

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUSINESS SESSION

OF

AUGUST 28, 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:
MARTHA SIROIS, PUBLIC RECORDER

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES
METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
BUSINESS SESSION
AUGUST 28, 2017

This Business Session of the Methuen School Committee was held at Searles Building Great Hall, and was posted for 6:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb (P)
Mr. Robert F. Vogler, Secretary (P)
Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm, Vice Chairperson (P)
Ms. Joyce C. Campagnone (P)
Mr. Nicholas DiZoglio (Absent)
Ms. Jana DiNatale (P)
Mayor Stephen Zanni, Chairperson (P)

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb
Mr. Robert F. Vogler, Secretary
Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm, Vice Chairperson
Ms. Joyce C. Campagnone
Ms. Jana DiNatale
Mayor Stephen Zanni, Chairperson

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Nicholas DiZoglio

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs. Judith Scannell, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Brandi Kwong, Assistant Superintendent of C.I.A. and Grants
Mr. Ian Gosselin, Business Administrator
Ms. Gina Bozek, Director of Student Services
Mr. Edward Lussier, Director of Industrial Technology
Joseph Solomon, Chief of Police
Ms. Martha Sirois, Public Recorder

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

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

MOTION: Mr. Vogler motioned to accept the agenda as presented
Ms. Campagnone seconded the motion to approve as presented.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

a. FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Zanni led the Flag Salute

2. PARTICIPATION BY OTHERS:

a. SOAR Award

NONE

b. STUDENT

NONE

c. STAFF

NONE

d. PUBLIC

Tim Wood, Editor of Loop Weekly-He spoke about doing a Fall Sports Athlete Yearbook. They would sell the book at athletic events for \$10.00 and the proceeds would go to the Athletic Department. There will be advertisements as well for businesses. He is hoping to raise \$20,000.00.

Nicholas DiZoglio entered meeting @ 6:38pm

Ms. Hajjar Kumm-She had to sign a waiver. Did all teams and cheer parents sign the waiver?

Mr. Wood-All waivers will be signed before the pictures are published.

Mayor-This was done years ago for the football team. This will now be for every sport. Loop Weekly is all positive information. It is good for our Community.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to approve S.C. Meeting Minutes March 13, 2017
Ms. Hajjar Kumm seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: NONE

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to approve S.C. Meeting Minutes April 10, 2017
Ms. Hajjar Kumm seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: Mayor was not present at this meeting-Abstain

VOTE: 6-0-1 APPROVED

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to approve S.C. Meeting Minutes April 24, 2017
Ms. Hajjar Kumm seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: Ms. Campagnone and Ms. DiNatale were not present at this meeting-Abstain

VOTE: 5-0-2 APPROVED

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to approve S.C. Meeting Minutes April 24, 2017
Ms. Hajjar Kumm seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

ROLL CALL to go into Executive Session for the purpose of MA Nurses Association contract negotiations as regulated by MGL #39-1 6:52

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to leave the Business Session and go into Executive Session for the purpose of MA Nurses Association contract negotiations as regulated by MGL #39-1
Ms. Hajjar Kumm seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

ROLL CALL

Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb (Y)
Mr. Robert F. Vogler, Secretary (Y)
Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm, Vice Chairperson (Y)
Ms. Joyce C. Campagnone (Y)
Mr. Nicholas DiZoglio (Y)
Ms. Jana DiNatale (Y)
Mayor Stephen Zanni, Chairperson (Y)

Adjourn from Executive Session and enter back into the Business Session 7:01pm

ROLL CALL

Mr. Dennis D.J. Deeb (Y)
Mr. Robert F. Vogler, Secretary (Y)
Ms. Lynne Hajjar Kumm, Vice Chairperson (Y)
Ms. Joyce C. Campagnone (Y)

Mr. Nicholas DiZoglio (Y)
Ms. Jana DiNatale (Y)
Mayor Stephen Zanni, Chairperson (Y)

First Matter of Business-MA Nurses Association Ratification-Approval

MOTION: Ms. Campagnone moved to Approve the MA Nurses Association Contract
Ms. DiNatale seconded the motion

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 7-0-0 APPROVED

4. STAFF REPORTS:

a. Superintendent's Monthly Report

Superintendent-In the packet is a list of opening events in the schools. September activities are already planned. Buses are ready to roll. Sidewalks look great. They are excited for the opening of school
Mayor-He thanked the Department of Public Works (DPW) for all of their hard work.

Mr. DiZoglio-He toured the school buildings last week. Everything looks great.

Ms. Hajjar Kumm-She thanked the Superintendent and Dr. Kwong for the Academic Bowl Plans. Pg. 7 the Band Show on September 23, the time has changed to 5:00pm.

b. Instructional Technology Monthly Report

Ms. Hajjar Kumm-She thanked Mr. Lussier and his team for distributing the iPads to the high school students before school opens. There have been no issues with scheduling.

Mr. DiZoglio-Mr. Lussier and his team did a great job with the iPads and installing the new teacher computers.

c. Facilities and Grounds Monthly Update

Mayor-Is the Marsh roof completed?

Superintendent-Per Bruce Stella it will be completed next Monday.

Mr. DiZoglio-He would like to make a request for the project manager from Ameresco to come to a School Committee Meeting for a progress report.

Mayor-There was \$650,000.00 left from the high school. \$350,000.00 will be put back into the schools. Timony Auditorium will be refurbished and crashbars will be repaired. That will leave \$300,000.00 for the track. He will meet with Bruce Stella and maybe included other projects as well.

Mr. DiZoglio-He loves the ideas but will there be enough money left for the track?

Mayor-He is waiting for the bids to come in for the track. They may be \$100,000.00 short but he is hoping to find the difference.

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

NONE

e. Residency Monthly Update

Mr. DiZoglio-Thank you for putting this report together. In the report there are 137 8th grade students that leave to attend private high schools. Is the number of 8th grade students leaving the district to attend private schools up or down.

Superintendent-These numbers will change on October 1st. Some students say they are going to attend private schools but then return to attend Methuen High School (MHS).

Mr. DiZoglio-With our new trade programs do you see these numbers dropping?

Superintendent-The students are leaving for schools that have carpentry and electrical programs. We will never be able to offer those programs.

Mr. Vogler-He has spoken to parents who have children that attended private school and are returning to MHS. Parents are thrilled with MHS.

f. School Resource Officers Monthly Update

Mayor-He met with the Superintendent and re-assigned the School Resource Officers (SRO) and placed them in different schools.

Ms. Hajjar Kumm-She supports Police in the schools. She received the SRO list and there is a 1st in Command. What does that mean and how is the cost being handled?

Superintendent-Each Unit of the Police Department has a Captain in charge. The current supervisor is Lt. Aiello. He will be replaced by a Sergeant. The SROs are in our Budget. The supervisors are a chargeback,

Ms. Hajjar Kumm-She understands a supervisor but there never has been a Captain listed.

Mayor-The Captains are not a chargeback. There is no cost involved for them.

Mr. Gosselin-There has always been a Captain in charge but there has never been a chargeback for that person. We only pay for the SROs and the Supervisor.

Mr. DiZoglio-Do we get a say as to who replaces Lt. Aiello?

Mayor-The Superintendent will meet with the Chief of Police and the principals and make that decision.

Ms. Campagnone-She feels the Superintendent should have a say in who is being hired. She goes to the CGS at 2:30pm for parent pick up and there are traffic issues. She does not see the SRO. She would like to get the SRO out there to slow people down.

Superintendent-She had a nice meeting with the Chief of Police. The SROs are appropriate for each building. She will look into their hours.

Mr. Vogler-If there are any issues with the SROs people should contact the Superintendent.

Ms. DiNatale-She supports Ms. Campagnone request. It makes a difference when the SRO's are seen. It presents a welcoming environment and safety.

g. Student Services Updates

1. Homeless Update

NONE

2. PreK Numbers

NONE

3. Out of District Update

NONE

4. Medicaid Update

Mayor-There is 1 more payment that has not been received yet.

Mr. Vogler-What is the final figure?

Ms. Bozek-We will not know until we receive the payment.

Mayor-It should be around 1 Million Dollars.

Ms. DiNatale-She struggles with getting information on the report. She would like to see a running total.

Ms. Bozek-She has no record unless she requests the information from the City. She can not anticipate the number.

Ms. DiNatale-On the report she would like to see the date the Claim was submitted and the date the funds were received.

Ms. Bozek-All reports are driven by Medicaid.

Mayor-Quarterly reports are given to School Committee.

Ms. DiNatale-She is looking for additional information.

Mayor-What we receive is what Mr. Kelly has.

Ms. DiNatale-She would like accumulative information.

Ms. Bozek-We generate a roster. Medicaid responds with a discrepancy report. We then submit the Claim report. Once Medicaid has all that information they complete a clean certification. She signs it and sends it to Mr. Kelly and lets him know a check will be coming. The 4th Quarter has been submitted.

Mr. Deeb-Did we hire someone to oversee this process?

Ms. Bozek-Yes. There was a thought that we had a dedicated staff member but we did not until this year. We have already received in excess of previous years.

Mayor-We are in a better place than in previous years.

5. OLD BUSINESS AND OTHER PENDING MATTERS

NONE _____

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. 2017 Advanced Placement Score Report Discussion/Presentation with Mr. Crocker, Mr. Barden and Mr. Harb**

Mr. Crocker gave his Presentation

Mayor-To receive College Credit does the student need to receive a 3 or better on the AP test?

Mr. Crocker-Yes

Mr. Vogler-He does not believe in open enrollment for AP Courses. He would like to know how many schools have open enrollment. 49% of our 600 students receive a 1 or 2 on the test. 51.9% pass. He understands the concept but we are still consistently below the State average. He is disappointed with the 49%. He is happy with the 10% gain. Is open enrollment working effectively?

Mr. Harb-We believe all students can achieve at high levels given the academic support. Methuen has always been at the top. Our open enrollment requires a teacher recommendation, performance and ability. We would love to see all of our students get a 3,4 or 5 on the test. Other schools have stringent criteria to take AP courses. You cannot compare them with Methuen High School (MHS). In 2008 they did away with the barriers. If you compare AP students in Freshman year of college they do well. The Goal is to increase enrollment, maintain a large enrollment, and have qualifying scores increase and increase college preparedness. This is the recommendation of the College Board and Department of Education.

Mr. Vogler-Next year he would like to see how MHS compares to other schools with open enrollment.

Mr. Deeb-He agrees with Mr. Vogler. He is opposed to open enrollment. He believes placement in AP courses should be earned and not given. He is not impressed with these numbers. AP wants open

enrollment because there is a lot of money involved. We should look at our Honor and College Prep courses. Does teacher recommendation have to be subject relevant?

Mr. Harb-Yes it does. Our Honors and College Prep courses are very stringent.

Ms. Hajjar Kumm-Are the students that do not commit to the program asked to leave?

Mr. Harb-Yes we address that.

Ms. Hajjar Kumm-Do you have a ballpark figure on how many schools in Massachusetts have open enrollment?

Mr. Crocker-We looked at this a few years ago and few schools do open enrollment.

Ms. Hajjar Kumm-Are you looking at AP Enhancement and how that will be done?

Mr. Harb- The purpose of the Enhancement block is to clarify and re-teach. Teachers, on their own time in the summer, do Professional Development which is a week of learning assessment and instruction.

Ms. Hajjar Kumm-Why does 7% of the students choose to not take the test? Is it financial reasons?

Mr. Harb-Part is financial and part is the student does not feel they will do well. We in the District try to help students with the cost. The test fee also has a built-in fee for the proctors.

Mr. DiZoglio-Your passion is admirable. What year did open enrollment start?

Mr. Harb-2008

Mr. DiZoglio-Looking at History and other statistics, why are the Psychology numbers so high?

Mr. Crocker-Students gravitate to Psychology courses. Many students are interested in Psychology.

Ms. DiNatale-She thanked them for all the information. She is not in favor of open enrollment and feels they need to rethink how students are being let into the AP classes.

Dr. Kwong-It is important to understand we cannot make personal judgments.

Mayor-If you say no to a student he is lost. If you give a student an opportunity he will take it.

Mr. Deeb-He appreciated Ms. DiNatale's issues. He would like more information. A breakdown of AP class size. AP open enrollment vs selective enrollment in the Commonwealth and how many districts have an open enrollment.

Mr. Harb-There is a reason why MHS has received accolades for the way we run the AP Program.

Superintendent-She thanked them for coming to the meeting and their presentation. She appreciates their commitment to the students at MHS.

7. FINANCE AND OPERATIONS:

a. Expenditure Report - Monthly

NONE

b. Revolving Funds Report – Monthly

NONE

1. Methuen High School Auditorium

NONE

c. Grants Report - Monthly

NONE

d. Student Activity Accounts - Monthly

Mr. DiZoglio-Why is there so much money left in some of these accounts?

Mr. Gosselin-The money follows the class of students up to Graduation. There may also be invoices that have not been paid for end of year field trips.

e. Food Services – Monthly

Superintendent-She asked the Food Service Director to do a memo about the new change to the program. It is in your packet.

Ms. DiNatale-Once this is up and running she would like to hear more.

f. Bid Awards

1. FY'18 The Education Cooperative (TEC) Bid Winners of Bread and Milk & Ice Cream-Approval

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to Approve the FY'18 The Education Cooperative (TEC) Bid Winners of Bread and Milk & Ice Cream

Ms. Campagnone seconded the motion

VOTE: 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

2. FY'18 Urban Ring Collaborative-Approval

MOTION: Ms. Hajjar Kumm moved to Approve the FY'18 Urban Ring Collaborative

Ms. Campagnone seconded the motion

VOTE: 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

g. Contract Approval

1. FY'18 School Physician/Consultant-Approval

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to Approve the FY'18 School Physician/Consultant

Ms. Campagnone seconded the motion

VOTE: 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

2.FY'18 Gill's Pizza Corp 2nd year extension-Notification Purposes Only

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. CopSync Information Update and Discussion re: by Committee Chair, Mayor Zanni

Superintendent-She is trying to work with everyone. She was asked to have a certain Budget number and she needed to make cuts. Mr. Lussier's team has just installed new computers for every teacher in the District. They will need to go to each individual computer and install the CopSync Software.

She feels security in the schools is very tight and she will have time to look at other options.

Mr. Lussier-He has researched over 30 programs and feels there is a program that would be a better fit for Methuen Public Schools. They have had many issues with CopSync. The icon needed to be place in the tray to avoid false alarms.

Ms. DiNatale-The Mayor was finding the money to pay for CopSync. She is unhappy to hear it is not on the computers. She does not agree with hiding the icon in the tray. There should be more training with the teachers.

Mayor-He appreciates Mr. Lussier's comments.

Ms. DiNatale-What is the difference between calling 911 and hitting an icon?

Chief Solomon-If you use software it sends it to everyone. It is a mass notification.

Ms. DiNatale-Is the response time the same?

Chief Solomon-The software has a faster response.

Mr. DiZoglio-Mr. Lussier is doing a great job. This was all based on the Budget. We have police officers in every school. Our staff and students have all received ALICE training. The doors are all locked. He feels safety is in place until they find a new software.

MOTION: Ms. Hajjar Kumm moved to extend the meeting past 9:30pm.
Mr. DiZoglio seconded the motion

VOTE: 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Mr. DiZoglio-What is the new system that the City has implemented?

Chief Solomon-TIP 411

Mr. DiZoglio-Maybe we should use that everywhere in the City. He would like to get a quote for this system. He asked Mayor Zanni if they could still have the \$6,000.00 he has offered to the School Department to pay for CopSync.

Mayor-Yes you can still have the \$6,000.00

Ms. Campagnone-She feels this is something the Superintendent should look into with her staff.

Mr. Vogler-He thinks they should look into a better system. They all should work together.

Mr. Deeb-Everyone on this School Committee puts the safety and security of our students first. He trusts the judgment of Mr. Lussier and the Superintendent.

10. Execuctive Session:

a. Negotiations

NONE

b. Litigation

NONE

11. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss at this Business Session, Mayor Zanni entertained a motion to conclude the Business Session for the evening at 9:48 pm.

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to adjourn the Business Session at 9:48 pm.
Ms. Campagnone seconded the motion

VOTE: 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Sirois, Public Recorder
Methuen Public Schools