

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION

OF

APRIL 22, 2026

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:

KAREN LAWLOR, PUBLIC RECORDER

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METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION

APRIL 22, 2026

This Budget Workshop Session of the Methuen School Committee was held at the Methuen High School, Media Center, and was posted for 6:00 PM

ROLL CALL

Nicholas DiZoglio (Present on ZOOM)
Mary Beth Donovan Grassi (P)
Alejandro Baez (P)
Laurie Keegan (P)
Martha McCarthy Sirois (P)
Kenneth Willette (P)
Mayor David Beauregard, Jr., Chairperson (P)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Lisa A. Golobski Twomey, Ed.D. Acting Superintendent of Schools
Ian Gosselin, Asst. Superintendent of Finance and Facilities
Gina Bozek, Asst. Superintendent

Acceptance of the Agenda

MOTION: Member Baez made a motion to accept the agenda for April 22, 2026
Member Keegan seconded the Motion

Flag Salute

1. Public Participation- None

2. FY27 Proposed Budget Discussion

Acting Superintendent Lisa Golobski Twomey opened the meeting explaining the binder that they were given has the FY27 proposed budget. Included on the binder are requests and the rationale for the positions, also the level service budget.

Chair Beauregard explained his role in the budget for the school and city. The City Council will get the school budget on May 8, 2026. They are still working on the specifics. He's not prepared to make any definitive announcement about where they are at. He can share that they are dealing with an extremely difficult budget cycle. There's a reduction in Federal and State aid. Level funding for the school has gone up every year. He discussed prop 2 ½ and the different

situation Methuen is in compared to other municipalities. He is looking at all the departments and would need to downsize our government to make numbers work. Chair Beauregard also explained what “free cash” is meant to be used for.

Discussion:

Members had a discussion about how much we need to cut and that it will be a tough decision to make. Class sizes were mentioned, no one wanted to see the numbers go up. They talked about what positions they feel are important to add to the budget and to stay in compliance. They also gave ideas on how to save in some areas and also ideas on how to create revenue for the schools. Looking into a day school program to keep special ed programs at the schools, but we would need to invest first.

Funds from the state come in later after the budget is set. There is a very marginal increase from the State with the amendments that were just updated. The House Ways and Means budget proposal came out and nothing is broken down by districts. Members would like the community to reach out to the State Representatives and get involved.

Member Baez would like to see structural reform and proactive thinking that can move the district forward with long term planning.

Chair Beauregard gave some ideas on what he is looking into and working on to save funds and create revenue. Changing the insurance to the GIC would be a big savings. He looked into MEVA bus transportation for students, that wouldn’t work long term. Chair Beauregard is having discussions about a bus stop arm system. He called a representative for the company Bus Patrol. The issue is, it’s a new system and the legislature recently adopted this. The Inspector General suggests he puts it out to bid. The revenue would go toward transportation for the schools.

Members mentioned doing a 1/12 budget. The Mayor explained what that entails and didn’t feel that it would work for the budget situation.

The city has a senior tax work-off program. This program gives seniors who volunteer their time in exchange for an abatement toward their taxes. They could do several jobs to help out, it was presented in the past, but the unions didn’t agree to it. They would be doing union jobs. Member Willette would like to see them being used in the libraries to help out. Member McCarthy Sirois feels we could use seniors who are bilingual for meetings to translate.

Other ideas discussed were ways to cut bus routes, which would not make a difference in the budget and offering early retirement.

Members were surprised to hear the results of the administration costs of other districts.

Methuen was ranked 388 out of 395 districts.

Acting Superintendent Lisa Golobski Twomey will go back and take another pass at the budget. She will take in consideration what was discussed and requested.

3. Any Other Business from the Committee

Member Baez asked Ian whose jurisdiction it is for the school fields and gates. He isn’t sure but the issue with the gate at the CGS was taken care of when he made a phone call. They will look into it.

4. Adjournment

Motion: Member McCarthy Sirois made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Member Donovan Grassi seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL

Nicholas DiZoglio (Yes)

Mary Beth Donovan Grassi (Yes)

Alejandro Baez (Yes)

Laurie Keegan (Yes)

Martha McCarthy Sirois (Yes)

Kenneth Willette (Yes)

Mayor David Beauregard, Jr., Chairperson (Yes)

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM