

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WORKSHOP/BUSINESS SESSION

OF

JUNE 29, 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  
WORKSHOP/BUSINESS SESSION  
JUNE 29, 2020

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.

CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Perry called this 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)

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE VIA REMOTE PARTICIPATION:

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 NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

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 29, 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

**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 1PM Monday, June 29, 2020 via email to [derunge@methuen.k12.ma.us](mailto:derunge@methuen.k12.ma.us) which will be printed and given to the Chairperson of the meeting to read to the public.

**Public Participation-None**

**1. Superintendent's Goals-Discussion**

Superintendent Kwong reviewed her summary of goals.

Member Nicholson-She thanked the Superintendent for adding the list that directly impacted her work once the schools shut down. It is not a comprehensive list. There were so many other things you did but it does speak to standard 4 and she feels it is important for the School Committee and the Community to know that the rolls and responsibilities shifted so dramatically. They received the updates from her all the time and she could have had 6 more pages of things she has done.

Member Santos-Is there a date when schools will open in the fall?

Superintendent Kwong-She sent an email out last Friday to parent with the Commissioner's guidelines. Mr. Lussier has helped her set up an email account, [openingschools@methuen.k12.ma.us](mailto:openingschools@methuen.k12.ma.us) so parents can send comments and suggestions that they were not able to express in the survey. She is hoping to get a letter to the parents by the end of July. She is still waiting for guidance from the State on several more items.

Mayor Perry-What is the next step in the evaluation process?

Superintendent Kwong-Last year there was a small subcommittee formed to put together all the scores from the School Committee members and then the rating would be discussed publicly.

## **2. Transfer of Funds from Professional Salaries to Contracted Services-Approval**

**MOTION:** Member Hallbauer motioned to approve the Transfer of Funds from Professional Salaries to Contracted Services

Member MacLeod seconded the Motion

### **DISCUSSION:**

Member Zanni Pesce-The memo states that there will be 2.1 Million in Circuit Breaker. She wants the public to understand that this is not extra funds. It is being put in this account in anticipation of shortfalls for the coming school year.

Mr. Gosselin-Yes, that is correct.

Superintendent Kwong-They had already planned to move this money to get to level funding in the budget. There is still no word on how much funding they will receive from the State.

### **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

**3. Transfer of Expense from Contracted Services to Circuit Breaker-Approval**

**MOTION:** Member Hallbauer motioned to Transfer Expense from Contracted Services to Circuit Breaker

Member MacLeod seconded the Motion

**DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Gosselin-There is an error. This should read “Transfer of Expense from Circuit Breaker to Contracted Services”.

**Motion to amend the Resolution**

**MOTION:** Member DiZoglio motioned to amend the Resolution to read Transfer of Expense from Contracted Services to Circuit Breaker

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

**MOTION:** Member DiZoglio motioned to Approve the amended Resolution to read Transfer of Expense from Contracted Services to Circuit Breaker

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

**4. Other Business from the Committee**

Member Nicholson-She would like to discuss forming a committee for the evaluation of the Superintendent.

Mayor-Are there 3 members of the committee that would like to serve on this committee?

Member Nicholson-She would like to be on the committee

Member MacLeod-She would like to be on the committee

Member Zanni Pesce-She would like to be on the committee

**MOTION:** Member Santos motioned to create a sub-committee to provide a formal recommendation to the School Committee on the Superintendent's evaluation

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

**\*ADJOURNMENT:**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

With no further business to discuss at this Workshop/Business Session, Mayor Perry entertained a motion @ 6:03PM 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-to discuss potential tort litigation threatened against the School Committee. We will NOT reconvene into open session at the conclusion of the executive session.

**MOTION:** Member Nicholson moved to adjourn this Workshop/Business Session @ 6:03PM and go into Executive Session  
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

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