

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WORKSHOP SESSION

OF

JANUARY 27, 2020

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
WORKSHOP SESSION
January 27, 2020

Workshop Session of the Methuen School Committee was held at Methuen High School, Media Center, and was posted for 6:30PM

CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

ROLL CALL

Susan Nicholson (P)
Jana Zanni Pesce, Vice Chairperson (NP)
Jessica MacLeod (P)
Louann Santos (P)
Karen Hallbauer (P)
Ryan DiZoglio (P)
Mayor Neil Perry, Chairperson (P)

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Susan Nicholson (P)
Jessica MacLeod (P)
Louann Santos (P)
Karen Hallbauer (P)
Ryan DiZoglio (P)
Mayor Neil Perry, Chairperson (P)

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Jana Zanni Pesce, Vice Chairperson (NP)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Brandi L. Kwong, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools
Eric S. McGee, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Grants
Ian Gosselin, Business Administrator
Gina Bozek, Director of Student Services
Richard Barden, Supervising Principal, Methuen High School
Martha Sirois, Public Recorder

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Perry called this Workshop Session to order at 6:30PM with a quorum of Members in attendance, and listed above.

Acceptance of the Agenda

MOTION: Member Nicholson moved to accept the Agenda for January 27, 2020

Member DiZoglio seconded the motion

VOTE: 6-0-0 APPROVED

Flag Salute

Public Participation- -None

1. Entry Findings Report-Presentation/Discussion

Superintendent Kwong gave her presentation

Strengths-

Member Santos-The percentage of students passing the AP test is impressive at 70.1%, compared to the State average of 67.3%.

Superintendent Kwong-She is very proud of those scores. The high school works very hard.

Growth-

Member Nicholson-She would like Superintendent Kwong to bring an example to the School Committee of Root Cause Analysis. It would be helpful for the new committee members. It would also be helpful for the budget. How much of the work being done by Superintendent Kwong and her Leadership team will be ready for the budget process?

Superintendent Kwong-This has been our budget conversations this year. They have already started planning for the alternative school, Title I, Guidance and program assistants. She may not have the entire Root Causes ready, but it will be aligned with what was presented tonight.

Member Nicholson-Do they need to start thinking about another school building?

Superintendent Kwong-Yes, they have started those conversations.

Mayor-Have they cross sectioned absenteeism by school?

Superintendent Kwong-They have not. They have done more at the high school. They have looked at absenteeism and grades there.

Member MacLeod-Have they looked at student achievement for students that have been in the district from kindergarten thru?

Superintendent Kwong-The State does allow them to look at the cohort for grades 3-10. Those students score higher.

Member MacLeod-She values the work being done by the school leadership on what would benefit their schools.

Member Santos-Is it grades PreK-8 with the discipline issues?

Superintendent Kwong-They are seeing more traumatic experiences in grades K-1. Students have more severe behaviors from these traumatic experiences.

Member Santos-Is there a process in place for students with frequent behavior issues?

Superintendent Kwong-Yes, suspensions. If a student has an Individual Education Plan (IEP) legally, they have to be careful dealing with these students. There is one Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) in each building. Grades PrK-8 follow the Code of Conduct.

Member Santos-Is the process the same across all grades for days missed?

Superintendent Kwong-Yes. After 5 days, the parents are notified. She would like the School Committee to relook at the Attendance Policy.

Member Hallbauer-Would an alternative school replace the Alpha program at the high school?

Superintendent Kwong- It is unknown yet if it will replace the program or be in addition to.

Member Hallbauer-Beginning in 2010 they were committed to open enrollment. Are all students required to take the AP exam?

Principal Barden-They are strongly encouraged to take the exam. There is a new fee schedule so they will need to register earlier, in November.

Member Hallbauer-Do disadvantaged students get help with the fee?

Principal Barden-Yes they do.

Member DiZoglio-How many students are failing school?

Superintendent Kwong-She does not know the answer to that question.

Member DiZoglio-Has the number of students attending summer school increased?

Principal Barden-Students can take advantage of credit recovery programs during the school year, during the school day, night classes and summer school.

Member DiZoglio-Presentation of Mary school is closing. Has there been any talk of the City buying the building?

Mayor Perry-There have but he cannot speak about it at this time.

2. CREST Collaborative Intent Letter-Informational Purpose Only

Superintendent Kwong explained that the letter from Crest Collaborative is to inform the School Committee of their intent to sell their current location and purchase a new location.

Member Nicholson-Is this in prelude to a second letter that they are restructuring and their fees are going up?

Superintendent Kwong-She does not expect that to happen.

3. Executive Session

MOTION: Member Santos motioned to go into Executive Session Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares. We will not reconvene into open session at the conclusion of the executive session.

Member DiZoglio seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: NONE

ROLL CALL

Susan Nicholson (P)

Jana Zanni Pesce, Vice Chairperson (NP)

Jessica MacLeod (P)

Louann Santos (P)

Karen Hallbauer (P)

Ryan DiZoglio (P)

Mayor Neil Perry, Chairperson (P)

VOTE: 6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

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