

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUDGET WORKSHOP/BUSINESS MEETING

OF

MAY 19, 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
BUDGET WORKSHOP/BUSINESS SESSION
May 19, 2020

Budget Workshop/Business Session of the Methuen School Committee was posted for 5:00PM “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 by the Methuen School Committee. No in-person attendance of members of the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Governor’s Order. Individuals that would like to have access will be given information at the beginning of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Perry called this Budget Workshop/Business Session to order at 5:00PM, with a quorum of Members in attendance. He asked the secretary to please call the Roll.

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 VIA REMOTE PARTICIPATION:

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

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
Edward Lussier, Director of Technology
Colleen McCarthy, Human Resources Director

Martha Sirois, Public Recorder

Acceptance of the Agenda

MOTION: Member Nicholson moved to accept the Agenda for May 19, 2020
Member Zanni Pesce seconded the Motion

DISCUSSION: None

ROLL CALL

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

VOTE: 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Flag Salute

Public Participation:

There will be no in-person attendance of members of the public that will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Governor’s Order. Individuals that would like to participate at this meeting may do so in writing before 3 p.m. Monday, May 19, 2020 via email to derunge@methuen.k12.ma.us which will be read to the public.

There was no public participation

1. COVID 19 Update from the Superintendent

Superintendent Kwong gave her COVID 19 Update

2. FY’21 Budget-Update/Discussion

Superintendent Kwong gave her FY’21 Budget Update

Mayor Perry-He feels it is important for everyone to understand Methuen does not have a deficit or a loss. They are looking at projected revenue for proper fiscal management. The City will finish FY’20 in the black.

3. Transportation Policy-Update/Discussion

Superintendent Kwong gave her Transportation Policy-Update

Colleen McCarthy gave her map presentation of the school bus routes.

Member Zanni Pesce-She would like to see bus routes that are ¼ mile-½ mile from each school and the distance between each bus stop.

Member MacLeod-How and when will they be able to hear from parents and how will they have a productive part in this. She would like the following questions on a parent survey;

Why does their child take the bus?

Is alternative transportation an option for your family?

Do they know what private transportations exists in the Merrimack Valley?

Do they have safety concerns?

How long would it take for their child to walk to school?

Does their child have health concerns (example; asthma) that would make it difficult for their child to walk to school?

Do they have an infant at home?

Member Nicholson-Student safety is very important and will be considered in discussions. She would like a list of streets with no sidewalks and a list from the Mayor which streets will be getting sidewalks. She would also like them to ask parents if they would be willing to pay for buses

Member Zanni Pesce-She would like them to add to the survey the reasons why they may have to change/eliminate bus routes.

Superintendent Kwong-She will have a draft of the parent survey at the next school committee meeting on May 26th.

4. Other Business from the Committee-None

***ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business to discuss at Budget Workshop/Business session, Mayor Perry entertained a motion to adjourn the Workshop/Business session for the evening at 6:51PM

MOTION: Member Santos moved to adjourn this Budget Workshop/Business Session @ 6:51PM

Member Zanni Pesce seconded the Motion

ROLL CALL

Ryan DiZoglio (Y)

Karen Hallbauer (Y)

Jessica MacLeod (Y)

Susan Nicholson (Y)

Louann Santos (Y)

Jana Zanni Pesce, Vice Chairperson (Y)

Mayor Neil Perry, Chairperson (Y)

VOTE: 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

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