

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUSINESS SESSION

DECEMBER 14, 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:
DEIDRE RUNGE, PUBLIC RECORDER

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES
METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
BUSINESS SESSION
DECEMBER 14, 2020

The Business Session of the Methuen School Committee was held at Methuen High School, Media Center, and was posted for 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

ROLL CALL

Ryan DiZoglio (P)
Karen Hallbauer (P)
Jessica MacLeod (P)
Susan M. Nicholson (NP)
Louann Santos (P)
Jana Zanni Pesce (NP)
Mayor Neil P. Perry, Chairperson (NP at Roll Call) (arrived at 6:53 p.m.)

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ryan DiZoglio
Karen Hallbauer
Jessica MacLeod
Louann Santos
Mayor Neil P. Perry, Chairperson (arrived at 6:53 p.m.)

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Susan M. Nicholson
Jana Zanni Pesce

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Brandi Kwong, Superintendent of Schools
Ronald Noble, Assistant Superintendent
Ian Gosselin, Business Administrator
Jacqueline Drapeau, Student Representative
Deidre Runge, Public Recorder
Tom Hargreaves & James Kapelson, representing the Methuen Veterans Services

Member MacLeod asked for a motion to Accept of the Agenda as presented

MOTION: Member Santos motioned to approve the agenda as presented
Seconded by Member DiZoglio

Member MacLeod asked for a motion to amend the agenda to remove 2a and move to the January Agenda

MOTION: Member Santos motioned to amend the agenda
Seconded by Member Hallbaeur

VOTE: 4-0-0

Member MacLeod asked for a motion to accept the agenda as amended

MOTION: Member Santos motioned to accept the amendment to the agenda
Seconded by Member DiZoglio

VOTE: 4-0-0

1a Flag Salute by the Committee

Kayleigh McIntyre, fourth grade student at the Timony Grammar School, led the Committee in Opening Exercises of this meeting.

2. PARTICIPATION BY OTHERS

a. SOAR Awards Moved to January

b. Mr. Hargreaves & Mr. Kapelson presented the Veterans Day Essay Contest Winners with their Citations from the mayor and their gift cards.

- Laura Wazen – 6th grade, Timony Grammar School
- Jayden Perrotta – 6th grade, Tenney Grammar School
- Brookelynn Valente – 6th grade, Marsh Grammar School

There was a motion from Member Santos and a second from Member DiZoglio to recess @6:45 while people left the room VOTE 4-0-0

The meeting resumed at 6:47

c. The Committee recognized and congratulated the Athletic Director, Matthew Curran for being the recipient of the Ted Damko Award.

The Mayor arrived at 6:53 p.m. apologized for being late.

d. Public Participation

Member MacLeod read out loud: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION was POSTED as:
Individuals that would like to participate at this meeting may do so in writing (see Policy #BEDH #7 referring to remote meetings) before 3:00 p.m. Monday, December 14, 2020 via email to derunge@methuen.k12.ma.us which will be printed and given to the Chairperson of the meeting to read to the public.

OR

Those that would like to attend, we will allow 12 (twelve) additional people into the meeting. You must follow health and safety guidelines including wearing a mask throughout the meeting and follow the 6' of social distancing.

There was No public participation emails

Jonathan Becker, 473 Lake St., Haverhill, MA, Unit A President asked the Committee to reconsider going back to in-person on January 4th, instead stay remote January 4-8.

Member MacLeod reminded the community if they would like a comment read at the next meeting please send to Dodie @ derunge@methuen.k12.ma.us by January 11, 2021 before 3:00 p.m.

Member MacLeod closed the Public Participation part of this meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Member MacLeod motioned to approve the minutes of September 10, 2020

Member DiZoglio seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 5-0-0 APPROVED

MOTION: Member Hallbaeur motioned to approve the minutes of November 9, 2020

Member MacLeod seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 5-0-0 APPROVED

MOTION: Member Santos motioned to approve the minutes of November 18, 2020

Member DiZoglio seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: Member Hallbauer asked on behalf of Member Nicholson to fix a typo. Change (upstand) to “understand”

MOTION: Member DiZoglio motioned to accept the minutes of November 18, 2020 as amended

Member Hallbauer seconded the motion

VOTE: 4-0-1 APPROVED (Member MacLeod voted present)

MOTION: Member Hallbaeur motioned to approve the minutes of November 23, 2020

Member DiZoglio seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 5-0-0 APPROVED

MOTION: Member MacLeod motioned to approve the minutes of December 1, 2020

Member DiZoglio seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 5-0-0 APPROVED

4. Staff Reports

a. Superintendent’s Update

The Superintendent and Mr. Noble reviewed all the letters that went home to parents on the upcoming half-year point regarding families chance to change from hybrid to remote or remote to hybrid.

Member DiZoglio asked with a vaccine now available will we be able to revise the plan.

Superintendent – March 15, 2021 we could have another evaluation date for us to look and see if we need to reevaluate.

Mayor said there is no promises and we cannot set expectations. There is limited doses available.

MOTION: Member DiZoglio motioned to add a March 15, 2021 meeting as review the reevaluation of the plan

Member Santos seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: Superintendent – If there are any changes we will come back to the Committee to reevaluate. Our goal is to get kids back into school.
Mayor – We are over legislating. Yes we might have to vote to update a plan but we can do that in March.

Member MacLeod – The Superintendents is being transparent with her openness that the plan might change. To the Mayor’s point, I don’t think we have to vote on this.

Member DiZoglio withdrew his motion and Member Santos withdrew her second.

Mr. Noble finished the discussion on hybrid and remote learning models.

Superintendent – The nurse said 100’s do not have the flu vaccine. Hybrid students will get exclusion letters 1st then remote if they do not comply.

- b. Residency Update
NONE

5. Old Business and Other Pending Matters

- a. Newly Adopt S.C. Policy #EBC-C, Student Absences and Excuses COVID19 2nd Reading

MOTION: Member MacLeod motioned to approve the second reading

Member DiZoglio seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: Member DiZoglio motioned to table to January 25, 2021 workshop when they can get data. The purpose of this was to get the data. Due to not being in person there is no data.

Member MacLeod – I do not prefer to work without an attendance policy. My decision is not relying on data.

Member Santos seconded the motion because she would like to have the discussion with all the members.

Member Hallbauer – I don’t recall the Superintendent saying we have to have data to approve the policy

Superintendent – It was just a request

Mayor – This is a policy. Collecting data is not going to effect the policy.

ROLL CALL to TABLE

Ryan DiZoglio (Y)

Karen Hallbauer (N)

Jessica MacLeod (N)

Susan M. Nicholson (NP)

Louann Santos (Y)

Jana Zanni Pesce (NP)

Mayor Neil P. Perry, Chairperson (N)

VOTE: 2-3-0 Motion to table failed

ROLL CALL to APPROVE THE SECOND READING

Ryan DiZoglio (P)

Karen Hallbauer (Y)

Jessica MacLeod (Y)

Susan M. Nicholson (NP)

Louann Santos (N)

Jana Zanni Pesce (NP)

Mayor Neil P. Perry, Chairperson (Y)

VOTE: 3-1-1 Motion Approved (Member Santos voted NO and Member DiZoglio voted present)

6. New Business

a. Acceptance of a Donation for the Methuen Fine Arts Department – Approval

MOTION: Member MacLeod motioned to accept the donation of canvas' for the Fine Arts Department

Member Santos seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 5-0-0 APPROVED

b. Acceptance of a Donation from the U.S. Census Bureau - Approval

MOTION: Member DiZoglio motioned to accept the donation of PPE & Office supplies

Member Santos seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 5-0-0 APPROVED

c. Request for New Positions for a Lower School ASD Classroom - Approval

MOTION: Member MacLeod motioned to approve the request of 3 new positions

Member DiZoglio seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: Superintendent – In the spring we had to reduce an ASD classroom in the budget. The Marsh Grammar School was able to absorb these students. Now we have additional students that need the services and we don't have space in the classroom. We need a new classroom and positions to give the Marsh staff support.

Mayor – My calculations is that brings your Chapter 70 down to 78 thousand and change. I am all for this but know after January 1st the City will not be able to help anymore.

ROLL CALL

Ryan DiZoglio (Y)

Karen Hallbauer (Y)

Jessica MacLeod (Y)

Susan M. Nicholson (NP)

Louann Santos (Y)

Jana Zanni Pesce (NP)

Mayor Neil P. Perry, Chairperson (Y)

VOTE: 5-0-0 APPROVED

7. Finance and Operations

a. Expenditure Report – Monthly
None

b. Revolving Funds Report – Monthly

Mr. Gosselin told the Committee that the ice rink is in a good place. We received a payment in December that is not reflected in this report. We are in the black.

c. Grants Report – Monthly
None

d. Student Activity Accounts – Monthly
None

e. Food Services – Monthly

Mr. Gosselin pointed out to the Committee that revenue is down but we are breaking even. We are waiting for \$195,000.00 that is coming from the state.

8. Notification of Appointments and Other Personnel Matters

None

9. BUSINESS FROM THE COMMITTEE

a. Residency Sub-Committee Update

None

b. Other Business from the Committee

None

The Mayor asked for a motion to go into executive

MOTION: Member Santos motioned to adjourn the meeting and enter into executive Session at 8:11 p.m.

Member DiZoglio seconded the motion

a. 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 litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Unit B, Unit C and Transportation Negotiations.

b. Pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, Section 21(a)(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel - Superintendent.

The Mayor said with no further business of the Committee, we will NOT reconvene into open session at the conclusion of the executive session.

ROLL CALL

Ryan DiZoglio (Y)

Karen Hallbauer (Y)

Jessica MacLeod (Y)

Susan M. Nicholson (NP)

Louann Santos (Y)

Jana Zanni Pesce (NP)

Mayor Neil P. Perry, Chairperson (Y)

VOTE: 5-0-0 APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,
Deidre Runge, Public Recorder
Methuen Public Schools