone-Is the ice time rented on a first come first serve basis and does Methuen have first choice?

Mr. Gosselin-MHS Hockey has first choice on ice time. The Valley League and the Methuen Youth Hockey have second choice.

Superintendent-The MHS Girls Hockey Team will need the ice time for Playoff Games and they come first. Other schedules will have to be adjusted to accommodate the MHS Girls Hockey Team.

Mr. DiZoglio-What is the current operating costs for the Ice Rink?

Mr. Gosselin-Last year the operating costs were \$267,000.00. We had a loss of \$15,000.00. This year we were doing well until our compressor recently broke. We are in the process of getting a quote for the repairs. It should cost around \$18,000.00. We also need to fix the bleachers that should cost between \$8,000.00 and \$10,000.00.

Mr. Vogler-Do you have any money set aside for a new Zamboni?

Mr. Gosselin-No we do not.

Mr. Vogler-The Zamboni has been rebuilt many times and eventually will have to be replaced.

Mr. Gosselin-We have been in contact with Zamboni for quotes on purchasing a used Zamboni or leasing a new one.

Mr. Vogler-The ice rink was not part of the high school renovation. It does need work.

Mr. Gosselin-Bruce Stella and the City Of Methuen are still working with Ameresco and hopefully that will help with ice rink improvements.

Mr. Vogler-He is concerned with increasing the rates for the Methuen Youth Hockey. It is already a very expensive program for parents. Mr. Vogler asked about unused hours at the ice rink and when they usually are.

Mr. Gosselin-They are usually during the night.

Mr. Vogler- He asked Mr. Gosselin if he had the figures on how many hours go un-booked.

Mr. Gosselin did not have those figures.

Mr. DiZoglio-Is the Valley League concerned with the increases?

Mr. Gosselin-He has not yet sat down with them to discuss the increases.

Mr. Vogler-He feels it would be great if everyone is on board with the increases. We sometimes run this account into a deficit because of rink and equipment repairs. He would like to see the ice rink used all year around.

Mr. Deeb-Can we set up a sub account for the ice rink surplus?

Mr. Gosselin-Yes we can.

Ms. DiNatale-Even with the increases to the hourly rates it still does not seem like it would be enough to support the ice rink. She thinks all the rates should be increased to what the Valley League will pay. She also would like to see more free skating since the Public is paying for a portion of the ice rink.

Mr. DiZoglio-He suggested they ask the Valley League to pay \$230.00 per hour and increase that amount by \$10.00 next year and then lock them in for 3 years. He also suggested they increase the Peak Time and Methuen Youth Hockey by \$10.00 per hour and do not increase the Recreation Department.

Mr. Gosselin-Methuen Youth Hockey has already agreed to the increase he has suggested to them so he would not want to decrease what they have already agreed to.

Mr. Vogler-He feels Mr. DiZoglio has an interesting proposal. We need to find out what the Valley League is going to do. We were \$70,000.00 in deficient before the Valley League came along. We were eager to get the Valley League because they rent so much ice time. They spend the most money.

Mr. DiZoglio-With the increases we are still the cheapest ice time in the area.

Ms. DiNatale-What is the cost of a new Zamboni?

Mr. Gosselin-A new Zamboni would cost \$125,000.00. We also need a dehumidification system so we could run the rink all year. The cost of that system is \$100,000.00.

Mr. Vogler-These increases are only preliminary. It is important for Methuen Youth Hockey to be ok about the increase.

Mr. Deeb-He would like Mr. Gosselin to keep having conversations with these groups and bring us his rate recommendations.

Mr. DiZoglio-He does not want the rate to increase for the Recreation Department.

Mr. Gosselin-For the minimal amount of hours they use that should not be a problem.

Ms. DiNatale-Is the Valley League comfortable with the hourly rate of \$230.00.

Mr. Gosselin-He has not met with them.

Ms. DiNatale-Any chance we can work the numbers so that there will be Public Open skating?

Mr. Gosselin-He will look into that and get the Committee the information.

Mr. DiZoglio-He would like Mr. Gosselin to do an estimate of expenses and compare that to the rate increases and bring that estimate to the next meeting.

Mr. Vogler-These large repairs should be part of a Capital Improvement Plan. In the past we have never submitted a Capital Improvement Plan with our School Budget. We should submit one this year.

Mr. Deeb-He would like Mr. Gosselin's expense and rate increase comparison on the next meeting agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – NEGOTIATIONS/LITIGATIONS: Yes

***ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business to discuss at this Workshop Session, Mr. Vogler requested a roll call to end the Workshop and go into Executive Session 7:29 PM.

Roll Call into Executive Session:

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Robert F. Vogler, Secretary	Yes
Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb	Yes
Ms. Jana DiNatale	Yes
Ms. Joyce C. Campagnone	Yes
Mr. Nicholas DiZoglio	Yes

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Stephen Zanni, Chairperson
Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm, Vice Chairperson

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Sirois, Public Recorder
Methuen Public Schools