

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUSINESS SESSION

JUNE 11, 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
JUNE 11, 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:

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

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Robert F. Vogler (arrived at 6:45 p.m.)
Susan M. Nicholson
Nicholas DiZoglio
Dennis D.J. Deeb
Jana DiNatale
Jana Zanni Pesce

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor James P. Jajuga, Chairperson

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Brandi Kwong, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Ian Gosselin, Business Administrator
Ms. Deidre Runge, Public Recorder

MOTION:	Mr. Deeb motioned to accept the Agenda as presented Ms. Nicholson seconded the motion
DISCUSSION:	None
VOTE:	5-0-0 APPROVED

a. FLAG SALUTE

Anthony DeMaio, a fourth grade student at the Timony Grammar School, led the Committee in Opening Exercises of this meeting.

2. PARTICIPATION BY OTHERS:

a. PUBLIC

None

3. APPROVAL OF TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

None

4. STAFF REPORTS:

a. Superintendent's Monthly Report

None

b. Instructional Technology Monthly Report

None

c. Facilities and Grounds Monthly Update

None

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. Revised and Readopted S.C. Policy JJE/JJF – Student Activity Accounts Guidelines for Methuen Public Schools – First Reading

Ms. DiNatale asked for time to review and follow up with questions at another time since the Superintendent was pulled to another meeting at City Hall.

MOTION: Mr. Deeb motioned to table
Ms. DiNatale seconded the Motion

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 5-0-0 Unanimous

Mr. Gosselin told the Committee he was the one that put the Policy together and they can contact him if they have any questions.

b. CREST Board Member / Delegate – Annual Re-Appointment - Approval

MOTION: Mr. Deeb motioned to approve Superintendent Scannell as the delegate and Ms. Bozek as the backup delegate
Ms. Nicholson seconded the Motion
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: 5-0-0 Unanimous

c. Summer School Committee Meeting Schedule

Mr. DiZoglio asked the Committee to hold the dates for the summer in case needed.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Gosselin – As you know we are running a deficit of 3.9 million. The Superintendent, Mr. Vogler and Ms. Bozek are at the City Council meeting in regards to the Home Rule Petition. Linda Dean Campbell is there also.

Also, the Superintendent received an email this Saturday from a Councilor requesting information for Monday Morning. That did not happen as you can see the request was for a multitude of documents that came from all departments. She hand carried to City Council tonight and she wanted you to have a packet. Please make sure you take one when you leave.

Mr. DiZoglio – Who requested this information

Mr. Gosselin – Councilor George Kazanjian

Mr. DiZoglio – Who did the email go to.

Mr. Gosselin – the email was to Paul Fahey and it said have the Superintendent get me these documents. He forwarded to the Superintendent.

Mr. Vogler entered the meeting at 6:45

Mr. DiZoglio – I do not like the bully factor. The City Council works with the City. The Superintendent works for us. Going forward I would like to be informed. I would like to get a legal opinion if City Council can even ask for this information. There is nothing in the Charter giving the City Council any rights over the School Budget except to vote yay or nay. We sat down and went over the whole budget. They are dissecting line by line.

Ms. Nicholson - I have previous experience as a Superintendent. I found there is confusion out there of who can request information from the Superintendent and who the Superintendent reports to. The Superintendent is not obligated to respond to requests for information from anyone else but the School Committee. I believe we should formally request a legal opinion from MASC. Requests need to first be sent to School Committee. What I am not sure of is if we need to vote on the request. So we should also ask legal if we need to take a vote on requests for information.

Ms. DiNatale – I would like clarification on one point. The Mayor is our Chair I don't care who the request came from a Councilor, Mr. Fahey or the Mayor, it should come to School Committee as a group. I am impressed with our staff for coming up with this 3" packet of information with redactions. The deficit is for exactly what she told the Council at last year's budget hearing. She still had the class to put it together and get it to them in a timely manner. I just want to thank her.

Mr. Deeb – I want to be very careful with open meeting law. Anytime information is requested, we are open and transparent and our administration gives that information. I want people to be aware you can request information as long as it does not affect the privacy act. As a courtesy, we should have been notified. I hope Mr. Kazanjian is asking all City Departments for backup.
Mr. Vogler – This should not be a precedent setting policy. He repeatedly is reminding the Council right now we needed 76 million last year only got 72. No big surprise. The Superintendent did it to diffuse and hope to get approval for the deficit.
I agree for a legal opinion.

Mr. Deeb – We had 10 days to provide the information requested.

Mr. Gosselin - He requested the information on Saturday 6/9/18 @ 3:05 for Monday morning.

Mr. DiZoglio – It is the respect factor to her and the administration requesting it for Monday.

Mr. Deeb – When I get a request I usually get it on the 10th day. Any request should be within 10 days.

Ms. Pesce – I think you did the right thing.

MOTION: Ms. Nicholson motioned to contact legal through MASC and request an opinion on who the superintendent reports to when a request for information comes in and should the School Committee have to vote when that request come in.

Mr. Vogler seconded the Motion

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 6-0-0 Unanimous

7. FINANCE AND OPERATIONS:

a. Expenditure Report - Monthly

None

b. Revolving Funds Report – Monthly

None

1. Methuen High School Auditorium – Update

c. Grants Report - Monthly

None

d. Student Activity Accounts - Monthly

None

e. Food Services – Monthly

None

f. Art & General Supply Bid Award - Approval

MOTION: Ms. DiNatale motioned to approve the bid for \$181,278.26

Ms. Nicholson seconded the Motion

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 6-0-0 Unanimous

g. Physician/Consultant for the MPS FY'19 Contract - Approval

MOTION: Ms. DiNatale motioned to appoint Donald Waugh for FY'19 for \$100.00

Ms. Nicholson seconded the Motion

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 6-0-0 Unanimous

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

None

***ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business to discuss at this Business Session, Mr. DiZoglio entertained a motion to conclude the Business Session for the evening at 7:07 pm.

MOTION: Ms. Nicholson moved to adjourn the Business Session at 7:07 pm.
Ms. Pesce seconded the motion

VOTE: 6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,
Deidre Runge, Public Recorder
Methuen Public Schools