

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WORKSHOP/MEETING

JUNE 3, 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
WORKSHOP/MEETING
JUNE 3, 2020

This workshop/meeting of the Methuen School Committee was held remotely via ZOOM Meeting @ 6:35 p.m., and was posted for 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE: Mayor Perry read the following: Good Evening, The School Committee Workshop/ Meeting of June 3, 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
Bill Bryant, Methuen High School Boosters, MAIC and the Class of 2020
Matthew Curran, Athletic Director
Ronald Noble Jr., Newly appointed Assistant Superintendent
Deidre Runge, Public Recorder

The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the agenda as presented

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

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

Flag Salute by the Committee

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. Wednesday, June 3, 2020 via email to derunge@methuen.k12.ma.us which will be read to the public.

There was no emails sent.

The Mayor then told anyone watching they can send an email by Monday June 8, 2020 before 3 pm to derunge@methuen.k12.ma.us if they would like it read at the next meeting.

1. Assistant Superintendent Recommendation for Appointment - Approval

MOTION: Member MacLeod motioned to approve the appointment of the Assistant Superintendent

Member Santos seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: The Superintendent introduced Mr. Noble to the Committee
Member DiZoglio asked if Mr. Noble was licensed
Superintendent said yes certified and qualified

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. Acceptance of a gift “Sign for METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL” - Approval

MOTION: Member MacLeod motioned to accept the gift

Member DiZoglio seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bryant spoke about the class gift and shared a picture of the sign they would be gifting.

Mayor Perry said the city would be doing the installation

Mr. Gosselin said the school department would do the electricity

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

3. FY'21 Budget Updates, Discussion and Approval Process

The Superintendent told the Committee that Unit A votes tomorrow on a wage freeze for FY'21. We need this to pass for no layoffs. If it does not pass, we are ready to lay off staff next week. This process is not low man in; we do need to be able to teach our kids. There will be approximately 25 staff impacted. I am not looking forward to that. We are waiting for the state budget and we might not get that until September.

Mayor – talked about his revenue/expenditure expected for next year. On the city side, we are aggressively working on this. The 84 million in the budget I put forward is for Methuen Public Schools, Greater Lawrence Technical and Essex Agricultural. If the city unions vote no to a wage freeze, we will have a reduction on the city side also.

Superintendent – We are trying to be as accurate as we can for when we present the level funded budget to you. We are waiting to see if the Mayor is looking at a 1/12th budget.

Mayor – I am waiting for the unions' votes on wage freezes. We asked the City Council to move the workshops from June 9 and 10th to the next week. At this time we are preparing a 1/12th budget but we are moving towards putting a full budget forward for the Council.

Superintendent – Just to let you know the process, we do have to post a public hearing and budget adoption notice for 7 days in the newspaper. We would not be able to meet the posting requirements for the June 9 and 10 Council workshops.

4. Other Business from the Committee

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Mayor asked for a motion to go into Executive Session

MOTION: Member Santos motioned to go into executive session @ 7:38 p.m.

Member DiZoglio 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