

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING FY'20 BUDGET
ADOPTION OF FY'20 BUDGET

OF

May 28, 2019

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
PUBLIC HEARING AND FY'20 BUDGET ADOPTION
May 28, 2019

This FY'20 Public Hearing and FY'20 Budget Adoption meeting of the Methuen School Committee was held at Methuen High School, Media Center, and was posted for 6:30 PM.

ROLL CALL FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Robert F. Vogler (P)
Susan M. Nicholson (P)
Nicholas DiZoglio, Vice Chairperson (P)
Jana DiNatale (P)
Dennis D.J. Deeb, Secretary (P)
Jana Zanni Pesce (P)
Mayor James P. Jajuga, Chairperson (P)

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Robert F. Vogler
Susan M. Nicholson
Nicholas DiZoglio, Vice Chairperson
Jana DiNatale
Dennis D.J. Deeb, Secretary
Jana Zanni Pesce
Mayor James P. Jajuga, Chairperson

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Brandi L. Kwong, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Ian Gosselin, Business Administrator
Martha Sirois, Public Recorder

Acceptance of the Agenda

MOTION: Member Vogler moved to accept the agenda as presented
Member Deeb seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

Flag Salute

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor-We will start with a Public Hearing. Anyone that would like to speak on the Budget may do so.

Public Participation-None

He will then close the Public Hearing and open the Adoption of the FY'20 Budget

MOTION: Member Vogler motioned to close the Public Hearing Session @ 6:35PM
Member Nicholson seconded the motion
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

BUDGET ADOPTION MEETING was opened at 6:35PM
Mr. Gosselin explained the process of the Budget adoption.

ROLL CALL FOR ATTENDANCE FOR BUDGET ADOPTION

Robert F. Vogler (P)
Susan M. Nicholson (P)
Nicholas DiZoglio, Vice Chairperson (P)
Jana DiNatale (P)
Dennis D.J. Deeb, Secretary (P)
Jana Zanni Pesce (P)
Mayor James P. Jajuga, Chairperson (P)

ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2020 SCHOOL BUDGET

Professional Salaries

MOTION to adopt \$49,125,425-by Member Vogler
seconded by Member DiZoglio

ROLL CALL:

Robert F. Vogler (YES)
Susan M. Nicholson (YES)
Nicholas DiZoglio, Vice Chairperson (YES)
Jana DiNatale (YES)
Dennis D.J. Deeb, Secretary (NO)
Jana Zanni Pesce (YES)
Mayor James P. Jajuga, Chairperson (YES)

VOTE: 6-1-0

Secretarial Salaries

MOTION to adopt \$1,788,384 - by Member Vogler
seconded by Member DiZoglio

ROLL CALL:

Robert F. Vogler (YES)
Susan M. Nicholson (YES)
Nicholas DiZoglio, Vice Chairperson (YES)
Jana DiNatale (YES)
Dennis D.J. Deeb, Secretary (YES)
Jana Zanni Pesce (YES)
Mayor James P. Jajuga, Chairperson (YES)

VOTE: 7-0-0

Other Salaries

MOTION to adopt \$7,035,208- by Member Vogler
seconded by Member DiZoglio

ROLL CALL:

Robert F. Vogler (YES)
Susan M. Nicholson (YES)
Nicholas DiZoglio, Vice Chairperson (YES)
Jana DiNatale (YES)
Dennis D.J. Deeb, Secretary (YES)
Jana Zanni Pesce (YES)
Mayor James P. Jajuga, Chairperson (YES)

VOTE: 7-0-0

Contractual Services

MOTION to adopt \$21,562,697- by Member Vogler
seconded by Member DiZoglio

ROLL CALL:

Robert F. Vogler (YES)
Susan M. Nicholson (YES)
Nicholas DiZoglio, Vice Chairperson (YES)
Jana DiNatale (YES)
Dennis D.J. Deeb, Secretary (YES)
Jana Zanni Pesce (YES)
Mayor James P. Jajuga, Chairperson (YES)

VOTE: 7-0-0

Supplies and Materials

MOTION to adopt \$1,771,240- by Member Vogler
seconded by Member DiZoglio

ROLL CALL:

Robert F. Vogler (YES)
Susan M. Nicholson (YES)
Nicholas DiZoglio, Vice Chairperson (YES)
Jana DiNatale (YES)
Dennis D.J. Deeb, Secretary (YES)
Jana Zanni Pesce (YES)
Mayor James P. Jajuga, Chairperson (YES)

VOTE: 7-0-0

Other Expenses

MOTION to adopt \$107,046- by Member Vogler
seconded by Member DiZoglio

ROLL CALL:

Robert F. Vogler (YES)
Susan M. Nicholson (YES)
Nicholas DiZoglio, Vice Chairperson (YES)
Jana DiNatale (YES)

Dennis D.J. Deeb, Secretary (YES)
Jana Zanni Pesce (YES)
Mayor James P. Jajuga, Chairperson (YES)

VOTE: 7-0-0

OPERATING NET SCHOOL SPENDING

MOTION to adopt \$75,389,869 - by Member Vogler
seconded by Member DiZoglio

ROLL CALL:

Robert F. Vogler (YES)
Susan M. Nicholson (YES)
Nicholas DiZoglio, Vice Chairperson (YES)
Jana DiNatale (YES)
Dennis D.J. Deeb, Secretary (NO)
Jana Zanni Pesce (YES)
Mayor James P. Jajuga, Chairperson (YES)

VOTE: 6-1-0

TOTAL NON NET SCHOOL SPENDING

MOTION to adopt \$6,000,131 to include
Transportation and Crossing Guards- by Member Vogler
seconded by Member DiZoglio

ROLL CALL:

Robert F. Vogler (YES)
Susan M. Nicholson (YES)
Nicholas DiZoglio, Vice Chairperson (YES)
Jana DiNatale (YES)
Dennis D.J. Deeb, Secretary (YES)
Jana Zanni Pesce (YES)
Mayor James P. Jajuga, Chairperson (YES)

VOTE: 7-0-0

TOTAL OPERATING FY'20 BUDGET

MOTION to adopt \$81,390,000 - by Member Vogler
seconded by Member DiZoglio

DISCUSSION:

Member Deeb-This number is higher than the Mayor's office provided and what was brought to the Committee by the Superintendent at last week's meeting. He feels this number is a bit high and they should go with the lower number. He will be voting no tonight.

Member Zanni Pesce-They spoke extensively at last week's meeting about the additional money going to administrative positions. She would rather see this money go towards teacher positions. She is supportive of this budget overall and after speaking to the Superintendent she feels comfortable voting yes for this budget in its entirety understanding that going forward they really need to focus on classroom numbers and she believes that will help with discipline as opposed to just adding to the top tier of administration.

Member DiNatale-She was unable to attend the last meeting but had some conversations with Superintendent Kwong and Mr. Gosselin. She is impressed with what is before her tonight. Dr. Kwong has an amazing ability to arrive and present them with a reasonable budget number in light of the many cuts and setbacks in prior years. She creatively repurposed positions and carefully examined each expenditure. Her and her team have crafted a budget that has accounted for fair funding for the staff. It brings a new and much needed reading program to the students. It increases the availability of collaborative educational technology for the students and it keeps class sizes under 27 in the K-8 schools and on average at the high school in the core classes. They have a long wish list for the students but she feels this budget in total is a reasonable compromise in light of the Cities fiscal issues and will meet the basic needs of students. She will be voting yes on this budget. As a whole she thinks moving forward they need the Cities cooperation, specifically the Mayor and financial team and City Council to work with school administration to figure out how they can better meet the needs of the students. This budget fits their basic needs but not their full needs. They need to reduce class sizes to 23-24. They need to provide more services to help student's social and emotional needs, have the Capital Improvement plan approved and increased opportunities for foreign languages at all grades. They need to include more after school help and access to the cafeteria and media center at the high school. While they have a good budget she thinks there is more opportunity if the City is able to come through on their promise to give them Comcast and Medicaid funding. The Mayor has said if there is additional State funding it will come to the schools. All of that can be used to give the students what they deserve and not just meet their basic needs. The Special Education part of the budget meets the current needs of the students. It is important that everyone who has decision making power in the City understand that it this budget does not have any padding in it. When they approve this budget if any new students come into the District needing services, they will have to go to the City and ask for additional funding. This is a lean budget in every way.

ROLL CALL:

Robert F. Vogler (YES)
Susan M. Nicholson (YES)
Nicholas DiZoglio, Vice Chairperson (YES)
Jana DiNatale (YES)
Dennis D.J. Deeb, Secretary (NO)
Jana Zanni Pesce (YES)
Mayor James P. Jajuga, Chairperson (ABSTAIN)

VOTE: 6-1-0

CITY CHARGEBACKS

MOTION

**to adopt \$15,691,077 - by Member Vogler
seconded by Member DiNatale**

ROLL CALL:

Robert F. Vogler (YES)
Susan M. Nicholson (NO)
Nicholas DiZoglio, Vice Chairperson (NO)
Jana DiNatale (YES)
Dennis D.J. Deeb, Secretary (NO)
Jana Zanni Pesce (YES)

Mayor James P. Jajuga, Chairperson (YES)

VOTE: 4-3-0

TOTAL SCHOOL FY'20 BUDGET

MOTION to adopt \$97,081,077- by Member Vogler
seconded by Member DiZoglio

ROLL CALL:

Robert F. Vogler (YES)

Susan M. Nicholson (YES)

Nicholas DiZoglio, Vice Chairperson (YES)

Jana DiNatale (YES)

Dennis D.J. Deeb, Secretary (NO)

Jana Zanni Pesce (YES)

Mayor James P. Jajuga, Chairperson (ABSTAIN)

VOTE: 5-1-1

Mayor-He put forth a budget of \$80,950,000.00 which is \$440,000.00 less than what the School Committee total budget is. That is why he abstained. If there is any additional money that comes from the State he will apply it but as of now they do not have the money. The total FY'20 Budget amount the City is giving is 3.5% over the FY'19 Budget.

***ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business to discuss at this FY'20 Budget Public Hearing and Adoption of FY'20 Budget Meetings, Mayor Jajuga entertained a motion to conclude the meeting at 6:50PM.

MOTION: Member Vogler moved to adjourn the Public Hearing FY'20 Budget Public Hearing and Adoption of FY'20 Budget Meetings at 6:50PM.

Member DiZoglio seconded the motion

VOTE: 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

**Respectfully submitted,
Martha Sirois, Public Recorder
Methuen Public Schools**