

**TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC RECORD**

**OF**

**THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**BUSINESS SESSION**

**OF**

**DECEMBER 12, 2011**

**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:**

**MICHELLE TURCO, PUBLIC RECORDER**

**TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC RECORD**  
**METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**BUSINESS SESSION**  
**DECEMBER 12, 2011**

This meeting of the Methuen School Committee was held in the Great Hall of Searles Building, City Hall, and was posted for 7:00 PM.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mayor William Manzi, Chairperson  
Mr. Robert Vogler, Vice Chairperson  
Mr. Evan Chaisson, Secretary  
Ms. Barbara Grondine  
Mr. Gary Marcoux  
Mr. Kenneth Willette, Jr.  
Mr. Ken Henrick

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms. Judith Scannell, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Jennifer Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Glenn Fratto, Business Administrator  
Victoria Cohen, Student Representative  
Michelle Turco, Public Recorder

**1. \*CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:**

Mayor William Manzi called this meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with a quorum of members in attendance, as listed above. Mr. Kenneth Willette arrived at 7:20 PM.

**a. Flag Salute**

Shane, Stephanie, Michaela & Anthony Henrick, students at the Marsh Grammar School, led the Committee in Opening Exercises of this meeting.

**2. Participation by Others**

**a. SOAR Award**

Amanda Aziz was the winner recipient of the S.O.A.R. Award for 2011-2012 at this meeting. The Social Studies Department chose Amanda for this Award.

**b. Student**

**1. Student Recognition – Special Olympics**

John Miller, a sixth grade student at the Donald P. Timony Grammar School, was recognized for his outstanding efforts in the Special Olympics for gymnastics.

**2. Award Winning MHS Cheerleaders Recognition**

Mr. Giuca recognized and said a few words about the MHS Cheerleaders as did the coach and a cheer was performed.

Two minute recess 7:30 – 7:32

**c. Staff**

1. Staff Recognition – Veterans Appreciation Citation Recipient from the MA Senate  
The Massachusetts State Senate had an appreciation brunch and Joyce Wyman, a Special Education Teacher in Methuen for over 20 years, was an honoree for going above and beyond to help veterans.

**d. Public**

No Action

**3. Approval of Minutes - Transcript Workshop Session of October 24, 2011 & Business Session of November 14, 2011**

**MOTION:** Mr. Henrick moved to adopt the Recorded Transcript Workshop Session of October 24, 2011 & Business Session of November 14, 2011 as presented and waived the readings; Mr. Marcoux seconded the motion to approve as presented.

**VOTE:** 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

**4. Staff Reports**

**a. Superintendent's Monthly Report**

Superintendents Scannell submitted the monthly Superintendents report that consisted of the following topics and attached is the summary:

- Secretary of Education Paul Reville Visitation –  
Superintendent Scannell reminded the committee members that Mr. Reville would be in the city on December 13, 2011 from 10 – 1 if anyone would like to attend.
- Methuen High School Renovation Update

**5. Old Business and Other Pending Matters**

Mr. Glenn Fratto submitted a memo with a breakdown of the FY11' Chargeback's

**a. FY'11 Chargeback's – Approval**

**MOTION:** Mr. Vogler moved to approve the FY11' Chargeback's; Ms. Grondine seconded the motion to approve as submitted.

**DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Vogler commented that he had looked at materials from the State Equity Audit that was done 4-5 years ago and their recommendation was to have a written contract with the city and at this point and time there is not one. Mr. Vogler had concern with that and would like the new committee to pursue a contract with the city and follow the chargeback law.

Mayor Manzi clarified that there had never been an audit finding on any city charge back.

Mr. Henrick had concern with it being almost 11 million dollars. Mayor Manzi explained it being the pension and Healthcare. Mr. Henrick said there was more. Mayor Manzi explained as the healthcare cost goes up so do the chargeback's and they are on a dollar for dollar basis.

Mr. Marcoux is not voting on the chargeback's, Mr. Marcoux felt they are excessive and felt the School Department is paying the City's Budget. Mr. Marcoux was not happy with Mr. Fratto's outline and felt that every year the chargeback's go up and the school is expected to pay for certain things.

Ms. Grondine questioned the SRO services and how they are being paid. Mr. Fratto said that she was correct.

**VOTE:** 3-3-1 FAILED

**ROLL CALL** – Mr. Henrick – NO  
Mr. Marcoux – NO  
Ms. Grondine – YES  
Mr. Willette – Present  
Mr. Chaisson – NO  
Mr. Vogler – YES  
Mayor Manzi - YES

## 6. New Business

### a. Chapter 74 Program and General Advisory Committee Members Approval

Ms. Jane Obshatkin, Supervisor, Chapter 74 Programming, submitted a memo to Superintendent Scannell outlining the vocational technical educational programs.

**MOTION:** Mr. Vogler moved to approve Chapter 74 Program and General Advisory Committee Members; Ms. Grondine seconded the motion to approve as submitted.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Chaisson questioned Ms. Obshatkin being retired. Superintendent Scannell explained that Ms. Obshatkin is a consultant

**VOTE:** 6-1-0 APPROVED

**ROLL CALL:** Mr. Marcoux - NO

### b. Collaborative Purchasing and Competitive Bidding – Clarification Memo

Mr. Glenn Fratto, Business Administrator submitted a memo on the background of Collaborative Purchasing and Competitive Bidding in order to clarify.

**c. Recycling at our Schools - Update**

Mr. Fratto submitted a memo to Superintendent Scannell in regard to the Recycling Program at the schools with information on there could be an opportunity to increase the amount of items recycled.

**d. Nurse Agreement September 1, 2011 – August 31, 2012 - Ratification**

Superintendent Scannell submitted a memo of agreement with the Massachusetts Nurse's Association for ratification.

**MOTION:** Mr. Marcoux moved to approve the submission of the Nurse Agreement September 1, 2011 – August 31, 2010 as presented and waived the readings; Mr. Chaisson seconded the motion to approve as presented.

**VOTE:** 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

**7. Finance and Operations –**

**a. Expenditure Report - Monthly**

Business Administrator Glenn Fratto submitted the Monthly Expenditure Report to the Committee for the period of November 2011.

No Action

**b. Revolving Funds Report – Monthly**

Business Administrator Glenn Fratto submitted the Monthly Revolving Report to the Committee for the period of November 2011.

No Action

**c. Grants Report – Monthly**

Ms. Lyn Griffin, Director of Grants Management and Program Development provided the Monthly Grant Status Report for the period of November 2011.

No Action

**d. Student Activity Accounts - Monthly**

Business Administrator Glenn Fratto submitted the Monthly Student Activity Accounts to the Committee for the period of October 2011

No Action

**e. Supervisor of Food Services – Monthly**

Mr. Wayne Vespa, Director of School Nutrition Services submitted the Monthly Status Report for the period ending November 2011.

No Action

**f. Supervisor of Custodians & Maintenance – Monthly**

Mr. Bruce Stella, Director of Facilities and Maintenance submitted the Monthly Status Report for November 2011

No Action

**g. Bid Awards**

No Action

**h. Contract Approval.**

No Action

**i. Budget Transfers**

No Action

**8. Notification of Appointments and Other Personnel Matters**

**a. Personnel Transactions**

No Action

**b. Professional Staff**

Item moved to 2 e

**c. Support Staff**

No Action

**d. Personnel Matters Requiring Committee Action**

No Action

**e. Notification of Vacancy Postings**

No Action

**9. Superintendent's Reports, including Communications & Recommendations on Financial Matters, Old & New Business**

**a. Transportation Monthly Update**

Mr. Brian Fowler, Supervisor of Transportation and Emergency Management submitted a memo updating the committee on Monthly Transportation.

**No Action**

**b. Residency Monthly Update**

Ms. Diana Turonis, Attendance Secretary provided the committee with the Residency Monthly Update Report.

**No Action**

**c. School Resource Officers Monthly Update**

A monthly report was given on each of the schools.

**d. Dean of Students Update**

Valerie Viscose, Director of Guidance provided the committee with a Dean of Students Report 2011 – 2012

**No Action**

**10. Business from the Committee**

Mr. Marcoux questioned the new roof being put on the Quinn Building. Superintendent Scannell explained it was part of the High School Renovation bond and not coming from the School Budget. Mr. Marcoux questioned the Quinn roof being paid for by the high school. Mayor Manzi said it came from the high school bond and explained where it came from with 600,000 being allocated for school staff and to move them to the Quinn. Which would include the roof and windows. Mr. Marcoux questioned why the city isn't picking up some of the money. Mayor Manzi said that not one dollar is being paid out of high school money and it is bond money which is paid dollar for dollar by the city side of government. The City is paying 100 percent of the chargeback's for the bond and the building is being used rent-free. Mr. Marcoux said he had no problem with it and was just asking a question.

Mr. Vogler stated that under the law each mayor did have the right to charge back the cost of K-8 and they have not, could have been a much larger chargeback issue.

Mr. Henrick wanted to congratulate everyone thanked everyone on the committee.

Mr. Marcoux thanked the voters of Methuen for electing him for 3 consecutive terms and thanked his daughter and wife who kept him grounded.

Mr. Chaisson thanked four members who are leaving and said they have made his transition to the school committee easy and he had learned a lot from them.

Ms. Grondine there would be a big void fill and the experience leaving would be tremendous, Ms. Grondine wished them luck and would hope they would be around and offer advice.

Mr. Willette was Grateful to have served 12 years and was very confident with the new administration and commented on it being an honor to serve on the school committee

Mr. Vogler put heavy emphasis in the teaching staff and thanked the parents for being highly supportive and said he was very proud of the superintendent.

Mayor Manzi said it was a pleasure to work with Methuen Public Schools for the past 6 years individually and collectively and was super blessed to have had this committee.

Superintendent Scannell truly thanked everyone for their support said it had been a joy to work with all of them and as always it was about the kids and what was best for them, that the role of the committee and nobody forgot that. The entire district has felt the support of the committee, thank you all very very much! Parting gifts for the members leaving were given out.

## **11. Executive Session**

- a. Negotiations**
- b. Litigation**

## **12. Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss at this Business Session, Mayor Manzi entertained a motion to adjourn, no Executive Session needed, at 8:10 PM, thus concluding this Business Session for the evening.

MOTION: Mr. Marcoux moved to adjourn this Business Session at 8:10 and Mr. Grondine seconded the motion.

VOTE: 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Turco, Public Recorder  
Methuen Public Schools