

**Methuen Public Schools  
Office of the Superintendent**



**PRESENTATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2012 BUDGET**

Presentation to: Methuen School Committee  
Methuen City Council

From: Superintendent Judith A. Scannell

Date: June 9, 2011

Re: Superintendent's Budget Message

It is an honor and privilege to present my first budget proposal to the School Committee and community of Methuen. During my first year as Superintendent, I have witnessed first-hand all the issues that need to be addressed when overseeing the entire School District. At times, the challenges have come fast and furious and I have been humbled by the talents of the incredible staff in Methuen and the incredible support of the School Committee. I thank you all for your assistance and encouragement.

Putting together a \$72.8 million operating budget is a major undertaking. I am fortunate to have a highly-qualified Administrative Team that I can rely on to provide accurate and timely information. This proposed budget has truly been a team effort and I believe it represents the values and objectives outlined in the School Committee-approved District Goals. The proposed operating budget matches expenses with the State's calculation of Net School Spending and Chapter 70 Aid.

Methuen has always taken pride in providing quality education at affordable costs. As explained in Business Administrator Glenn Fratto's budget message, Methuen's per pupil expenditures are 83% of the State Average. Since we historically budget at Net School Spending, this statistic is not surprising. However, I was surprised to find out that Methuen is one of 23 districts in the state with over 2,500 low-income students. Further, Methuen is the 17<sup>th</sup> largest school district in the State when it comes to enrollment. *(See attached document for breakdown.)*

Clearly, Methuen has changed in the 35 years that I have worked in the district. With such change comes challenges; challenges that we can take on with a committed focus on our children and what happens in each classroom. Serving the best interest of our students will always be a team-effort.

Also attached to this document you will find a “Snapshot” of student achievement prepared by Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Smith, Ed.. Clearly, Student achievement in Methuen is improving!

I look forward to working with you to finalize the FY12 School Budget and presenting it to both the community and the City Council.

Thank you.