

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WORKSHOP/BUSINESS MEETING

OF

JUNE 25, 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:
MARTHA SIROIS, PUBLIC RECORDER

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES
METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
WORKSHOP/BUSINESS MEETING

June 25, 2018

This Workshop/Business Meeting of the Methuen School Committee was held at Methuen High School, Media Center, and was posted for 6:30PM

ROLL CALL

Mr. Robert F. Vogler (P)
Ms. Susan M. Nicholson (P)
Mr. Nicholas DiZoglio, Vice Chairperson (NP) entered meeting 6:33PM
Ms. Jana DiNatale (P)
Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb, Secretary (P)
Ms. Jana Zanni Pesce (P)
Mayor James P. Jajuga, Chairperson (NP)

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Robert F. Vogler (P)
Ms. Susan M. Nicholson (P)
Mr. Nicholas DiZoglio, Vice Chairperson (NP) entered meeting 6:33PM
Ms. Jana DiNatale (P)
Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb, Secretary (P)
Ms. Jana Zanni Pesce (P)

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor James P. Jajuga, Chairperson (NP)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Deeb called this Workshop Session to order at 6:30PM with a quorum of members in attendance, and listed above.

Flag Salute-Mr. Deeb

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to adopt the agenda with items 1-9 and adding item 10 for a discussion on Medicaid reimbursement and adding item 11 for discussion on City Chargebacks.
Ms. Nicholson seconded the motion

DISCUSSION-None

June 25, 2018

VOTE: 5-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Mr. DiZoglio entered the meeting at 6:33PM at that time Mr. Deeb, Secretary turned the meeting over to the Vice Chair, Mr. DiZoglio.

#1 Class of 2022 iPad Lease-Approval

Superintendent-She asked Mr. Lussier to address the Committee. They are looking for approval of the 2022 iPad Lease. There is a copy of the lease in the Committee packet.

Mr. Lussier-He gave the Committee a handout and gave his presentation.

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to Approve the Class of 2022 iPad Lease.
Ms. Nicholson seconded the motion

DISCUSSION

Superintendent-The original plan for the renovation of the high school did not have this technology piece. When they realized how quickly the technology was moving and changing the Renovation Committee allowed her and Mr. Lussier to sit with them and redo that piece. This was a big money saver for the renovation. This is an initiative that they are very proud of and has put Methuen on the map. High schools across the State are reaching out to them for the template and also asking Mr. Lussier to run workshops in their districts. She feels if this is not approved it will be 10 steps backwards for something that is so positive. This has been left in the budget. They have cut major technology pieces out of the budget but this was high priority to keep it in.

Ms. Zanni Pesce-Does the Applecare Protection cover everything? If a student drops their iPad down the stairs is it covered?

Mr. Lussier-It covers everything except water damage. They usually send a new one to replace the damaged one.

Ms. Zanni Pesce-How long does it take to get them back?

Mr. Lussier-Usually within a week. Next year every class except the Senior class will be covered under Applecare. The senior iPads are covered by a local vendor.

Ms. Zanni Pesce-Do the students sign a waiver so if there is water damage they would be responsible?

Mr. Lussier-The student is responsible for a \$45.00 fee for typical damage. If there is intentional damage or real negligence, that would be a fee that could escalate up to the full cost of the iPad. They handle it on a case-by-case basis.

Ms. Zanni Pesce-In the contract they have the option to purchase the iPad for \$1.00. Do they buy them at the end of the contract and where would they go? Is this the first year for the buyout?

Mr. Lussier-Yes it is the first year and they will go the grammar schools. Some are kept at the high school in case they are needed.

Ms. Zanni Pesce-She hopes in the future they continue to exercise that option.

Ms. DiNatale-She fully supports the 1/1 iPad program. Her concern with it this year is that it is a quarter of a million dollars being spent on technology that they may already have. Are they buying out 3 years of iPads for \$1.00?

Mr. Lussier-Yes

Ms. DiNatale-How many iPads is that?

Mr. Lussier-After four years of use and originally having about 1300 iPads it may be about 1000.

Ms. DiNatale-She does want to see the iPads go to the grammar schools but she does disagree with some of the other School Committee members as to how much value there is. She also feels little kids spend too much time on technology and she would like to see them doing other things during the school day. This year there is so much trouble with the budget and she has been watching the City side and seeing they are coming up short and seeing all the other things this Committee approved and said were more important to the District, she is wondering if they could take those 1000 iPads and repurpose them this year for the one class level that does not have iPads.

Mr. Lussier-No we cannot. The iPads have already been distributed to the grammar schools. They would have to get them all back to repurpose them. The biggest obstacle is giving a student an iPad that has been used for 4 years and then holding them accountable if the screen cracks or the iPad breaks. If they were to get one more year out of these iPads, he would be coming before the School Committee next year for 2 leases. It puts them in a difficult situation to sustain this. His team is always looking for the most fiscally responsible way to attack any kind of problem. This is not doable without the purchase of new iPads. It has to be done right.

Ms. DiNatale-Is there an insurance policy they could get on the iPads they have collected from the current graduating class?

Mr. Lussier-They do not do insurance policies. They have an agreement with a local company to repair the typical iPad issues for \$80.00, which would be things like a cracked screen.

Ms. DiNatale-You said when you issue an iPad to a student you issue the same one back to them every year. They have their apps still on the iPad.

Mr. Lussier-Yes we shelve them for safety for the summer.

Ms. DiNatale-If incoming freshmen received the iPad of an outgoing senior, they would be receiving an iPad that was used for 4 years and then they would have to use it for another 4 years. It does make sense then to do the lease every year.

Ms. Nicholson-She agrees with the 4-year lease. Methuen was ahead of the curve in eliminating the computer labs and eliminating the language labs. It is all about mobile technology. It is critical that a decision be made because purchases done at the end of June may be less costly than waiting until July or August. She appreciates Mr. Lussier coming to the meeting and giving the Committee all the information and answering all of their questions. She thanked him for the work he does.

Mr. Vogler-It is important to stay up to date with technology. The Mayor stated that there is 1.4 Million Dollars in Comcast funds and that some of these funds could go to the schools. He is hoping that will happen.

Ms. DiNatale-Can you explain the \$2,000.00 app voucher? She knows there are free apps and would like to know if this voucher is necessary. She would also like to know if the students could pay for the full cost of iPad damage, not just half and pay for their iPad cases.

Superintendent-They have discussed many times about the students paying for these previous when they were not in the financial situation they are in now. She will revisit this with her team.

Mr. Lussier-The \$2,000.00 app voucher is for teachers who need specialized apps in their classrooms. He can purchase them using this voucher. He can also assign the apps to a classroom and when they are done they can be used in another classroom. If he did not have

that voucher, they would not be able to buy the apps for the teachers and students. iPads are no longer just technology. They have become a part of everything they do at the high school. Mr. DiZoglio-The Technology Department has been working year after year at the bare bones and this is one area in the budget he feels should not be touch.

VOTE: **6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

#2 Revise and Readopted S.C. policy JJE/JJF-Student Activity Accounts

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to Revise and Readopted S.C. policy JJe/JJF-Student Activity accounts

Ms. Nicholson seconded the motion

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Gosselin-The auditors came in and looked at the accounts. Our policy did not meet some of the Federal guidelines so he needed to make some changes. The auditors came in again and he reviewed the changes with them and they said the policy was okay.

Mr. Vogler-Where were the auditors from?

Mr. Gosselin-Melanson and Heath.

Mr. Vogler-Are these accounts protected from being taken from the Municipal Government?

Mr. Gosselin-Yes.

Mr. Vogler-Will these be put into interest bearing accounts?

Mr. Gosselin-They currently are in interest bearing accounts.

Mr. Vogler-Does the interest go into a separate account?

Mr. Gosselin-Yes it goes into a separate account that pays for checks, deposit bags and any other items needed to run the account.

Mr. Vogler-The grammar schools need two signatures for over \$5,000.00 and the high school \$7,500.00. Why are they not consistent?

Mr. Gosselin-It does not matter if you want to change it to \$5,000.00 for every school.

Mr. Vogler-Is it required for the schools to submit a list of the Student Activity accounts for approval?

Mr. Gosselin-It is not required but that is something he can do in September.

Mr. Vogler-What is a Principal Discretionary account?

Mr. Gosselin-Principals have an account to put money in that they receive from the school photo company. That money is to be used for students who cannot pay for field trips. When he came into his position 4 years ago he had the title of those accounts changed to Student Deficit account.

Ms. DiNatale-It said that the money will be deposited through the City Treasurer. Is that correct?

Mr. Gosselin-The Treasurer oversees all the City accounts. The money is deposited into the school savings account and when the checking needs money the Treasurer's office makes the transfer from savings into the checking.

Ms. DiNatale-All the K-8 schools are at \$15,000.00 except one.

Mr. Gosselin-The Before and After School Summer Program runs through the Timony Student Activity account that is why they have the extra \$5,000.00.

Ms. DiNatale-Under the Purpose and Use of Student Activity Accounts fees cannot be put into the Student Activity accounts. If they charged a fee for Drama Club where would that money go?

Mr. Gosselin-It would go into a revolving account.

Ms. DiNatale-She would at some point like them to look at the activities being offered in each K-8 and make sure there is consistency. She would like all students to be able to have the same opportunities. On the Field trip request form she noticed that there is a place for the school nurse to sign off. There is no place for a person to sign off that they have looked at the IEP to make sure there are accommodations.

Mr. Gosselin-There is an additional field trip form that the teachers complete and submit to their principals when requesting a field trip.

Superintendent-The piece in question also goes through Student Services. They make sure the IEP information is covered.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT

Mr. Vogler motioned to change the amount for Methuen High School to \$5,000.00 on page 6 to be consistent with the K-8 schools.

Ms. Nicholson seconded the motion

VOTE: 6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT

Ms. DiNatale motioned to add to the Field Trip form changes to include IEP's to be reviewed

Mr. Vogler seconded the motion

VOTE: 6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

ORIGINAL MOTION

VOTE: 6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

#3 Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Vogler motioned to approve the Minutes for March 26, 2018.

Ms. Nicholson seconded the motion

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Nicholson-On the last page there is some information about a statement that she made about the Budget. There are some words missing from when she referenced last year's Budget. She would like that statement reviewed and corrected.

VOTE: 6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

MOTION: Mr. Deeb motioned to approve the Minutes for April 2, 2018.

Ms. DiNatale seconded the motion

DISCUSSION:

NONE

VOTE: 6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

MOTION: Mr. Deeb motioned to approve the Minutes for April 9, 2018.

Ms. DiNatale seconded the motion

DISCUSSION:

NONE

VOTE: 6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

MOTION: Ms. DiNatale motioned to approve the Minutes for April 12, 2018.
Ms. Zanni Pesce seconded the motion

DISCUSSION:

NONE

VOTE: 6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

MOTION: Mr. Deeb motioned to approve the Minutes for April 23, 2018.
Mr. Vogler seconded the motion

DISCUSSION:

NONE

VOTE: 5-1-0 APPROVED (Ms. Pesce voted present she was not at the 4/23/18 meeting)

#4 FY'19 Budget Update

Superintendent-She has met with the Mayor. They discussed positions, initiatives and everything for the District to move forward. She will receive communication when a number is firmed up. As of today she has not received anything. There are still issues and concerns on the City side.

Ms. Nicholson-She thanked the Superintendent and her staff for all the work and all the nights they have attended these meetings. She is concerned there is no number yet. When can pink slip staff apply for unemployment benefits?

Superintendent-They can apply as of today.

Ms. Nicholson-How many staff received pink slips?

Superintendent-82

Ms. Nicholson-82 can apply for unemployment today and that is a cost the School Department bears?

Superintendent-Yes

Ms. Nicholson-Should they schedule additional School Committee meetings so that when the number is received they can have a discussion with the Superintendent about the direction they will be going in with input from the staff and the School Committee?

Superintendent-Yes. It is in our best interest.

Ms. Nicholson-Should that meeting be this week?

Superintendent-She recommends that they schedule it for this week. If it is not needed then they can cancel.

Ms. Nicholson-There is a 48 hours posting. Can they recess the School Committee meeting tonight in anticipation of an additional meeting so they do not have to post it?

Mr. DiZoglio-Can they ask for an emergency meeting?

Superintendent-Yes, either will work. The sooner they meet the better off the District will be and they can move forward.

Mr. Vogler-He suggests they recess until Wednesday.

Mr. DiZoglio-He wants to see the number before the City Council.

Mr. Gosselin-The City Council has to vote on it first before it can come to School Committee.

Mr. Vogler-They need to get a number as soon as possible so they can call employees back. The unemployment will cost us lots of money.

Ms. DiNatale-Her concern is that there are a number of counselors that want to do the right thing for students and she wants to make sure they know what that right thing is. The \$82.5 Million Dollar Budget is what is best for students. To try and give the City a number that would offer the same services that we are trying to offer from last year and the things they can truly not live without they need a number they can understand. When she hears them saying that number is \$78 Million Dollars that concerns her. She does not think that number is \$78 Million. It is not enough. The number she has put together is more like \$79 or \$79.5 Million Dollars. There is no way they can reach the very basic needs of the students for less than that. It is important for them to hear this when they are going into making an important decision and thinking the number is \$78 Million Dollars when it is more like \$79.5 Million Dollars. She feels it is important to have a discussion about that tonight. She doesn't want to pit one department against another but the fact she has to look at is what is the very basic number that will be best for the students.

Superintendent-To recall every staff member and to reinstitute initiatives we believe the number would need to be somewhere near \$78.5 and \$79 Million Dollars.

Mr. Vogler-\$79 Million Dollars is what they would need. The City Council is doing what they can with what they have. He thinks \$78.7-\$79 Million Dollars can bring back employees and some initiatives.

Mr. Deeb-This Committee has been proactive since back in January and we still don't have a number. Shame on the Mayor for not being here tonight. He feels they should recess the meeting until Wednesday. No one can make any plans to continue moving forward. We are at square one. It is not fair they are still waiting for a number. He is disappointed in the Mayor in his lack of leadership.

Ms. Zanni Pesce-At \$78 Million Dollars will there still be layoffs?

Superintendent-Yes

Ms. Zanni Pesce-Do they know how many?

Superintendent-No

Ms. Zanni Pesce-We want our teachers back and to keep our classroom sizes down. She is concerned that only one counselor reached out to the Superintendent. She is concerned with the safety piece. The Mayor said his top priority was safety. Is bringing in the BCBA's on the chopping block at the \$79 Million Dollars? They were being added to the staff for preventative measures.

Superintendent-Some safety is still in the budget, some was removed. The technology app piece has been left in. Some of the fencing has been taken out and some has been left in. The resource officers are in as well.

Ms. Zanni Pesce-Are the BCBA's out of the budget?

Superintendent-Yes. There are still some within the District but the new positions are out.

Ms. Zanni Pesce-Does the \$79 Million Dollars include getting all the teachers back?

Superintendent-Yes to teachers, other employees no.

Ms. Zanni Pesce-She wants to know the number needed.

Superintendent-Programs will be back with that number. They will come with the teachers.

Mr. DiZoglio-There is misinformation out there about administration getting raises. There are no raises. We are cutting positions. Union contracts are coming in September. It is insulting that people are saying we have a high budget.

#5 FY18 End of Year Business

Superintendent-The schools had a nice close out of the school year. We did not have move up day with the teachers. It was done in the auditoriums. At the end of July they will post the classroom lists. The Assistant Superintendent has lots of Professional Development all summer. Summer school starts next week with over 1,000 students.

Ms. Zanni Pesce-Do you have the MCAS scores yet?

Superintendent-No

Ms. Nicholson-Is the district all set with the Extended School Year (ESY) programs?

Superintendent-Yes they are all set. She will have a memo at the next meeting. ESY is an unfunded mandate summer program for students with special needs. She hired 107 employees to work the program. She will get the total cost including bussing.

Mr. Vogler-They received a memo of increases in the police detail pay with an additional 10% administrative increase. Has that always been in effect?

Mr. Gosselin-He doesn't think so he will check.

Ms. Nicholson-She noticed in the memo that if they needed police details from 12AM-6AM the rate doubles to \$124 per hour. Are there any circumstance that we would need a police detail between those hours.

Superintendent-They have never had a detail for those hours.

Mr. DiZoglio-What about Relay for Life?

Superintendent-Relay for Life pays for those details.

Mr. DiZoglio-Do we pay overtime to the resource officers?

Superintendent-It is a chargeback.

Mr. DiZoglio-The chargeback figure is for school officer's salary.

Superintendent-They are required to attend so many functions and it is a very confusing piece.

Mr. Gosselin-There was a \$21,000.00 charge back for over time.

Mr. DiZoglio-What are the resource officer's hours?

Superintendent-Principals decide that. It depends what each schools needs are.

Mr. Deeb-Detail rate is \$62.00 per hour. 12AM-6AM and Sundays the rate is \$124.00 per hours. The memo goes on to say that the rate is billed in 4 hour increments. Do they bill for 4 hours even if they don't work 4 hours?

Mr. Gosselin-Yes

Mr. Deeb-What is the administrative fee?

Superintendent-She is not sure she has never seen that before. The Business Administrator is researching this and they will get back to the Committee.

Mr. Vogler-He would like to know the hours of the resource officers for each school. They should be there when the school starts and the last bus leaves.

Superintendent-They are under contract hours and have contractual hours that they work and she cannot change those hours.

Mr. Vogler-Their hours do not match our needs?

Superintendent-No they do not.

Mr. Vogler-There is a problem if they are not there when students are entering the building and when students are dismissed. Maybe we should hire security like they have in Lawrence.

Mr. DiZoglio-Having resource officers in our building is a different type of security than having what Lawrence has.

#6 S.C. Policy JCAC-1-Residency Policy for MPS Employees discussion as requested by Committee Member DiNatale

Ms. DiNatale-She asked for this to be on the agenda. Back in April she asked the Superintendent for some clarification with respect to this policy. There seems to be a misunderstanding in the Community about this policy costing our schools money. When the Superintendent issued her memo on this it was clear that this policy not only helps keep great teachers in this District it also brings money into our District. In reviewing the current policy, it became clear to her that it did not include all the information from the Superintendent's memo. She put together a suggested update to this memo. It takes some of the outdated information that is in the current policy and it adds some of the information from the Superintendent's memo that was not included before. It clarifies the benefits of the policy for the District. It also adds some language in the second paragraph that would provide the Superintendent some flexibility when making her decisions when there are extenuating circumstances for employees that need an answer before the August deadline. This is for the Committee to review and she hopes at some point they can vote on the policy.

MOTION: Ms. DiNatale moved to update the policy with the new language if it would be agreeable to the Committee

Mr. Vogler seconded the motion for a first read

DISCUSSION: NONE

VOTE: 6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

#7 Request from the Charter Review Committee to discuss the elimination of the Methuen School Committee In favor of a City Council that would have both City and School responsibility as requested by Committee Member Nicholson

Ms. Nicholson-She serves on the Charter Review Committee and at the last meeting former Mayor Dennis DiZoglio, who is the Chair of this Committee, raised the possibility of combining a School Committee and City Council into one governing body in Methuen with responsibility for city and schools. There were three reasons he shared with them. One was a duplication of rolls. Second was the effort to be efficient with the taxpayer's dollars. The third was distrust between the city and school officials. They discussed for a length of time these challenges and she was asked to bring this to the Committee for their feedback. Her immediate reaction was this will never work. It is probably in violation of Ed Reform and Mass General Laws. She wants to keep an open mind because there are always opportunities to do things differently. Part of what she has been doing is researching the history of school boards in Massachusetts and information on previous attempts to work collaboratively with the City side. She also reached out to her Superintendent colleagues across the State for some feedback. She will share some brief information with this Committee to bring to their attention and for their thoughtfulness in responding to this request. The history of School Committees in Massachusetts they are looking

at the time frame of 1647. At that time, Massachusetts Bay Colony passed a law requiring Cities and Towns to establish schools throughout the Commonwealth. By the early 1800s that became so complexed they then established School Committees that were developed into bodies that were very separate from the rest of the town's government. In 1826, Massachusetts formally established the system of School Committees by requiring each town to select a separate School Committee to have the general charge of all of the public schools in the town. This became a model for the rest of the Country. Second is a historical perspective of attempts in Methuen to work collaboratively. This information was not shared at the Charter Review Committee meeting that she attended. She sensed that there had never been an attempt of collaboration but she has found out that is not true. The collaboration in Methuen extends back to former Mayor Manzi. There was an attempt to combine the City side and School side HR Departments and that was a length of time about 3 years. There were also attempts and in place a combination of the custodial and Maintenance Departments, City and School as well as Facilities and Grounds. Most recently there has been interest in combining the IT Departments of the City and Schools. These attempts have primarily been made with outreach from the School side. This has not happened on a continuous basis because of a reflection on adults in this Community to work collaboratively together. About twenty years ago in all of our school districts in Massachusetts, we talked about the need for our students to have the need for 21st Century skills, which included the four Cs, collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creativity. They have instilled those values in their students for the past twenty years and yet the adults in this Community have not been able to model that for our students. There is no educational reason she can think of, or her colleagues across the State can think of, to combine the School Committee and the City Council. They are impacting 7,092 students and 1,151 staff members on the school side for reasons that pertain to the lack of ability of adults to work collaboratively and not for any educational reason. She is opposed to this idea and she is basing that on the brief history of prominence the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has had in establishing school boards. She is basing that on Massachusetts General Laws. She is basing that on Massachusetts domination Nationally in Education under the current system. The biggest piece for her is the lack of any educational reason to combine School Committee and City Council. She is looking for any information from the Committee that she would be happy to bring back and share with the Charter Review Committee.

Ms. Zanni Pesce-She is hoping this will never come to fruition. The three reasons listed are interesting. Efficiency in purchasing she feels they can still do. She does not have distrust in other bodies. She feels it is a lack of communication. You can disagree on different items but there should never be distrust. She feels they are elected to focus on the schoolchildren in Methuen and if anything this past Budget crisis has taught us is the schools need this board to advocate to the City Council for that measure. They do not need to merge, there needs to be communication between the School Committee and the City Council.

Mr. Deeb-This Committee has tried several times to meet with past City Councils and they have refused to meet with them. This movement is a waste of time. Mass General Laws governs the role of School Committees and this movement is not going anywhere. School Committee roles as set by Mass General Law is first, to set policies. Second is line item authority and third is oversight of the Superintendent and her staff. These defined rolls are very different from the

defined roles of City Council. School Committees serve an important purpose and that goes back to the 1640s.

Ms. DiNatale-She was surprised when this issue came up. Taking away School Committee would be taking away checks and balances. Looking at this past budget season families would not have been represented in the same way or with the same detail had this School Committee not been here. They are here to take into account the best interest of kids and families and that is very different from the role of City Council. Both of these roles are important. If there are problems with the two Committees working collaboratively than there are other ways to fix that particular issue. If there is responsible management and ethical leadership, cooperation and communication then we will have collaboration that works best for the people of Methuen. She was surprised to hear all the comments about lack of collaboration. She can tell them personally she has been on the phone every day the past 3-4 weeks with members of City Council. She feels like they work really well together particularly with this new City Council. She has great communication with them and she knows they want to work with School Committee as much as School Committee wants to work with them. She was disappointed when they had previously sent a request for joint meetings and that was denied. Some City Councilors were surprised they did not know School Committee had sent over that request. She has suggested setting up sub committees with members of both Committees. She does not think this is the right solution to the problem of not working together. She reached out to Methuen families and this has received very little support.

Mr. Vogler-This took him by surprise. Nowhere in the Country is this done. HR was combined for a few years and it didn't work. They painted the stadium at no chargeback. HR was combined at no chargeback. They helped with cutting the fields when the City had budget problems. We work well together when both sides want to work together. We have helped them with their IT Department. Five years ago there was a Consolidation Committee with members of the School Committee and the City Council. They met for one year and interviewed every department on the City side and the School side. He was disappointed with Dennis DiZoglio's comments. Every City in the State is dealing with chargeback issues. Five years ago this City was audited and found to have been underfunding the Schools over \$3 Million Dollars and we want the City Council to be in charge of funding?

Mr. DiZoglio-He has been against the Charter Committee since day one. It should have been elected positions or appointed by someone other than the Mayor and the Chair of the City Council. The Charter Committee has three City Councilors, a former City Councilor, two former Mayors and two educators. He does not feel that anyone on the Committee is verse in Constitutional Law or writing Charters. He will vote no regardless of what comes out of this. The voters should have chosen who was to be on this Committee. They are working hard for the City but he feels that qualifications are important.

Ms. Nicholson-She thanked the School Committee for their feedback and she will share the information with the Charter Committee at Thursday night's meeting. It is one person's idea and she thinks it has been thoroughly vetted by everyone at the table as well as the public from what she is hearing everyone say about conversations you have had in the Community.

#8 Request for a discussion on establishing a policy to have two meetings a year with City Council per request of Committee Member Vogler

Mr. Vogler-The last School Committee made a request to meet with City Council several times. The Chair of that School Committee chose not to share that request and if he did, then entire City Council chose not to meet with them. He proposes the request for two meetings in the months of November and March with the School Committee and the City Council.

Mr. Gosselin-You may want to contact MASC they may have a boilerplate

MOTION: Ms. Zanni Pesce moved to discuss
Ms. DiNatale seconded the motion

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Zanni Pesce-She thinks it is a fantastic idea. She suggests four meetings per year, one every quarter. Then they could keep City Council abreast as to what is happening on the School side.

Mr. Deeb-Feels this is a well-intentioned motion and he agrees with it in principal. He is concerned about the number of meetings. He is concerned with boxing themselves in with setting a number. They may need to have more than two they may need to have less than two. If they pass this as a policy, he is not sure they can tell the City Council they have to meet with them. They would have to ask.

Mr. Vogler-School Committee made the effort last year and it fell on deaf ears. He feels they should make the effort again.

Ms. DiNatale-She agrees.

Ms. Nicholson-She agrees with a minimum of two meetings. She could see the need for more than that. City Council has a financial sub group that makes recommendations to the City Council. She suggests that they could meet with this subgroup when the School Committee is working on their budget. They could go back and share the information with the City Council. The School Committee needs to continue taking the high road and extending invitations to work collaboratively with City Council.

Mr. DiZoglio-He agrees. He would like to get the City Council Chair involved and maybe do a policy on the City side.

#9 Medicaid

Mr. Gosselin handed out the draft for the Medicaid Agreement.

MOTION: Mr. Deeb moved to approve the Medicaid Agreement
Mr. Vogler seconded the motion

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Vogler-This will take effect July 1st. Would 25% be about \$800,000.00-\$900,000.00?

Superintendent-Yes. Historically \$300,000.00-\$1.5 Million Dollars.

Mr. Gosselin-Fy'17 was \$823,000.00.

Mr. Vogler-Can they budget that for personnel?

Mr. Gosselin-Maybe not do that in the first year but as the revolving account is established we could have the money this year and use it for next year.

Mr. Vogler-He would like to commend the Mayor for this agreement.

Ms. Nicholson-She is in favor of this agreement but wishes it would not take four years to get to 100%.

Ms. DiNatale-She is not in favor of this. Medicaid is reimbursing us for costs and it should be at 100% every year. She feels this is an improvement over what has been happening in the past but it is still not the right thing. For that reason she does not support this.

Mr. Deeb-This is a step in the right direction and he will support this.

Ms. Zanni Pesce-She is in support of this.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Robert F. Vogler (Yes)

Ms. Susan M. Nicholson (Yes)

Mr. Nicholas DiZoglio, Vice Chairperson (Yes)

Ms. Jana DiNatale (No)

Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb, Secretary (Yes)

Ms. Jana Zanni Pesce (Yes)

Mayor James P. Jajuga, Chairperson (NP)

VOTE: 5-1-0 (Ms. DiNatale voted No)

#10 Chargebacks

Mr. Gosselin handed out the draft for the Medicaid Agreement.

Mr. Gosselin-He has reviewed the agreement and feels this is a fair agreement.

Mr. Vogler-They already pay for a supervisor for the School Resource Officers (SRO). What is the administration fee? He does not want to vote on this tonight.

Mr. Gosselin-He is waiting to see the police contract.

Mr. Vogler-He would like an explanation as to why they are paying the Treasures/Tax Collectors office 35%. He would like to table this until the next meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to Table the Chargebacks until the next meeting

No second to the motion

Motion fails

Mr. Deeb-This is not a perfect packet but he believes this agreement puts them in a better place. For administration expenses, they were paying 34.49%. Under the new agreement it goes to 34.05%. This is still a reduction considering all the positions. For the SRO's they paid \$131,000.00 last year. Under this new agreement, they are paying the \$20,000.00 Administration fee and not the \$131,000.00 which is a significant savings. He wanted this brought forward because the Superintendent and the Business Administrator were being questioned by the City Council about the Chargeback Agreement and why the School Committee has not moved it forward. He would like to vote on this tonight to show the School Committee is doing their part in moving forward.

Ms. DiNatale-She would vote no on this agreement. She appreciates all the hard work that has gone into this and the changes that have been made. She feels they were long overdue. She feels the police portion is reasonable. They work 80% of the year for the schools and we are paying 70% of their salaries. She has a problem with the administration portion. Without any justification for the 34.05% she cannot vote yes. She has not seen the City Auditor or the City Tax Collector spending 34% of their time going to the schools. With the deficit, she doesn't feel they should be paying back the City for things they may not be using.

Mr. Gosselin-There is a calculation on the bottom. This was recommended by the State when we were drafting the last agreement. It comes down to the amount of money going through that office

and who it is for. He works daily with the Treasurer's Office. All the Student Activity Accounts, Revolving Accounts and Payrolls go through that office. Lots of School Dept. money goes through there as well as the bounced checks. When he was on School Committee, he had the same questions. Now that he is Business Administrator he sees what they do. It is a significant amount of time and service they get from those departments.

Ms. DiNatale-Do you think the 34.05% is a fair number?

Mr. Gosselin-Yes.

Ms. DiNatale-Based on that she will be in favor of this.

Mr. DiZoglio-He is looking at the Salary schedule. Next year there are pay increased.

Mr. Gosselin-Yes there are. The patrolman should not change that much but the Sergeant salary could.

Ms. Nicholson-She was aware they were paying these salaries. She was not aware they were paying overtime as well as fuel, maintenance and insurance for their cruisers and the administration fee of \$20,000.00.

Mr. Gosselin-It has been that way since he was on School Committee back in 2003.

MOTION: Mr. Deeb moved to approve the New Chargeback Agreement

Ms. DiNatale seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: NONE

ROLL CALL

Mr. Robert F. Vogler (Present)

Ms. Susan M. Nicholson (Present)

Mr. Nicholas DiZoglio, Vice Chairperson (Yes)

Ms. Jana DiNatale (Yes)

Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb, Secretary (Yes)

Ms. Jana Zanni Pesce (Yes)

Mayor James P. Jajuga, Chairperson (NP)

VOTE: 4-0-2 (Mr. Vogler and Ms. Nicholson voted Present)

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to go into Executive Session at 9:19 PM to discuss strategy and preparation with respect to collective bargaining and /or litigation and not reconvene into open session.

Ms. DiNatale seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

ROLL CALL

Mr. Robert F. Vogler (Yes)

Ms. Susan M. Nicholson (Yes)

Mr. Nicholas DiZoglio, Vice Chairperson (Yes)

Ms. Jana DiNatale (Yes)

Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb, Secretary (Yes)

Ms. Jana Zanni Pesce (Yes)

Mayor James P. Jajuga, Chairperson (NP)

VOTE: 6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Re-entered Workshop/Business Meeting at 9:49PM

***ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION: At 9:49PM, Mr. Vogler moved to recess this Workshop/Business Meeting until 6:30PM
Wednesday evening as needed for the Budget
Mr. Deeb seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: NONE

ROLL CALL

Mr. Robert F. Vogler (Yes)

Ms. Susan M. Nicholson (Yes)

Mr. Nicholas DiZoglio, Vice Chairperson (Yes)

Ms. Jana DiNatale (Yes)

Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb, Secretary (Yes)

Ms. Jana Zanni Pesce (Yes)

Mayor James P. Jajuga, Chairperson (NP)

VOTE: 6-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Sirois, Public Recorder

Methuen Public Schools