

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUSINESS SESSION

MAY 14, 2018

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
MAY 14, 2018

This Business Session of the Methuen School Committee was held at Methuen High School, Media Center, and was posted for 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Mayor James P. Jajuga called the Business Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum of members in attendance, and listed below.

ROLL CALL

Robert F. Vogler (P)
Susan M. Nicholson (P)
Nicholas DiZoglio (P)
Jana DiNatale (P)
Dennis D.J. Deeb (P)
Jana Zanni Pesce (P)
Mayor James P. Jajuga, Chairperson (P)

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Robert F. Vogler
Susan M. Nicholson
Nicholas DiZoglio
Dennis D.J. Deeb
Jana DiNatale
Jana Zanni Pesce
Mayor James P. Jajuga, Chairperson

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs. Judith Scannell, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Haley Hamilton, Student Representative
Ms. Deidre Runge, Public Recorder

MOTION:	Mr. DiZoglio motioned to accept the Agenda as presented Mr. Vogler seconded the motion to accept at amended
DISCUSSION:	None
VOTE:	7-0-0 APPROVED

a. FLAG SALUTE

Ava Hapenny, a fourth grade student at the Tenney Grammar School, led the Committee in Opening Exercises of this meeting.

2. PARTICIPATION BY OTHERS:

a. SOAR Award

- #1 Lewis Cherubin was the recipient of the S.O.A.R. Award at this meeting. The Special Education Department chose Lewis for this Award.
- #2 Evelyn Rosario Emiliano was the recipient of the S.O.A.R. Award at this meeting. The English Language Arts Department chose Evelyn for this Award.

b. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT RECOGNITION

- #1 Eagle Tribune Moynihan Scholar Athlete Award recipient Sam DeLap
- #2 Eagle Tribune Moynihan Scholar Athlete Award recipient Luana Machado

c. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Haley Hamilton, Senior told the Committee about the Student Council running their class elections. All students were able to vote via their iPads.
Josselyn Reyes, Sophomore updated the Committee on the Row Team, Tennis Team and the 10-0 Girls softball Team.

d. TIMONY TEACHER - RECOGNITION

Kristen Natale a Timony Teacher was recognized for her life saving action of a student.

e. MARSH GRAMMAR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL INTRODUCTION

Rebecca Gordon was introduced to the Committee and the public

There was a 2-minute recess

f. PUBLIC

Rob Bucu – Got up and shared his thoughts about user fees

Public Participation was closed

3. APPROVAL OF TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES OF March 12, 2018, March 14, 2018, March 21, 2018, March 28, 2018 and Sub Committee minutes for April 12, 2018.

MOTION: Ms. Nicholson moved to adopt the Transcript of Recorded Minutes of March 12, 2018 Business Meeting as presented and waived the reading;

Ms. DiNatale seconded the motion to approve as presented.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Nicholson asked to amend the members in attendance and list Ms. DiNatale and herself as not present.

Mr. DiZoglio seconded the motion to amend

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED to amend

MOTION: Ms. DiNatale motioned to adopt the March 12, 2018 main motion as amended

Ms. Nicholson seconded the motion

VOTE: 5-0-2 APPROVED as amended (Nicholson and DiNatale were not in attendance)

- MOTION:** Mr. DiZoglio moved to adopt the Transcript of Recorded Minutes of March 14, 2018 Budget Workshop Business Meeting as presented and waived the reading;
Mr. Deeb seconded the motion to approve as presented.
- DISCUSSION:** None
- VOTE:** 4-0-3 APPROVED (DiNatale, Jajuga, and Nicholson not in attendance)
- MOTION:** Ms. Nicholson moved to adopt the Transcript of Recorded Minutes of March 21, 2018 Budget Workshop Business as presented and waived the reading;
Mr. DiZoglio seconded the motion to approve as presented.
- DISCUSSION:** None
- VOTE:** 7-0-0 APPROVED
- MOTION:** Mr. Vogler moved to adopt the Transcript of Recorded Minutes of March 28, 2018 Education Law Training as presented and waived the reading;
Ms. Pesce seconded the motion to approve as presented.
- DISCUSSION:** None
- VOTE:** 6-0-1 APPROVED (DiNatale was not in attendance)
- MOTION:** Mr. Deeb moved to adopt the Transcript of Recorded Minutes of April 12, 2018 Chargeback Sub Committee Meeting Minutes as presented and waived the reading;
Mr. DiZoglio seconded the motion to approve as presented.
- DISCUSSION:** None
- VOTE:** 3-0-4 APPROVED (Sub Committee Members Deeb, DiZoglio and Vogler approved the Minutes)

4. STAFF REPORTS:

a. Superintendent's Monthly Report

Superintendent Scannell told them to read all about the great things going on in our schools.

b. Instructional Technology Monthly Report

Mr. DiZoglio – I saw there was a request made by City hall to add to some areas and in the back I see there is a one million Capital Improvement piece. Is this for all buildings?
Superintendent – Yes the did request and No just the high school. Mr. Stella and Mr. Lussier constantly meeting.

Mr. DiZoglio – Can we we informed of what Capital Improvement Plan we send up to City Hall.

Superintendent – Yes. It is every piece you already have in your binder. Again they are all on going discussions.

c. Facilities and Grounds Monthly Update

Mr. DiZoglio – I just want to point out we saved 20 thousand dollars by doing repairs in house. I want to thank Mr. Stella and his staff.

d. Physical Education, Health, F.C.S. & Wellness Monthly Update

None

e. Residency Monthly Update

None

f. School Resource Officers Monthly Update

None

g. Student Services Updates

1. Homeless Update

None

2. PreK Numbers

None

3. Out of District Update

None

4. Medicaid Update

None

5. OLD BUSINESS AND OTHER PENDING MATTERS

None

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. School Choice Participation - Vote

MOTION: Mr. Deeb motioned to not participate in the School Choice Program for the 2018-2019 school year
Ms. DiNatale seconded the Motion

DISCUSSION: None

ROLL CALL

Robert F. Vogler (Y)

Susan M. Nicholson (Y)

Nicholas DiZoglio (Y)

Jana DiNatale (Y)

Dennis D.J. Deeb (Y)

Jana Zanni Pesce (Y)

Mayor James P. Jajuga, Chairperson (Y)

VOTE: 7-0-0 Unanimous **Not to participate in school choice**

b. MHS Science Dept. – WorldStrides Florida Trip April Vacation 2019 - Approval

MOTION: Mr. Vogler motioned to approve the WorldStrides Trip
Ms. DiNatale seconded the Motion

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 7-0-0 Unanimous

7. FINANCE AND OPERATIONS:

a. Expenditure Report - Monthly

Mr. Vogler – How much are we anticipating in getting in Circuit Breaker money

Mr. Gosselin – They approved an additional \$287, 512.00. The State readjusted and approved a higher refund rate.

Mr. Vogler –With about 6 weeks left in the year I would hope by the June 11th meeting what the costs are and how we dealt with it.

Superintendent – We are looking at the May 29th workshop. Been meeting with the City weekly working on this.

b. Revolving Funds Report – Monthly

None

1. Methuen High School Auditorium – Update

Ms. DiNatale – We approved a part time position to try to increase our revenue. Is that person exclusively working on this because I do not see much progress? We have so many facilities we could rent out and I am disappointed we are not seeing more income.

Superintendent – This is a stipend position, not a full or half time position. The school activities bump out many of the events. We will look at this.

Ms. DiNatale – It seems inconsistent.

Mr. Gosselin – It comes to the school first. If we can make money to offset fine but kids come first.

c. Grants Report - Monthly

None

d. Student Activity Accounts - Monthly

None

e. Food Services – Monthly

None

f. Bid Awards

None

g. Contract Approval

None

h. Budget Transfers

None

8. NOTIFICATION OF APPOINTMENTS AND OTHER PERSONNEL MATTERS:

a. Personnel Transactions

None

b. Professional Staff

None

c. Support Staff

None

d. Personnel Matters Requiring Committee Action.

None

e. Notification of Vacancy Postings

None

9. BUSINESS FROM THE COMMITTEE

a. New School Committee Policy regarding Correspondence Procedures – Discussion as requested by Committee Member DiZoglio

Mr. DiZoglio – Those that were at the Ed Law Workshop the Attorney said it wouldn't hurt to publish our email correspondences. Open discussion and transparency. For the next business meeting. One less thing on the Superintendent. We bring to the meeting.

Mr. Deeb – I 100% agree with the intent and I do think it is good for transparency. My concern would be the amount of time. It is already governed by the Open Meeting Law. Maybe the secretary to the Superintendent keep a file.

Ms. DiNatale – I would add the Superintendents time is valuable. Maybe we could go ahead and communicate via email rather than phone calls or visits.

Mr. Vogler – I would suggest not to answer any emails. We do have a policy when an email goes to one should go to the Committee. Also requests should only go to the Superintendent and not to any staff. School Committee has no authority outside of the meeting. Also I am not good at technology. So I ask for information when here. I suggest we look at other communities, ask the lawyer to look at and have MASC look at it.

Ms. DiNatale had one more item – I had received request whether our staff's children attend Methuen Schools. I asked the Superintendent to re-share with us and share and say a few words to the community regarding this.

The Superintendent read her response to School Committee Member DiNatale's request:

This School year (2017/2018) there are 25 Methuen staff members that are not residents of Methuen and have children attending Methuen Public Schools. Per collective bargaining (see attached contract language on Teachers, Administrators, Secretaries and Custodians) may have their school-aged children attend Methuen Public Schools if they meet the qualifications laid out in their contract; No child of a staff member that lives outside of Methuen with behavior problems or special needs may attend Methuen Public Schools. Staff members must drive their child to school and pick them up from school. Of these 25 staff members, there are 34 children enrolled in various grades (K-12) throughout the district. These 34 children incur **NO** cost to Methuen Public Schools.

Class enrollment numbers are the deciding factor when considering a staff member's child(s) attendance in the Methuen Public Schools. These 34 children bring money into the district as they are in our "October 1 enrollment counts" sent to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for per pupil reimbursement to the school district. This is a part of the budget formula for every district throughout the State. The per pupil cost for Methuen is \$12,808 multiplied by 34 students equals **\$435,472** that is brought into Methuen's school budget.

Per contract, every staff member has to apply and reapply in writing every year to me for approval for his or her child to attend Methuen Public Schools. They do not receive an approval or denial from me until August, as I check every classroom enrollment count before I make my decision.

Attached are copies of three letters that are sent to staff members that have requested their child to attend Methuen Public Schools; a pending letter (that I received their request); an approval letter; a denial letter.

***ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business to discuss at this Business Session, Mayor Jajuga entertained a motion to conclude the Business Session for the evening at 7:56 pm.

MOTION: Mr. Deeb moved to adjourn the Business Session at 7:56 pm.

Mr. DiZoglio seconded the motion

VOTE: 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,
Deidre Runge, Public Recorder
Methuen Public Schools