

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUDGET/FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

OF

March 23, 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:

ACTING SUPERINTENDENT LISA GOLOBSKI TWOOMEY

2026.03.23

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METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

MARCH 23, 2026

A Finance Subcommittee Meeting of the Methuen School Committee was held on Monday, March 23, 2026, at 3:30 PM at 41 Pleasant Street, Methuen, MA, in the 2nd Fl conference room.

Roll call 3/23 3:36pm

Motion to Approve: Mayor

Vote: Marybeth

Ian: Will the city cover unemployment, like last year? (He had included it in the budget)

Maggie: will get back to us

Ian: Checked in with Amesbury about school choice to see if it might be financially beneficial; Amesbury reports that they receive about \$5k per student

Laurie: Special ed services would come with additional funding for schools joining the district by school choice,

Mayor: What are we projecting to carry over with circuit breaker

Ian: 3-5 million, this year we carried over 6, and that went to contracted services

Maggie: We are looking at 10.5 number- difference between number city gave and what we are calculating

Mayor: said she will use these numbers when considering the rest of the city

Maggie: Positive news, our non-net number is pretty close

Laurie: Why is sped transportation projected as less

Gina- transitions students picked up and dropped off at branch this year

Laurie- Asked about the mini- MEVA partnership

Gina- provided an update about new line and training between MEVA partnership and training.

Mayor: Said spoke about potential funding sources for the schools: solar and school bus arms (want to have in place before July). He spoke about the two school buildings (Currier and PV) that were surplus, hoping to transform both into some housing. When the city eventually sells properties, that money goes to general fund, but that can help with capital projects

Marybeth: what kind of impact would solar have

Maggie: we may be looking at different contract

Mayor: How schools officially give the buildings is on the list to discuss.

Laurie: We still have them on our books, something needs to happen before they come off the books

Ian: We pay very little in those buildings, minimal heat, not lights are on---- we like to split the cost of ditson

Maggie: requested summary of costs for keeping buildings unkempt

Mayor: need to circle back on charge backs

Maggie: has draft but hasn't finished- half way through, thinks we will have something done for the budget cycle.

Maggie: there intention is to have school discussion ahead of floor

Maggie: deciding between two budget calendars

Mayor: anything else that could off set

Ian: title grants, some people may need

Ian: usually run on 35 buses, this year we are running on 34 (wants to keep it at 35 in case), could get by \$62,000 if chose to go with 34

Marybeth: Interested in investigating more about charter schools

Lisa: provided count of Methuen students attending charter schools, and provided count of GLTS students

Mayor: Motion to adjourn 4:25

Laurie Second