

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUSINESS SESSION

JUNE 8, 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
BUSINESS SESSION
JUNE 8, 2020

This Business Session of the Methuen School Committee was held remotely via ZOOM Meeting Center, and was posted for 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Perry read the following: Good Evening, The School Committee Business Meeting of June 8, 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
Colleen McCarthy, Director of Human Resources
Edward Lussier, Director of Technology
Deidre Runge, Public Recorder

Acceptance of the Agenda

MOTION: Member Santos motioned to approve the agenda as presented
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

1a Flag Salute by the Committee

2. PARTICIPATION BY OTHERS

a. Public Participation

The Mayor read the following: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION was POSTED as: Individuals that would like to participate at this meeting may do so in writing before 3 p.m. Monday, June 8, 2020 via email to derunge@methuen.k12.ma.us which will be read to the public

The Mayor read an email from: Kristen Maxwell, 5 E. Prospect St., Methuen, MA

The Mayor then told anyone watching they can send an email by Wednesday June 17, 2020 before 3 pm to derunge@methuen.k12.ma.us if they would like it read at the next meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Member Pesce motioned to approve the minutes of March 18, 2020, Special Meeting
Member DiZoglio seconded the motion

MOTION: Member DiZoglio motioned to amend the minutes
Member Nicholson seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: Member Nicholson asked to correct the motion under Agenda Approval. It had two names listed.
Mayor Perry asked to fix the adjournment time.

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

MOTION: Member Santos motioned to approve the minutes as amended
Member DiZoglio seconded the motion

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

4. Staff Reports

a. COVID 19 Update

The Superintendent reviewed her bulleted memo. She told the Committee late last night we received guidance on the ESY program. We will be reviewing the guidelines we received to see if we can do this. She told them she was happy that she received 1500 responses on her survey to parents. We are reaching out I would like more since we have 7000 students. There is another meeting with the Commissioner this Friday that we hope to get more guidance. We are confident we can have an in person graduation with the guidelines we have received.

5. Old Business and Other Pending Matters

a. Transportation Update

The transportation discussion ensued between the Superintendent, Ms. McCarthy and the Committee.

Ms McCarthy went over her memo. She said there are 3 tiers with 2 bus routes. We might be able to eliminate a tier but to have a cost savings we would have to eliminate 3 tiers, MHS, Upper and Lower route.

Member Pesce was is the total savings for the district

Ms. McCarthy we would get rid of two 3 tiers and it would save a little over \$120,000.00 for 2 busses to be eliminated.

Member Pesce asked if we could offer bussing for a fee or was it to late for that?

Ms. McCarthy It would cost us more is we offered a fee. The law says if we charge a fee we have to offer to all free and reduced lunch students for no cost.

Member DiZoglio – How long does a report take or are the officers already working on the safety piece?

Superintendent – There is no official report we would drive around with traffic and school officers to check out the areas we are talking about and see if they are safe.

Member Hallbauer - so all of this would mean you would rather enforce the policy we have and not amend.

Ms. McCarthy – correct, where this is no safety concerns.

b. Revised and Readopted BEDH – Public Participation Guidelines for Public Comment – Second Reading

MOTION: Member Pesce motioned to approve the second read

Member Santos seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: Member Hallbauer asked to change “VIE” to “VIA”

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

c. FY'21 Budget Update

Superintendent – This is where we are at; Unit A has voted yes to a wage freeze; All other Units are voting for the next 3 days on wage freezes; Once we know their votes we can get the salaries into the budget. I am requesting that we have a meeting on Friday, hopefully quick to get a level funded budget book out to you. This way we can present the propped FY'21 budget. Post it in the newspaper on Friday, June 12th so we can get it posted at the very latest on Monday. It has to be posted for 7 days which will bring us up to the 22nd a regularly scheduled meeting. So we have a meeting on the 17th that we can use to answer any questions, and make any revisions you ask and on the 22nd have a public hearing and the budget adoption. That is the timeline we are up against so we can get it to the Mayor's Office.

6. New Business

a. CREST Board Member and Delegate for FY'21

MOTION: Member Nicholson motioned to approve the Re-appointment
Member DiZoglio seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

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

7. Finance and Operations

a. Expenditure Report – Monthly - None

1. Transfer of Funds – Approvals

1a – \$400,000 from Other Salaries to Contracted Services

MOTION: Member Nicholson motioned to approve the transfer
Member MacLeod seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

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

b. Revolving Funds Report – Monthly - None

NONE

c. Grants Report – Monthly - None

NONE

d. Student Activity Accounts – Monthly - None

NONE

e. Food Services – Monthly

NONE

f. Contract – Class of 2024 iPad Contract for a total cost of \$229,374.45– Approval

MOTION: Member Nicholson motioned to approve the contract

Member Santos seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

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

g. Contract – 3 year Instructional Software Contract for a total of \$640,361.24-Approval

MOTION: Member Nicholson motioned to approve

Member Pesce seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

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

h. Bid Award - FY'21 Arts and General Supply Bid - Approval

MOTION: Member Santos motioned to approve the bid

Member DiZoglio seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

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

8. Notification of Appointments and Other Personnel Matters

None

9. BUSINESS FROM THE COMMITTEE

a. Residency Sub-Committee Update

Member Pesce told the Committee they were looking to review the current policy.

b. Other Business from the Committee

None

ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor asked with no further business if he could have a motion to adjourn the meeting

MOTION: Member DiZoglio motioned to adjourn the meeting @ 8:14 p.m.
Member Pesce seconded the motion

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