

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

SPECIAL MEETING SESSION

OF

SEPTEMBER 30, 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
SPECIAL MEETING SESSION
SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

Special Meeting Session of the Methuen School Committee was held at the Searles Building, Great Hall, and was posted for 6:30 p.m. At 6:30 p.m. there was a mix up with the cable company so there was no one there to televise the meeting. Member Pesce requested that the meeting be videoed and placed on the website.

CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Jajuga called this Special Meeting Session to order at 6:45PM (due to a recording mix-up, see below for suspension of Policy #BE - School Committee Meeting) with a quorum of members in attendance, and listed below. He noted that Member DiNatale was not at the School Committee meeting this evening due to a prior commitment. This was a Special Meeting, not a regularly scheduled School Committee Meeting.

ROLL CALL

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

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Jana DiNatale (NP)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Brandi L. Kwong, Superintendent of Schools
Ian Gosselin, Business Administrator
Gina Bozek, Director of Student Services
Martha Sirois, Public Recorder

Acceptance of the Agenda

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

AMEND MOTION: Member DiZoglio moved to amend the agenda adding #2 Approval to move \$76,768.00 from Professional Salaries to Other Salaries
Member Vogler seconded the motion to accept the agenda as amended

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 6-0-0 APPROVED

Flag Salute

Suspending Policy #BE

Mayor Jajuga entertained a motion to temporarily suspend policy #BE-School Committee Meetings for this Special Meeting. There was a mix up with the cable company and the meeting will not be televised but will be videoed and there will be a transcript of minutes.

MOTION: Member DiZoglio moved to temporarily suspend Policy #BE-School Committee Meetings
Member Vogler seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

ROLL CALL

Robert F. Vogler (Yes)

Susan M. Nicholson (Yes)

Nicholas DiZoglio, Vice Chairperson (Yes)

Jana DiNatale (NP)

Dennis D.J. Deeb, Secretary (No)

Jana Zanni Pesce (Yes)

Mayor James P. Jajuga, Chairperson (Yes)

VOTE: 5-1-0 APPROVED (Member Deeb voted NO)

Public Participation- -None

1. Personnel Matters Requiring Committee Action

Superintendent-They have a critical mass of students in some areas that requires hiring new staff. She has met with administration in the schools and these are the positions they will need to service these students. Some of these positions were pulled from last year's budget but are now needed to service these students.

#1a

MOTION: Member Vogler moved to Approve One ASD Resource Room Teacher-Timony Grammar School
Member DiZoglio seconded the motion

DISCUSSION:

Member Zanni Pesce-They are hiring these teacher positions at Master's step 5, is this salary negotiable?

Superintendent-They would like to hire experienced people. If they do not have the experience then it would be negotiable.

Member Deeb-He read the memo from Maggie Duprey, CAFO sent the Superintendent Kwong and would like it included in the record.

To: Superintendent Kwong and School Committee

From: Maggie Duprey, CAFO

Date: 9/26/19

Re: Request for new positions

The School Department has provided me with all requested information pertaining to their request for additional Special Education positions. I have reviewed and verified the information provided.

Financially, the proposal includes increases as follows:

FTE	Position	Cost
1.00	ASD Resource room Teacher	60,120
1.00	ASD Resource room Program Assistant	19,192
1.00	Sub-Separate PASS Special Education Teacher	60,120
2.00	Sub-Separate PASS Special Education Program Assistant	38,384
1.00	Intensive Program Nurse (CGS)	61,909
1.00	ASD Teacher	60,120
1.00	ASD Program Assistant	19,192
	Total Request	319,037
	Professional Staff	242,269
	Other Staff	76,768

The estimated costs of each requested position appear to be at realistic levels within their applicable salary schedule. The District has recognized savings within the FY2020 professional salaries budget due to turnover and other personnel circumstances, which is significant enough to cover these requested positions.

Additionally, should the District be unable to provide needed services in-district for the increased case load, there would be a substantially greater cost to the District in sending services out of district.

Member Deeb-This memo speaks for itself and there is no additional funds request so there is no need for an Impact Statement.

Mayor-That is correct.

Member Deeb-He also asked the Superintendent about how this money was saved from the current budget.

Superintendent-New staff hired due to teachers resigning and retiring, were hired on the pay scale at a smaller salary than the teachers they replaced.

Member Deeb-These positions are based on need with no additional funds needed to support them.

Superintendent-The administrators are here and willing to speak about these positions. They received additional Circuit Breaker funds but they will not be used for these positions. They are using the savings from the professional salaries from this year's budget to pay for these additional positions.

VOTE: 6-0-0 APPROVED

#1b

MOTION: Member Vogler moved to Approve One ASD Resource Room Program
Assistant-Timony Grammar school
Member DiZoglio seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 6-0-0 APPROVED

#1c

MOTION: Member Vogler moved to Approve One Special Education Teacher-Timony
Grammar School
Member Nicholson seconded the motion

DISCUSSION:

Superintendent-There is a critical mass of students in Kindergarten and 1st Grade. They started off with two students but now have eight more students needing this self-contained classroom. These students are currently all in different schools. This will be a District Wide program. They need to get these positions approved to support these students.

Member Zanni Pesce-Anytime a savings is going to outweigh these positions that is a win for our schools. It would cost \$400,000.00 to send these students out of District.

Member Nicholson-This is a new program that you and your staff are creating to meet the needs of our students and keep students in District. Is there a limited number of students that can be placed in this classroom?

Superintendent-They are starting out with two grade levels so she thinks they are in a good place right now.

Member Nicholson-But that could change. Once they have the program established and if they have room in the buildings it could expand. Are they currently limited with the number of students that can be in this program?

Ms. Bozek-With the current staff they are asking for they are limited. The goal is to provide these students with a substantially separate classroom and to then integrate them back into the general education setting.

Member Nicholson-When they are integrated some of them may need a program assistant with them. Moving forward with the budget they should be more aware of the additional staff that may be needed. The goal is to have the students integrated as much as possible.

Ms. Bozek-They have strategically placed this program into the Timony Grammar School where they already have the PASS Program so there should not be any future impact.

VOTE: 6-0-0 APPROVED

#1d

MOTION: Member Vogler moved to Approve Two Program Assistants-Timony Grammar school
Member DiZoglio seconded the motion
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: 6-0-0 APPROVED

#1e

MOTION: Member Vogler moved to Approve One Intensive Program Nurse-CGS
Member DiZoglio seconded the motion
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: 6-0-0 APPROVED

#1f

MOTION: Member Vogler moved to Approve One ASD Teacher-CGS
Member Nicholson seconded the motion
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: 6-0-0 APPROVED

#1g

MOTION: Member Vogler moved to Approve One ASD Program Assistant-CGS
Member DiZoglio seconded the motion
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: 6-0-0 APPROVED

2. Approval to move \$76,768.00 from Professional Salaries to Other Salaries

MOTION: Member Vogler moved to Approve to move \$76,768.00 from Professional Salaries to Other salaries to fund the program assistant positions
Member Nicholson seconded the motion
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: 6-0-0 APPROVED

12. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss at this Special Meeting session, The Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting session for the evening at 7:04pm.

MOTION: Member Vogler motioned to adjourn the Special Meeting session at 7:04pm
Member DiZoglio seconded the motion
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: 6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,

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