

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

SPECIAL ZOOM MEETING

OF

JULY 12, 2021

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
SPECIAL ZOOM MEETING
July 12, 2021

This Special Zoom Meeting of the Methuen School Committee was held in a Zoom, and was posted for 3:30 pm "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 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." This has been extended in Senate Order #2475

CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Vice Chair Zanni Pesce called this Special Zoom Meeting to order at 3:30pm, with a quorum of Members in attendance, and listed below.

ROLL CALL

Ryan DiZoglio (NP)

Karen Hallbauer (P)

Jessica MacLeod (P)

Susan Nicholson (P)

Louann Santos (P)

Jana Zanni Pesce, Vice Chairperson (P)

Mayor Neil Perry, Chairperson (NP) Entered meeting via Zoom at 3:42 pm

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Karen Hallbauer (P)

Jessica MacLeod (P)

Susan Nicholson (P)

Louann Santos (P)

Jana Zanni Pesce, Vice Chairperson (P)

Mayor Neil Perry, Chairperson (NP) Entered meeting via Zoom at 3:42pm

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Ryan DiZoglio (NP)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Brandi L. Kwong, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools

Ronald Noble Jr, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Grants

Martha Sirois, Public Recorder

Acceptance of the Agenda

MOTION: Member Nicholson moved to accept the Agenda for July 12, 2021
Member Santos seconded the Motion
VOTE: 5-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Flag Salute by the Committee

Public Participation was posted as:

Individuals that would like to participate at this meeting may do so in writing (see below for *Policy #BEDH #7 referring to remote meetings) before 12:00 p.m. Monday, July 12, 2021 via email to **Martha at masirois@methuen.k12.ma.us**, which will be printed and given to the Chairperson of the meeting to read to the public.

There was NO emails

1. Foreign Exchange Student Discussion-Approval

Superintendent Kwong gave her presentation

The student is a high school student from France. The Host family has accepted to host this student and they along with the company that matches the student with a Host family will follow whatever protocols the District has in place. She was not comfortable making this decision without School Committee approval.

Member Hallbauer-Is there just one student?

Superintendent Kwong-She has only received one request so far.

Member MacLeod-Has this student been vaccinated?

Superintendent Kwong-She does not see in the paper work if the student is fully vaccinated. It will be contingent that the student be vaccinated before starting school.

Member Nicholson-Does the student voluntarily get a booster shot once it becomes available? Will the student agree to do it? Would the Host family accept the student if the student is not vaccinated?

Superintendent-It does say that most students will arrive vaccinated. If it is a requirement of the District and they arrive unvaccinated, they will work with the Host family to get the student vaccinated. She is looking for School Committee approval so she can sign the agreement with the company.

Member Zanni Pesce-We don't mandate our high school students to get vaccinated. Can we mandate an exchange student to get the vaccine?

Superintendent Kwong-School Committee would be accepting a non-resident student to attend MHS. Therefore, the School Committee would determine the rules.

Member Zanni Pesce-If the Host family is okay with the student arriving not vaccinated and follows the quarantine policy protocols, then she is fine with that as well.

MOTION: Member Zanni Pesce moved to Approve Foreign Exchange
Student attending Methuen High School
Member Santos seconded the Motion

Discussion:

Member Nicholson-Point of Information-She would not agree to approve this unless the student is fully vaccinated.

Mayor Perry-He agrees with Member Nicholson.

Member MacLeod-She also agrees that the student should be fully vaccinated, whether they arrive vaccinated or get vaccinated once they arrive, before entering Methuen High School.

Motion: A friendly amendment: Made by Member Nicholson:
Students are required to be vaccinated before they come to the country and if not, they would be vaccinated here before they attend Methuen schools. The Host family should be mitigated to and aware of the status of the exchange student.
Accepted by Member Zanni Pesce and Member Santos

ROLL CALL

Ryan DiZoglio (NP)

Karen Hallbauer (Y)

Jessica MacLeod (Y)

Susan Nicholson (Y)

Louann Santos (Y)

Jana Zanni Pesce, Vice Chairperson (Y)

Mayor Neil Perry, Chairperson (Y)

VOTE: 6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

ADJOURNMENT

- With no further business to discuss at this Special Zoom Meeting, Mayor Perry entertained a motion @ 3:57 pm to adjourn from this meeting

MOTION: Member Zanni Pesce moved to adjourn this Special Zoom Meeting @ 3:57 pm
Member Nicholson seconded the Motion

ROLL CALL

Ryan DiZoglio (NP)

Karen Hallbauer (Y)

Jessica MacLeod (Y)

Susan Nicholson (Y)

Louann Santos (Y)

Jana Zanni Pesce, Vice Chairperson (Y)

Mayor Neil Perry, Chairperson (Y)

VOTE: 6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Sirois, Public Recorder
Methuen Public Schools