

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUSINESS SESSION

APRIL 13, 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
APRIL 13, 2020

This Business Session of the Methuen School Committee was held remotely via ZOOM Meeting Center, and was posted for 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Perry read the following: Good Evening, The School Committee Proposed Budget Workshop/ Meeting of June 17, 2020 will now come to order: “Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 18, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Methuen School Committee is being conducted via remote participation.”

ROLL CALL

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE VIA REMOTE PARTICIPATION:

Brandi Kwong, Superintendent of Schools
Eric McGee, Assistant Superintendent
Ian Gosselin, Business Administrator
Edward Lussier, Director of Technology
Paul Sughrue – Student Wellness Dept.
Marita Merheb - SOAR Recipient
Deidre Runge, Public Recorder

Acceptance of the Agenda

MOTION: Member Nicholson motioned to approve the agenda
Seconded by Member Pesce

ROLL CALL

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

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

1a Flag Salute by the Committee

2. PARTICIPATION BY OTHERS

a. Students

(2a1) Marita Merheb was the recipient of the S.O.A.R. Award at this meeting. The Wellness Department chose Marita for this Award.

- b. Mayor read out loud:** PUBLIC PARTICIPATION was POSTED as: Individuals that would like to participate at this meeting may do so in writing before 3 p.m. Monday, April 13, 2020 via email to derunge@methuen.k12.ma.us which will be read to the public.

There was no emails sent.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Member DiZoglio motioned to approve the minutes of February 10, 2020
Member Santos seconded the motion

ROLL CALL

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

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

MOTION: Member DiZoglio motioned to approve the minutes of February 24, 2020
Member Nicholson seconded the motion

ROLL CALL

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

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

4. Staff Reports

a. COVID 19 Update

The Superintendent gave an update on what the school district is doing during the pandemic. She went over her memos that had been sent home to parents and staff.

In the middle of the update, there was a 5-minute recess, the Superintendent had no internet had to change her area.

The Mayor praised the Superintendent, food services and the nurses for stepping up.

Member Pesce – My concern is how are we going to monitor what teachers are going to get back from students. Will we be preparing for long term if it comes down to that? How will we implement? How do we make sure students do the work and get it back to the teachers?

Superintendent – The upper school and high school students are on Google Class that helps to get work back to the teachers. For the younger students we would be actually grading parents not students on getting work back to us. We are just trying to keep the kids engaged in learning. This is a health crisis with an educational impact.

Member MacLeod – We need to have thoughts on remediation or help for the students this summer or for when we return next year.

Superintendent - Part of the stimulus funds coming in can go towards summer school. We will have to wait and see if we are coming back to school.

Member Santos – Parents have been reaching out to me that are not technically savvy or for updates on special education.

Superintendent – please direct parents to the website that is updated daily and has lots of information on it. It even has technology information to help parents with technology. All special education questions should be directed to Ms. Bozek or their Special Education Administrators at their schools.

5. Old Business and Other Pending Matters

NONE

6. New Business

a. School Choice Program - Approval

MOTION: Member Hallbauer motioned to not be a part of school choice
DiZoglio seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

ROLL CALL

Ryan DiZoglio (Y)

Karen Hallbauer (Y)

Jessica MacLeod (Y)

Susan M. Nicholson (Y)

Louann Santos (Y)

Jana Zanni Pesce (Y)

Mayor Neil P. Perry, Chairperson (Y)

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

b. 2019-2020 Last Day of School - Approval

MOTION: Member Nicholson motioned to approve June 19, 2020 as the last day of school
Member MacLeod seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

ROLL CALL

Ryan DiZoglio (Y)

Karen Hallbauer (Y)

Jessica MacLeod (Y)
Susan M. Nicholson (Y)
Louann Santos (Y)
Jana Zanni Pesce (Y)
Mayor Neil P. Perry, Chairperson (Y)

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

c. Authority to Transfer Funds – Approval

MOTION: Member Santos motioned to approve
Member Hallbauer seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

ROLL CALL

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

VOTE: 2-5-0 MOTION FAILED

d. 2020-2021 School Calendar Approval

MOTION: Member Santos motioned to approve
Member DiZoglio seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

ROLL CALL

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

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

7. Finance and Operations

a. Expenditure Report – Monthly - None

1. Transfer of Funds – Approvals

1a – \$60,000 from Professional Salaries to Contracted Services

MOTION: Member DiZoglio motioned to approve
Member Hallbauer seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: Member Pesce – Did we go out to bid on this?
Mr. Gosselin – no we went off the state list.

Member DiZoglio – Do we have other machines that are starting to get old too?

Mr. Gosselin – yes

Member DiZoglio – I would like an inventory list please.

ROLL CALL

Ryan DiZoglio (Y)

Karen Hallbauer (Y)

Jessica MacLeod (Y)

Susan M. Nicholson (Y)

Louann Santos (Y)

Jana Zanni Pesce (Y)

Mayor Neil P. Perry, Chairperson (Y)

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

1b – \$18,841.26 from Professional Salaries to Supplies

MOTION: Member MacLeod motioned to approve

Member Pesce seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

ROLL CALL

Ryan DiZoglio (Y)

Karen Hallbauer (Y)

Jessica MacLeod (Y)

Susan M. Nicholson (Y)

Louann Santos (Y)

Jana Zanni Pesce (Y)

Mayor Neil P. Perry, Chairperson (Y)

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

1c – \$75,000 from Professional Salaries to Contracted Services

MOTION: Member DiZoglio motioned to approve

Member Hallbauer seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

ROLL CALL

Ryan DiZoglio (Y)

Karen Hallbauer (Y)

Jessica MacLeod (Y)

Susan M. Nicholson (Y)

Louann Santos (Y)

Jana Zanni Pesce (Y)

Mayor Neil P. Perry, Chairperson (Y)

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

2. Electronic Signature Discussion

A discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding the use during COVID 19.

b. Revolving Funds Report – Monthly - None

Mr. Gosselin let the Committee know that we received a Circuit Breaker payment in April so it wouldn't be reflected in this report. He was happy to report we are now in the black.

c. Grants Report – Monthly - None

d. Student Activity Accounts – Monthly - None

e. Food Services – Monthly

f. Bids – None

g. Contracts

1. 2020-2021 Northern Essex Dual Enrollment Contract – Approval

MOTION: Member Santos motioned to approve

Member DiZoglio seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: Member Hallbauer asked on page 79 was participation open to ALL Methuen High School Students but the handbook says 11th and 12th grade students Superintendent – good catch we will fix the contracts to say ALL 11th and 12th grade students.

ROLL CALL

Ryan DiZoglio (Y)

Karen Hallbauer (Y)

Jessica MacLeod (Y)

Susan M. Nicholson (Y)

Louann Santos (Y)

Jana Zanni Pesce (Y)

Mayor Neil P. Perry, Chairperson (Y)

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

8. Notification of Appointments and Other Personnel Matters

None

9. BUSINESS FROM THE COMMITTEE

a. Other Business from the Committee

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Mayor asked for a motion to go into Executive Session

MOTION: Member DiZoglio motioned to go into executive session @ 8:13 p.m.

Member Pesce seconded the motion

Mayor - We have a first and second motion 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 litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – All Units. 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 (Y)

Louann Santos (Y)

Jana Zanni Pesce (Y)

Mayor Neil P. Perry, Chairperson (Y)

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,
Deidre Runge, Public Recorder
Methuen Public Schools