

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC RECORD

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WORKSHOP SESSION

OF

SEPTEMBER 26, 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

WORKSHOP SESSION
SEPTEMBER 26, 2011

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

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor William Manzi, Chairperson
Mr. Robert Vogler, Vice Chairperson
Mr. Evan Chaisson, Secretary
Mr. Kenneth Henrick
Ms. Barbara Grondine
Mr. Kenneth Willette (arrived 6:40 p.m.)
Mr. Gary Marcoux (arrived 6:40 p.m.)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

1. *CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Manzi called this meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum of members in attendance, as listed above. Mr. Kenneth Willette, Jr. and Mr. Gary Marcoux arrived at 6:40 p.m.

a. Flag Salute

Mr. Ken Henrick led the Committee in Opening Exercises of this meeting.

b. SOAR Award

- Kristian Teichert was a recipient of the S.O.A.R. Award at this meeting. The Science Department chose Kristian for this Award.

2. AP Teachers Presentation:

This presentation was postponed.

3. Student Activity Accounts - Summary

- a. Athletics** – Memo submitted by Mr. James Weymouth, Athletic Director/Assistant Principal
- b. CGS** – Memo submitted by Dr. Brandi Kwong, Supervising Principal
- c. Marsh** – Memo submitted by MR. Richard Beshara, Supervising Principal
- d. Tenney** – Memo submitted by Mr. Ian Gosselin, Supervising Principal
- e. Timony** – Memo submitted by Mr. Timothy Miller, Supervising Principal
- f. MHS** – Memo submitted by Mr. James Giuca, MHS Principal

DISCUSSION: Superintendent Scannell said there was an explanation of the above submitted along with the answers to questions from the previous meeting. Mr. Vogler stated it was a good report and he enjoyed reading it but would like a report of the anticipated expenditures for Athletics. Mr. Vogler also wanted to clarify if the coach's salaries were being paid from the Athletics account; Superintendent Scannell confirmed they were not.

Mr. Vogler questioned the balance in the yearbook account of \$7,100.00. Mr. Vogler would like to know how this money was achieved, how much a yearbook cost and the amount in total with a sample of the picture cost.

4. Tenney Scholarship Fund Gift to Media Department - Approval

Mr. James Giuca, MHS Principal and Ms. Maria Mastrocola, Supervisor of Media of Methuen Public Schools submitted a memo requesting approval of accepting a check received from The Tenney Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$23,000.00 with the intention of using these funds to update the reference collections of the media center.

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to approve the Tenney Scholarship Fund Gift to the Media Department; Mr. Chaisson seconded the motion.

VOTE: 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

5. Newly Adopted – Policy #JJF – Student Activity Accounts Second Reading

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to adopt Policy #JJF – Student Activity Accounts; Mr. Marcoux seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Vogler questioned the High School Principal Account and wanted to know if it was problematic with the number of accounts that are so much greater. Mr. Vogler questioned if all the athletic coaching accounts would be broken into an athletic account to take some pressure off the High School account. Superintendent Scannell said spoke with the Mr. James Weymouth, Athletic Director/Assistant Principal and Mr. James Giuca, MHS Principal to discuss and that is what the plan was and the athletic would be a separate piece.

VOTE: 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

6. Long Term Program Assistant Position - Approval

Dr. Brandi Kwong, Supervising Principal CGS submitted a memo requesting to post a new position; Long-Term Substitute Program Assistant in place of hiring a full time teacher. The memo gave an explanation

MOTION: Ms. Grondine moved to approve the Long Term Program Assistant Position; Mr. Vogler seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Marcoux said he did not have a problem with the position but wanted to make sure the union did not have a problem with it. Superintendent Scannell said she had a discussion with president of the union and the teacher that transferred out of that position and there were no problems with it. Mr. Vogler questioned if the person would meet SPED needs of the classes they would be in; Superintendent Scannell confirmed they would and said the Program Assistant had worked in the district with SPED students and that the case load for this particular grade had dropped so it would be due able.

VOTE: 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

7. Pleasant Valley School Summer Report

Ms. Karen Fluet, SACC Coordinating Teacher submitted a memo along with a packet containing a full report of the summer at Pleasant Valley School. She was present to answer questions.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Grondine commented on it being a good report and how she loved the front page. Ms. Grondine said the report was great and self-explanatory.

8. Superintendent Evaluation - Discussion

DISCUSSION: Mr. Marcoux thanked the School Committee for giving a very thoughtful and well advised evaluation of the Superintendent. Mr. Marcoux stated it was an outgrowth and explained how they got to where they are. Mr. Marcoux explained that selecting and evaluating the Superintendent is of the Methuen School Committee's most important jobs. A high quality Superintendent Evaluation process helps develop a good understanding of the leadership being provided and creates a mechanism for public accountability. There are 9 parts that are broken down into 6 sections below it is summarized:

- I. Relationships with the Committee**
Excellent = 97.6% Good = 2.4% No Response = 0%
- II. Community Relations**
Excellent = 96.4% Good = 3.6% No Response = 0%
- III. Administrative Staff and Personnel Relationships**
Excellent = 100% Good = 0% No Response = 0%
- IV. Educational Leadership**
Excellent = 100% Good = 0% No Response = 0%
- V. Finance and Labor Relations**
Excellent = 95.9% Good = 2.05% No Response = 2.05%
- VI. General Management**
Excellent = 100% Good = 0% No Response = 0%
- VII. Communication and Public Relations**
Excellent = 100% Good = 0% No Response = 0%
- VIII. Personal Qualities and Characteristics**
Excellent = 100% Good = 0% No Response = 0%
- IX. Exceptional Circumstances**
Excellent = 100% Good = 0% No Response = 0%

Overall Comments:

- 1. Good communication with the school committee.**
- 2. Strong open and supportive relationship with the community.**
- 3. Clear vision for the school system.**
- 4. The district is making great strides under her leadership.**
- 5. Values the opinions of the school committee and parents in general.**
- 6. Provides opportunities for the staff to adapt and grow.**
- 7. Provides a smooth budgetary process to the committee and public.**
- 8. Has a great insight to the needs of the district.**
- 9. Believes all students can achieve and be successful.**
- 10. Provides constant leadership to staff, parents, students and the public in general.**

Overall Percentage:

Excellent = 98% Good = 1.6% & No Response = .4%

Ms. Grondine stated she had the opportunity of evaluating four other superintendents and wanted to say Superintendent Scannell for doing an outstanding job and wished her luck along with congratulating her. Mr. Vogler agreed and commented on it being the most outstanding evaluation in all his tenure here and being fortunate to have an outstanding individual. Mr. Vogler commented on how parents are amazed that when they call Superintendent Scannell that she would call back the same day. Mr. Vogler felt a good choice was made with Superintendent Scannell and hopes she intendeds on being with Methuen for many more years and foresees the next evaluation getting better. Ms. Grondine thanked Mr. Marcoux for putting the report together. Mayor Manzi thanked Mr. Marcoux personally and congratulated Superintendent Scannell.

Superintendent Scannell thanked the committee, her team, administration and teachers throughout the district and said she could not do it without them.

MOTION: Mr. Marcoux moved to approve the Superintendents Evaluation as presented with the reading; Ms. Grondine seconded the motion to approve.

VOTE: 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

9. Concerns From Committee

DISCUSSION: Mr. Marcoux would like Superintendent to present something at the next formal meeting on the Title I Program. Mr. Marcoux said that he has legitimate concern about the Title I Program. Mr. Marcoux said he tried to present it as a follow up to the Superintendent and instead the Title I Director sent Mr. Marcoux an e-mail. Mr. Marcoux was taken back by the e-mail. Mr. Marcoux explained he taught in Lawrence for over 36 years and does not have to be told what the Title I Program is about and took offence to that. Mr. Marcoux said he also took offence that the e-mail which he sent to Superintendent Scannell was then sent to the Director of Title I when Mr. Marcoux's e-mail was a private e-mail to the Superintendent which outlined his concern. Mr. Marcoux said the response from the Title I Director was that she hoped the teachers were doing what they were suppose to be doing and Mr. Marcoux found that to be a demeaning message to the teachers and would like it to be addressed during the next meeting.

Mr. Vogler commented on going into grade 9 to talk to them about the role of the School Committee and said he was pleasantly amazed at the demeanor and attitude of the students. Mr. Vogler also said everything he saw he was VERY impressed with especially the I-pads. Mr. Vogler could not say enough good things about the I-Pads. Mr. Vogler said three out of four groups have the I-Pads and Mr. Vogler would hope the fourth group could get some and would also like to try and start to work I-Pads in.

10. New Behavioral Plan – Saturday School Detention Letter

MOTION: Mr. Vogler moved to adopt the New Behavioral Plan and it be implemented; Mr. Marcoux seconded the motion.

VOTE: 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

DISCUSSION: Superintendent Scannell commented on it being the second Saturday for this New Behavioral Plan and 17 students showed up and the parents support has been tremendous. Mr. Rich Barton, the new assistant principal as well as Mr. James Weymouth volunteers their services because they want to do it. Mr. Vogler requested it be put in there file.

Superintendent Scannell made the committee aware that they are updating the school website and felt they would be pleased. A lot of changes are being made and would be constantly updated. Mr. Chaisson questioned if it was the schools IT department and Superintendent Scannell confirmed it was.

Superintendent Scannell pointed out that there was an FYI on the protocol of the building complaints during renovation at MHS in their packets for review and there would also be a copy of that on the website.

Mr. Willette touched on the incident at Ranger Stadium. Mr. Willette pointed out in years past a full incident report would be made. Mr. Willette said he would hope that it is encumber ant upon the principal once all issues have been resolved through the process that an expulsion would be issued. Mr. Willette also commented in years past there was zero tolerance for weapons being used. Superintendent Scannell acknowledged Mr. Willette and said a full report will be received and a hearing will be held.

***ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business to discuss at this Workshop Session, Mayor Manzi entertained a motion to adjourn this meeting at 7:16PM.

MOTION: Mr. Grondine moved to adjourn at 7:16 PM; Mr. Marcoux seconded.

VOTE: 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Turco, Public Recorder
Methuen Public Schools

Methuen School Committee
Month of September 2011 Meeting

September 26, 2011
Workshop Session