

**TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES**

**OF**

**THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING**

**MAY 2, 2017**

**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**  
**BUDGET SESSION**  
**MAY 2, 2017**

This Special Budget Meeting of the Methuen School Committee was held at Methuen High School, Media Center, and was posted for 6:30 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb (P)  
Mr. Robert F. Vogler (P)  
Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm, Vice Chairperson (P)  
Ms. Joyce C. Campagnone (P)  
Mr. Nicholas DiZoglio, Secretary (NP-arrived at 6:50 p.m.)  
Ms. Jana DiNatale (P)  
Mayor Stephen Zanni, Chairperson (P)

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs. Judith Scannell, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Ian Gosselin, Business Administrator  
Ms. Deidre Runge, Public Recorder

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Stephen N. Zanni called this Budget Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum of members in attendance, and listed above.

**FY'18 BUDGET DISCUSSION:**

Mayor – I have viewed the budget before us. We are not cutting teachers out and because of teacher retirement we will be able to fill these positions with new teachers for less money. The City Budget is level funded and our tax rate is lower again.

Ms. Kumm – is there any handouts tonight?

Superintendent – Yes. I will have Mr. Gosselin pass out.

Ms. DiNatale – Can we add to the Organizational chart the number of students, staff and Administrators in each building?

Superintendent – Yes we can. She read Dr. Kwong's memo regarding curriculum and instruction in the packet and stated they were really looking at the Sciences again this year. You will see the upper science material is \$57K and we have two grants with a substantial amount of money that should cover it. It is grants though we wait until the money is in hand.

Ms. Kumm – I see changes. I am thrilled to see upper school increased the science materials since this was brought to you by the Committee. Also I notice the books that was budgeted for \$174,000 not there.

Superintendent – This is the Eureka Math books. We had discussions throughout the district and agreed with the tough budget this could be removed. But we do have enough materials for the year. But if the grants come in and cover the science materials this will go back in. She talked about Mr. Lussier’s technology memo in the packet. She spoke of new staff about the PC lease to replace staff workstations and the 48 carts that she could not thank them enough for approving. And the wireless piece that is being refunded at 60% from E-rate to save the district money. He is looking for a part time (19 hour week) position for under \$20K to help with their I in the “ticketing” piece that is up and running for staff to request repairs, ink....

Superintendent – Next she spoke to Ms. Bozek’s memo and how she worked diligently on the Pre-School piece collapsing one classroom. Two new special education teachers are added in.

Ms. Kumm – This is definitely a change. We spoke a lot about guidance initially. I want to make sure you are comfortable with this change.

Superintendent – We will be pro-active in our approach and it’s not to say we won’t be coming back next year with this. I am very comfortable to stay where we are for now.

Mr. DiZoglio entered the room at 6:50 p.m.

Mr. Vogler – I have reviewed the numbers in salaries moving up and down is the just movements?

Superintendent – Yes.

Ms. Campagnone – thanked the Superintendent and Administrators for all the work they did with this budget.

Ms. DiNatale – thanked the Superintendent and her Team. I feel this is a responsible Budget and meets the needs of our students. And there are no user fees and that is so important. I am also happy to see no increase in class sizes.

Superintendent - Right now this works but if we had a seriously ill child we would have to go to you and the City Council for more funds.

Mr. DiZoglio – Thanked the Superintendent, he was happy there were no fees added, no parent tax.... I know the bus company gave us a great deal also. I know a good number of retirees. How many of the teachers that resign/retire will be replaced?

Superintendent – All classrooms will have a teacher and we added an 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher to the CGS. Kindergarten is lower than what we historically have registered by now but I will be watching that closely.

Ms. Kumm – This is a very responsible budget. Thanked the Superintendent and her Team. You cut all the sub lines in every school.

Superintendent – the Leadership Team has been kicking in subbing right now.

Ms. Kumm – I would like an update on chargebacks.

Mr. Gosselin – The chargebacks will not affect this budget.

Mr. Vogler – Have we been given a number for next years chargebacks?

Mr. Gosselin – No.

Mr. DiZoglio – We are looking at a one year contract and slashing some of the percentages. We are looking at a 4/5 year freeze on chargebacks also.

Ms. DiNatale – Do we have information from other communities?

Mr. Vogler – Yes and they are also working with their City Councils.

Mr. Deeb – There is a need to look at the contract. Information was requested and not received. I understand Mr. DiZoglio and the freeze he spoke about and would support the intent. I would like the parents to know that we get charged back a percentage by what other departments in the City are spending. I hope other City departments look at creative ways they can reduce their spending which would lower the chargebacks.

Mr. DiZoglio – We are looking at a sliding scale option.

Ms. Kumm – I would like to see a copy of what the sub-committee is talking about.

Mayor – In this budget, teachers' raises are already included. We should be proud teachers are not getting cut. We are very close to moving levels up. On the chargebacks, when I took office they were more. If you look at other communities they charge higher percentages. This is a very responsible budget. It even has new vans in it.

<b>MOTION:</b>	Mr. Deeb motioned to approve to move forward the proposed \$72 million dollar budget to Public Participation on May 22, 2017 at 6:15 p.m.
	Mr. Vogler seconded the motion
<b>DISCUSSION:</b>	NONE
<b>VOTE:</b>	7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

**\*ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Zanni entertained a motion to conclude the Business Session for the evening at 7:30 pm.

**MOTION:** Mr. Vogler motioned to adjourn  
Mr. DiZoglio seconded the motion  
**DISCUSSION:** NONE  
**VOTE:** 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,  
**Deidre Runge, Public Recorder**  
**Methuen Public Schools**