

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUSINESS SESSION MEETING

OF

MAY 11, 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

2026.05.11

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUSINESS SESSION

MAY 11, 2026

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

Member Donovan Grassi called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Chair Beauregard came in at 6:08 PM

ROLL CALL

Nicholas DiZoglio (P, ZOOM)

Mary Beth Donovan Grassi (P)

Alejandro Baez (P)

Laurie Keegan (P)

Martha McCarthy Sirois (P)

Kenneth Willette (P)

Mayor David Beauregard, Jr., Chairperson (A, came in at 6:08)

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

Tayyab Afzal, Student Representative

Anthony Curet, Supervising Principal, Methuen High School

Katie Proietti, Supervising Principal, CGS

Rebecca Gordon, Supervising Principal, Marsh

David Hill, Supervising Principal, Tenney

Christopher Reeve, Supervising Principal, Timony

Paula Simone, Associate Principal, Upper School, Tenney

Christine Staugler, ELE Dept. Chair, MHS

Acceptance of the Agenda

MOTION: Member Baez made a motion to accept the agenda for May 11, 2026

Vice Chair DiZoglio seconded the Motion.

Discussion: None

2026.05.11

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 (A)

VOTE: 6-0 Passed

1. Flag Salute - Timony

Moment of Silence for Methuen Firefighter Lieutenant Jimmy McLachlan

2. Participation by Others

- a. SOAR Award (3) Special Ed, ELE, and Wellness
- b. Student Representative, Tayyab Afzal

Tayyab gave an update and mentioned that the Mental Health parent student advisory council just attended the NAN project youth summit. They celebrated empowering youth voices and having their voice amplified in education. They learned about the work being done in Massachusetts to further improve our educational system.

- c. Student Advisory Committee
- d. Program Assistants of the Year
 - 1. Comprehensive Grammar School - Michelle Hall
 - 2. Donald P Timony School - Sophia Gonzalez
 - 3. Early Childhood Center - Allison Petrow
 - 4. Marsh Grammar School - Meaghan McCue
 - 5. Methuen High School - Beronica Morales
 - 6. Tenney Grammar School - William Tate
- e. Public Participation - None

3. Approval of Minutes- April 16, 2026 April 22, 2026

MOTION: Member Donovan Grassi made a motion to accept the minutes for April 16, 2026.

Member Baez seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

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)

VOTE: 7-0-0 Approved

MOTION: Member Baez made a motion to accept the minutes of April 22, 2026.

Member Keegan seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

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)

VOTE: 7-0-0 Approved

4. Staff Reports

a. Acting Superintendent Update

1. FY'27 Budget-Update

Acting Superintendent Lisa Golobski Twomey gave her update on the budget. She is closely watching to see if the state aid comes through. Her team is working to identify areas for further reductions in order to meet the contractual deadlines for the notifications of reduction in force. The office of the Attorney General released a phone free school grant. She will be applying for that. This would provide funding to help implement policies. Parent University is live on the Methuen Public Schools website. She hopes to grow and expand it in years to come. The Playball Foundation will be hosting a major event on May 17, 2026. It's a grant opportunity for the upper school students to participate in free intramural athletic opportunities. She explained what the foundation will be doing for the students that day.

Discussion: None

b. Student Enrollment Data Report

Discussion: None

c. Discipline Report

Discussion: Member Baez wanted to know the number of times an incident required students to have a lock down. Acting Superintendent Lisa Golobski Twomey spoke to the building principals and they have not been keeping track of that data. There hasn't been any as far as ALICE, just training. They have cases where it's used to clear a classroom or to do a "do not pass" due to medical reasons to protect the privacy of a staff member or student. Moving forward, the data will be collected.

Members questioned what the asterisk after criminal weapons means and if items that resemble weapons are still included.

The Acting Superintendent explained that it was from a previous footnote where she had delineated the type of weapons that were asked. It can pertain to weapons as simple as a household object but used as a weapon, not necessarily criminal. Items that resemble weapons are still reported.

d. Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Report

Ms. Bozak mentioned that May 14, 2026, is the 7th Annual Fun Field Day event for the upper school and high school students. These students will participate in some adapted events and also receive support and coordination from their peers.

CPAC is holding elections at their next meeting on May 21, 2026 at 6 PM at the Timony media center.

Discussion: Member Keegan asked if a student is considered homeless, can they still live in a house even though they are homeless.

Ms. Bozak explained that they are considered homeless. Any family experiencing homelessness due to economic or other reasons, doubled up in homes, does not have reasonable accommodations, but are being supported, are considered homeless.

e. Director of Human Resources Report

Discussion: Member McCarthy Sirois wanted to know if any of the open professional positions on the list are being eliminated. There are two positions being eliminated for psychologists.

5. Old Business and Other Pending Matters

a. Policy Subcommittee Update - Member Baez

Member Baez gave an update for the Policy Subcommittee. They are working through section I right now and trying to finish it up.

Discussion: None

6. New Business

a. Physical Restraint Memo

1. Physical Restraint Policy - First Read

2. Methuen District Procedures for Physical Restraint and Seclusion

Ms. Bozek explained the physical restraint policy. The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education voted to amend their regulations regarding timeout practices. They updated their definitions of seclusion, clarifying the term timeout with updated definitions and clarifying requirements for the use of time out. The updated regulations will become effective on August

17, 2026. The policy and procedures need to be reviewed and a replacement policy done. The physical restraint policy needs to be a separate policy with corresponding procedures.

Discussion: Tayyab Afzal, the student representative, wanted to know if a parent doesn't sign the consent form for restraint, what happens. They would need to look at other means to support the student.

Other Members talked about having students get off the bus quicker so they are not in the seat belts. Time out areas were discussed, what they look like in each building and how they will change.

The amended regulation policy, the rooms now need to be cleared of any debris and well lit to maintain safety for the students. They do have access to some sensory items as needed.

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)

VOTE: 7-0-0 Passed, to accept the first read of the Restraint Policy.

b. School Choice Memo - Approval

MOTION: Member Baez made a motion to approve the school choice memo.

Member Keegan seconded the motion.

Acting Superintendent Lisa Golobski Twomey is recommending not participating in the school choice program this year. School Choice would open enrollment to students who are not residents of Methuen. Methuen has not participated in school choice in the past. With class size projections and budgetary constraints, this would not be a good year to do this.

Discussion: Members had a discussion on how to vote. They needed to clarify what the yes and no vote meant. Looking toward the future, it might be a good idea to do. It would bring in some revenue. Mr. Gosselin explained how much we would get per student, it's a set amount. This would come through the State Chapter 70 funds, not affecting the operating budget.

Ms. Bozek talked about the special education side of it. The tuition rate is set among Special Education Directors and would pay the district directly. It's handled differently.

Member Keegan talked about special education students being in school choice. Their districts would pay us for their services which would help generate revenue.

Some Members feel that it is a good revenue generator, but feel it's too late to put it through for the next school year due to the class sizes and the budget. There are details to work out. Others

are concerned if it would be a lottery system and that there would be no control of which students would be coming into the school system. Also, can we control the number of spots, which school and which grade level.

Acting Superintendent Lisa Golobski Twomey explained how she would need to designate a cap as to the number of students, not to exceed two percent of the district enrollment, but also be able to specify which school and grade level would have the school choice. Right now, being transparent about being at capacity in terms of class sizes, introducing more students to any grade would require them to add back staff. She will provide up to date numbers to the committee for kindergarten enrollments.

New Motion made to clarify the vote

MOTION: Member Willette made a motion not to participate in school choice as required by law every year.

Member Donovan Grassi seconded the motion.

Discussion: Member Keegan is for the school choice. She wants to get the revenue for the city to help the budget. We explained that we will be in the same situation next year if we don't do something now. Member Willette feels it's not a revenue generator. Many students are leaving public education in the state. It's not a good time with the budget we have. We need to look at other ways to get revenue.

Chair Beauregard understands and sees both sides. He spoke with other Mayor's across the Commonwealth and they use the revenue to help the school budget.

New policies would need to be looked at if this passes.

ROLL CALL

Nicholas DiZoglio (yes)

Mary Beth Donovan Grassi (yes)

Alejandro Baez (no)

Laurie Keegan (no)

Martha McCarthy Sirois (yes)

Kenneth Willette (yes)

Mayor David Beauregard, Jr., Chairperson (no)

VOTE: 4-3-0 Not Passed, No School Choice

c. Constellations Proposal Presentation

Ms. Bozak had a slide presentation explaining what the Pathways Program is and what it would do for the students. This is a district wide program specifically tailored to support students with autism and those with intensive learning and behavioral needs. These were the slide presentation topics that Ms. Bozek discussed:

Why Change is Needed, What is the Pathways Program?, Building Internal Capacity, Initial Program Outcomes, Collaborative Classroom Model, Expand and Strengthen Programming,

Increase Capacity and Improve Outcomes, Systems and Resources, Expected Outcomes, Year 1 Implementation, Long-Term Growth, Financial Investment and Recommendation.

Discussion: Chair Beauregard talked about the need to make this investment and he is presenting it to the City Council to take the funds from free cash.

The Members expressed their appreciation to Ms. Bozek for her work on the proposal.

Classrooms have already made progress. Everyone is excited to have the students be with their peers. There is a waitlist for students to go to private separate extended day school. Ms. Bozek would like to build this program, extended day school is in demand. The goal is to no longer have students outplaced.

Members would like to have more information on the company and ask if they have done work in other communities near us. The company has been in the Grammar Schools and makes recommendations where they feel it's needed. Constellations would bring in experts to work with our staff. There would be family nights to share information and to talk to parents. Members wanted to know how many people would be brought in to help start the program.

13 ABA Instructors, 13 Behavioral Technicians and 2 BCBA's. These positions do not come out of the school operating budget. Support fades out once our staff is trained. The goal is to work on not having K-4 students outplaced.

Acting Superintendent Lisa Golobski Twomey is in support of the program. It will be a long term solution. Constellations have been in our schools to some degree this year. She wanted the public to not be surprised if there are still students that are outplaced with this program. Fewer students we do have out of district will be a cost savings. This program will save us money keeping students in district and working on getting students back in the district.

Member Willette mentioned that the state recently sent the school district a partial payment for the students that are out of district.

Vice Chair DiZoglio wanted to know if the school department gets reimbursed from insurance companies. Mr. Gosselin told the members that we do receive medicaid reimbursements, the funds are put into the general fund account with the city.

7. Finance and Operations

a. Expenditure Report – Monthly

Discussion: Member Keegan wanted to know if the money for the custodial contract has come out of this line yet. No, it will be done for May 14, 2026.

b. Revolving Funds Report – Monthly

Discussion: Member Willette would like to see the parking account funds used very soon.

Funds have been used for tree services, offset plowing costs and painting the lines

Member McCarthy Sirois wanted to know where the ice rink funds went. Mr. Gosselin explained that they are waiting for funds to come in from invoices and they made purchases for score boards.

Member Keegan wanted to know what the pre school tuition line is and why we have it. Ms. Bozek explained that this is for the peer models that participate in the integrated classrooms as well as salaries.

Member Donovan Grassi is interested to see what the numbers are for the before and after school program will be for the next few years with the enrollments down.

c. Grants Report

Discussion: None

d. Student Activity Accounts – Monthly

TENNEY TIMONY CGS MARSH MHS

Discussion: The Committee would like a list of celebrations for all the schools. With the balances in the student activity accounts, they would like to see all the kids have an opportunity to participate in the activities.

e. Food Services Report & Memo – Monthly

Discussion: Member McCarthy Sirois thanked Member Willette for pushing for the food service survey. The food service department did a great job listening to the students and the cafe looks great.

f. Warrants approved since last meeting:

1. 04/10/2026
2. 04/17/2026
3. 04/24/2026
4. 05/01/2026

Discussion: None

g. Contract Awards

Discussion: None

h. Acceptance of New FY26 Grant Awards- NONE

i. Requesting authority to transfer funds to close out FY26 - Memo

MOTION: Member McCarthy Sirois made a motion to transfer funds to close out FY26 school year.

Member Keegan seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mr. Gosselin mentioned that any transfers done across sections, he would send to the School Committee and the CAFO. There should be one to two between now and the end of June. The first or second week of July, he will finalize everything. Chair Beauregard mentioned that the city side did a budget freeze for quarter four. Member Baez wanted to know how often this happens being his first year.

ROLL CALL

Nicholas DiZoglio (yes)

Mary Beth Donovan Grassi (yes)

Alejandro Baez (Yes)

2026.05.11

Laurie Keegan (Yes)
Martha McCarthy Sirois (yes)
Kenneth Willette (yes)
Mayor David Beauregard, Jr., Chairperson (Yes)

VOTE: 7-0-0 Passed

8. Notification of Appointments and Other Personnel Matters- None

9. Business from the Committee

a. Protocols regarding union contracts (Member Keegan)

Discussion: Member Keegan mentioned that she became aware that unions were asked to take a pay freeze. She wants to make it clear to the public that the School Committee never took a vote to open union contracts or negotiations. They never authorized the request for unions to take a pay freeze. Chair Beauregard clarifies that there was no vote for the freeze.

b. Reconsideration of the Adoption of the FY27 Budget- Approval (Member Keegan)

MOTION: Member Baez made a motion to reconsider the adoption of the FY 27 budget.

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 (present)
Mayor David Beauregard, Jr., Chairperson (yes)

VOTE: 6-0-1 Motion to reconsider is allowed

MOTION: Member Baez made a motion to adopt the operating net school spending (no chargebacks) of \$106,590,457.

Member Keegan seconded the motion.

Discussion: School Committee Members and the Acting Superintendent had a discussion about the number of staff that will be laid off. It's not that simple, positions will change depending on enrollment, retirements and resignations. We have to operate under the budget the Mayor gives us. If we get state funding and free cash from the city, there shouldn't be more layoffs and hopefully some staff can be rehired.

MOTION: Member Keegan made a motion to extend the meeting time beyond 9:00 PM.

Member McCarthy Sirois 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)

VOTE: 7-0-0 Time Extended

Discussion: Member Keegan continued with the discussion. She explained why she brought this back to a vote. Chair Beauregard stated that he has to vote no. He has to stay with the number he was given.

ROLL CALL

Nicholas DiZoglio (yes)

Mary Beth Donovan Grassi (yes)

Alejandro Baez (Yes)

Laurie Keegan (Yes)

Martha McCarthy Sirois (yes)

Kenneth Willette (no)

Mayor David Beauregard, Jr., Chairperson (no)

VOTE: 5-2-0 Passed

MOTION: Member Keegan made a motion to adopt the approval of non-net school spending of \$11,855,430 (transportation contract)

Member McCarthy Sirois seconded the motion.

Discussion: Member Baez wanted to let the committee know that the policy subcommittee has on their agenda to discuss the monitoring of the traffic violation system.

ROLL CALL

Nicholas DiZoglio (yes)

Mary Beth Donovan Grassi (yes)

Alejandro Baez (yes)

Laurie Keegan (yes)
Martha McCarthy Sirois (yes)
Kenneth Willette (present)
Mayor David Beauregard, Jr., Chairperson (yes)

VOTE: 6-0-1 Passed

MOTION: Member Baez made a motion to adopt the total operating budget of \$118,445,887
Member Keegan seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

ROLL CALL

Nicholas DiZoglio (yes)
Mary Beth Donovan Grassi (yes)
Alejandro Baez (yes)
Laurie Keegan (yes)
Martha McCarthy Sirois (yes)
Kenneth Willette (no)
Mayor David Beauregard, Jr., Chairperson (no)

VOTE: 5-2-0 Passed

MOTION: Member Keegan made a motion to adopt city chargebacks (estimated) of \$23,697,481
Member Donovan Grassi seconded the motion.

Discussion: Member Keegan wanted to know if the CAFO had updated the chargeback agreements and if this reflected that change. Chair Beauregard said it was not a reflection of any new change.

ROLL CALL

Nicholas DiZoglio (yes)
Mary Beth Donovan Grassi (yes)
Alejandro Baez (yes)
Laurie Keegan (yes)
Martha McCarthy Sirois (yes)
Kenneth Willette (no)
Mayor David Beauregard, Jr., Chairperson (yes)

VOTE: 6-1-0 Passed

2026.05.11

MOTION: Member Keegan made a motion to adopt the total FY 27 school operating budget of \$142,143,368
Member Baez seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

ROLL CALL

Nicholas DiZoglio (yes)
Mary Beth Donovan Grassi (yes)
Alejandro Baez (yes)
Laurie Keegan (yes)
Martha McCarthy Sirois (yes)
Kenneth Willette (no)
Mayor David Beauregard, Jr., Chairperson (no)

VOTE: 5-2-0 Passed

MOTION: Member Keegan made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Member Baez 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)

10. Adjourn at 9:07 PM