

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING FY'21 BUDGET  
ADOPTION OF FY'21 BUDGET  
WORKSHOP/BUSINESS SESSION

OF

JUNE 22, 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  
PUBLIC HEARING FY'21 BUDGET AND ADOPTION OF FY'21 BUDGET  
WORKSHOP/BUSINESS SESSION  
JUNE 22, 2020

Public Hearing on the FY'21 Budget, Adoption of FY'21 Budget and 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 Public Hearing of the FY'21 Budget, Adoption of the FY'21 Budget and Workshop/Business Session to order at 5:00PM, 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)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Brandi L. Kwong, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools  
Ian Gosselin, Business Administrator  
Edward Lussier, Director of Technology  
Martha Sirois, Public Recorder

Acceptance of the Agenda

MOTION: Member Nicholson moved to accept the Agenda for June 22, 2020  
Member DiZoglio 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

Mayor Perry entertained a motion to amend the Agenda and remove Executive Session

Amend the Agenda

MOTION: Member Zanni Pesce moved to amend the Agenda for June 22, 2020 to  
remove Executive Session  
Member Santos 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

Mayor Perry entertained a motion to accept the Agenda for June 22, 2020 as amended

Accept the Agenda as amended

MOTION: Member Nicholson moved to accept the Agenda as amended  
Member DiZoglio 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 HEARING FY'21 BUDGET**

The PUBLIC HEARING of the FY'21 Budget was POSTED as: Individuals that would like to participate via the Zoom Meeting can either send their phone number or email address by Monday, June 22, 2020 by 12:00 p.m. to [derunge@metuen.k12.ma.us](mailto:derunge@metuen.k12.ma.us) or call 978-722-6001, which will allow us to invite you to speak via the Zoom Meeting.

Public Participation-THERE WERE NO EMAIL(s) or phone calls

Mayor Perry closed the Public Hearing of the FY'21 Budget at 5:07 p.m.

**ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2021 SCHOOL BUDGET**

**Professional Salaries**

Member Nicholson moved to adopt \$46,643,419 for Professional Salaries  
seconded by Member DiZoglio

**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

**Secretarial Salaries**

Member MacLeod moved to adopt \$1,896,440 for Secretarial Salaries  
seconded by Member Santos

**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

Other Salaries

Member DiZoglio moved to adopt \$6,905,444 for Other Salaries  
seconded by Member MacLeod

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

Contractual Services

Member DiZoglio moved to adopt \$23,587,438 for Contractual Services  
seconded by Member Santos

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

Supplies and Materials

Member Hallbauer moved to adopt \$1,797,294 for Supplies and Materials  
seconded by Member DiZoglio

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

Other Expenses

Member Nicholson moved to adopt \$119,965 for Other Expenses  
seconded by Member DiZoglio

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

OPERATING NET SCHOOL SPENDING

Member Santos moved to adopt \$74,070,588 for Operating Net School Spending  
seconded by Member DiZoglio

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

TOTAL NON-NET SCHOOL SPENDING

Member Santos moved to adopt \$6,879,412 for Non-Net School Spending to include  
Transportation and Crossing Guards  
seconded by Member DiZoglio

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

TOTAL OPERATING FY'21 BUDGET

Member DiZoglio moved to adopt \$80,950,000 for Total Operating FY'21 Budget

seconded by Member Zanni Pesce

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

CITY CHARGEBACKS (Estimated)

Member DiZoglio moved to adopt \$15,843,552 for City Chargebacks (Estimated)  
seconded by Member Zanni Pesce

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

TOTAL SCHOOL FY'21 BUDGET

Member Santos moved to adopt \$96,793,552 for Total School FY'21 Budget  
seconded by Member DiZoglio

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Perry entertained a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing on the FY'21 Budget and the Adoption of the FY'21 Budget at 5:23 p.m. and go into the Workshop/Business Session

Member DiZoglio moved to adjourn the Public Hearing on the FY'21 Budget and the Adoption of FY'21 Budget and go into the Workshop/Business Session

seconded by Member Zanni Pesce

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

**WORKSHOP/BUSINESS SESSION**

1. Approval of Minutes for April 13, 2020, April 27, 2020

Mayor Perry entertained a motion to accept the minutes of the April 13, 2020 meeting

Member MacLeod moved to accept the minutes of April 13, 2020

seconded by Member Santos

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

Mayor Perry entertained a motion to accept the minutes of the April 27, 2020 meeting

Member MacLeod moved to accept the minutes of April 13, 2020

seconded by Member Hallbauer

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

2. Authority to Transfer Funds-Approval

Mayor Perry entertained a motion to approve the Authority of the Administration to transfer funds

Member MacLeod moved to accept the minutes of April 13, 2020  
seconded by Member Santos

DISCUSSION:

Member Zanni Pesce-In light of the current situation, she cannot in good faith vote yes for this. She feels they need a constant accounting of what is going in, what is going out, and what is left over for funds.

Member DiZoglio-He does not think this is in the best interest of the constituents to turn this power over to the administrations.

ROLL CALL

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

VOTE: 4-3-0 APPROVED

3. Contracts

a. FY'21 Grocery Bid Winner-Contract-Approval

Mayor Perry entertained a motion to accept the FY'21 Grocery Bid Winner-Contract

Member Hallbauer moved to accept the FY'21 Grocery Bid Winner-Contract  
seconded by Member DiZoglio

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

b. Fy'21 Paper/Cleaning Supplier Bid Winner-Contract-Approval

Mayor Perry entertained a motion to accept the Fy'21 Paper/Cleaning Supplier Bid Winner-Contract

Member Hallbauer moved to accept the FY'21 Grocery Bid Winner-Contract seconded by Member MacLeod

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

c. FY'21 Milk Bid Winner-Contract-Approval

Mayor Perry entertained a motion to accept the FY'21 Milk Bid Winner-Contract

Member Santos moved to accept the FY'21 Grocery Bid Winner-Contract seconded by Member MacLeod

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

4. Superintendent Evaluation Discussion

Member Nicholson-The majority of the Superintendent's goals were achievement and academically driven. Where are you with progress towards those goals? It is very understandable if those goals came to a standstill.

Superintendent Kwong-2 of those goals did come to a standstill. She was able to complete the induction program. She spent most of her time the last 3 months focused on the school closure, which included negotiations, education plans and community communication. These were not part of her goals but a huge focus the past few months. She would like to provide the committee with a more formal update of her goals and an outline of all that was done for the COVID 19 closure. Would the Committee like her to stick to the timeline and have her discuss her goals at the June 29th meeting?

Member MacLeod-She would like to hold to the traditional timeline and have the goals presented on June 29th.

Member Nicholson-she feels when the Superintendent addresses rolling over her goals at the June 29th meeting that a vote at that time would be appropriate for the record.  
Superintendent-She will present her goals on June 29th and suggest the ones to be carried over to next school year.

#### 5. Anti-racist Curriculum and Education

Superintendent Kwong reviewed Anti-racist Curriculum and Education

Member MacLeod-Are the books connected to this particular curriculum listed on the school website or listed at the library?

Superintendent Kwong-The summer reading list is posted on the website. She will check the curriculum maps to see if these books are listed.

Member MacLeod-Have principals been rating teachers in this area on their evaluations?

Superintendent Kwong-She put it in her notes and will have conversations with the Leadership team about her ideas.

Motion to Reconsider Vote on Agenda #2

Member Santos would like to reconsider her vote for Authority to Transfer Funds

Member Santos-She misunderstood she thought she was voting to have control of the spending.

MOTION: Member DiZoglio moved to reconsider the Vote for Authority of the Administration to transfer funds (Item #2 on the Agenda)

Member Zanni Pesce seconded the Motion

DISCUSSION:

Member Nicholson-What is the impact on the Superintendent and her staff if the vote is yes or no?

Superintendent Kwong-They have 7 days to close out FY'20. They do not transfer any funds without Sean Cronin, DOR Opine. Any remaining funds will go into Circuit Breaker. If the vote is no there will have to be additional School Committee meetings over the next week if they are not given this authority.

Motion needs to be made by someone from the prevailing side

Member DiZoglio removed his motion to reconsider the Vote for Authority of the Administration to transfer funds (Item #2 on the Agenda)

Member Zanni Pesce removed her second to the motion

MOTION: Member Santos moved to reconsider the Vote for Authority of the Administration to transfer funds (Item #2 on the Agenda)

Member Zanni Pesce seconded the Motion

DISCUSSION: NONE

#### ROLL CALL

Ryan DiZoglio (Y)

Karen Hallbauer (N)

Jessica MacLeod (N)

Susan Nicholson (N)  
Louann Santos (Y)  
Jana Zanni Pesce, Vice Chairperson (Y)  
Mayor Neil Perry, Chairperson (Y)  
VOTE: 4-3-0 APPROVED

MOTION: Member Santos moved to revote the Vote for Authority of the Administration to transfer funds (Item #2 on the Agenda)  
Member DiZoglio seconded the Motion  
DISCUSSION: NONE

ROLL CALL

Ryan DiZoglio (N)  
Karen Hallbauer (Y)  
Jessica MacLeod (Y)  
Susan Nicholson (Y)  
Louann Santos (N)  
Jana Zanni Pesce, Vice Chairperson (N)  
Mayor Neil Perry, Chairperson (N)  
VOTE: 3-4-0 MOTION FAILS

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss at Public Hearing FY'21 Budget, Adoption of FY'21 Budget, Workshop/Business Session, Mayor Perry entertained a motion to adjourn the Workshop/Business session for the evening at 6:18PM

MOTION: Member Zanni Pesce moved to adjourn this Public Hearing FY'21 Budget, Adoption of FY'21 Budget, Workshop/Business Session @ 6:18PM  
Member DiZoglio 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