

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WORKSHOP/BUSINESS SESSION

OF

FEBRUARY 24, 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/BUSINESS SESSION
February 24, 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

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

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Brandi L. Kwong, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools
Eric S. McGee, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessments and Grants
Ian Gosselin, Business Administrator
Martha Sirois, Public Recorder

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Perry called this Workshop/Business 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 February 24, 2020
Member Zanni Pesce seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

Flag Salute

Public Participation- Relay for Life

1. Booster Donation

Bill Bryant from the Methuen High School Boosters spoke about the \$8,000.00 donation they would like to give to Methuen High School for the lighting in the field house. (Handout)

MOTION: Member Santos moved to accept the donation from the Methuen High School Boosters for the lighting in the field house.
Member Zanni Pesce seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

2. Student Opportunity Act-Presentation/Discussion

Superintendent Kwong gave her presentation

Member MacLeod-She is disappointed that only 300 staff surveys have been turned in. Can the Superintendent provide a graph so they can see what the responses look like?

Superintendent-Yes.

Member MacLeod- She would also like to know what some of the other options were from the staff and how many of them were complimentary to this plan and how many were not.

Superintendent-She was really asking the staff for in-put on the operating budget to make sure everything was aligning. This is just a small piece of the larger budget and they are trying to see what piece aligns with this.

Member Hallbauer-Who decides on the targeted outcomes? Is it the district or the state?

Superintendent-The measured data is a list that they gave to the district that we can see and they can see.

Member Hallbauer-What happens if the district falls below the benchmark? Can the state come in and change the plans if the current plans are not working?

Superintendent-She has not heard about that. She does not think they are ready yet with that information.

Member Hallbauer-This is over 7 years. Is this law financially sustainable?

Superintendent-She does not think they would have done this without the funding.

Mayor-He worries about giving up progress reports. Is there a core analysis to identify the students who are struggling? He would like some measure of parental involvement.

Superintendent-This is all pieces of this process that they are going to have to dive deeper into.

Member Santos-Can they offer a tutorial for parents about Infinite Campus.

Superintendent-Yes

3. Superintendent Mid-Cycle Goals Update

Superintendent Kwong gave her update

Goal #1

Member Hallbauer-They should include the credit denial information in the attendance letters that go out on Saturdays to the high school students.

Superintendent-That is a great point.

Member MacLeod-Have parents responded to these letters?

Superintendent-Each principal has this as part of their goals and are keeping track.

Member Nicholson-It is refreshing and empowering to see all this work coming together.

Tonight is a great meeting.

Member Santos-It is encouraging to see the contact the Superintendent is making with the schools.

Member DiZoglio-When they visit the schools, do the teachers know they are coming?

Superintendent-Yes. The teachers volunteer for them to come into their classrooms.

Dr. McGee-The intention is not to give feedback unless they ask.

Goal #2

No questions

Goal #3

No questions

Goal #4

No questions

4. 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-Unit A. 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 (y)

Jana Zanni Pesce, Vice Chairperson (y)

Jessica MacLeod (y)

Louann Santos (y)

Karen Hallbauer (y)

Ryan DiZoglio (y)

Mayor Neil Perry, Chairperson (y)

VOTE: 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED at 8:59 p.m.

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