

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WORKSHOP/BUSINESS SESSION

OF

MAY 26, 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  
MAY 26, 2020

Workshop/Business Session of the Methuen School Committee was posted for 6:30PM  
“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 Workshop/Business Session to order at 6:30PM, with a quorum of Members in attendance, and listed above.

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, Director of Human Resources  
Martha Sirois, Public Recorder

### **Acceptance of the Agenda**

**MOTION:** Member Nicholson moved to accept the Agenda for May 26, 2020  
Member DiZoglio 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

### **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 26, 2020 via email to [derunge@methuen.k12.ma.us](mailto:derunge@methuen.k12.ma.us) which will be read to the public.

**Public Participation-NONE**

### **#1 Unit B-Administrators Ratification**

**MOTION:** Member DiZoglio moved to approved Unit B-Administrators Contract  
Member Nicholson seconded the Motion

### **DISCUSSION:**

Member Zanni Pesce-With the potential wage freeze how will this be impacted?  
Superintendent Kwong-This is for last year and this year. It is a 2 year contract for FY'18-19 and FY'19-2020

### **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

## **#2 CREST Revised Capital Plan-Approval #2**

**MOTION:** Member Hallbauer motioned to approve the CREST Revised Capital Plan  
Member DiZoglio seconded the Motion

### **DISCUSSION:**

Member MacLeod-What cost would be to Methuen?

Superintendent Kwong-We pay a membership fee. Any other costs are done through tuition.

They are not raising their tuition rates for the next school year.

### **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 (Present)

**VOTE:** 6-0-1 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

## **#3 Superintendent's COVID-19 Update**

Superintendent Kwong gave her COVID-19 Update

### **1. FY'21 Budget updates and discussion**

Superintendent Kwong gave her FY'21 Budget updates and discussion

### **2. Transportation Follow-Up**

Superintendent Kwong asked Ms. McCarthy to give the presentation

Ms. McCarthy gave her presentation

Member Zanni Pesce-She would like to see a rating system on the bottom of the survey. Not just asking questions but asking what parents value most. She would like it to read, "in light of a potential COVID 19 related budget crisis, what is the most important to you". On this list of questions to be rated she would like to see the following free bussing, class size, no teacher cuts, no user fees, free full day kindergarten. She thinks it's important to see how parents feel about these items. She doesn't want Ms. McCarthy to waste her time on transportation changes if there is going to be no cost savings.

Superintendent Kwong-She will add these to the bottom of the survey and have the parents rank them in order of importance to them. They originally said they would send the survey to just the parents that would be impacted by a bus change. Should she now send this to all parents in the district?

Member Zanni Pesce-She feels they should send it to all parents and add the question “do your children take the bus and approximately how far do you live from the school”? She asked Ms. McCarthy if it is better to enforce the policy they have or change the policy to add more distance?

Ms. McCarthy-She feels they should look at enforcing the current policy with input from the school resource officers to look at the stops and see what they feel is a safe walking distance and see how many students that will impact.

### **3. Other Business from the Committee-NONE**

#### **\*ADJOURNMENT:**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

With no further business to discuss at this Workshop/Business Session, Vice Chair Zanni Pesce entertained a motion @ 8:14PM 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-All Units. We will NOT reconvene into open session at the conclusion of the executive session.

**MOTION:** Member Santos moved to adjourn this Workshop/Business Session @ 8:14PM and go into Executive Session  
Member Hallbauer 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

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