

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION

OF

APRIL 30, 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 30, 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 (P)
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 Agenda

MOTION: Vice Chair DiZoglio made a motion to accept the agenda.
Member McCarthy Sirois seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

VOTE All in Favor

Flag Salute

1. Public Participation

Kristen Maxwell, 5 East Prospect Street, Methuen, Email read by Vice Chair DiZoglio

2. FY27 Proposed Budget Discussion

Acting Superintendent Lisa Golobski Twomey discussed her proposed budget since they last met. Her team went through the budget again to find additional areas of reduction and revised the short list of requests that they made for additional positions. They did show savings with

keeping class sizes under 26. She went over the positions that were cut and why they cut them, as well as what positions were added and the reason behind those.

Mr. Gosselin went over the numbers from the positions cut and what the savings will be. He also discussed how Chapter 70 state aid is down and enrollment is slightly down, but CTE enrollments are up. The CTE programs fund themselves.

Discussion: Members had a long discussion on the positions being cut and some wanted to see some much needed positions added. All members tried to come up with creative ideas on where to cut. All agree that this is extremely hard and not what they want. Some asked about cutting busing and sports or charging for busing and sports. That would not help the budget, most students would not be able to pay the fees. Courses at the High School can't really be touched either, it would increase class sizes. Class sizes were a major discussion for all of them along with the safety of staff and students if that happens.

Chair Beauregard would like to see structural reform. The current ways are not sustainable. He wants to have future conversations about constellations. Transportation and special education out of district fees are large factors of the increase in cost.

The use of chromebooks was brought up. The Acting Superintendent discussed how important the chromebooks are in the daily education of students and it wouldn't be beneficial to take those away. Redistricting, moving and combining classes to certain schools was talked about to try and save money. This wouldn't be able to be done so quickly. It would take years to accomplish this if it's possible. Changing the city insurance to GIC was discussed. This would save the city a lot of money. Some expressed their concerns that the unions have not been present, involved or offered any suggestions. They would like to see more support from the city, unions and government. Some unfilled positions have been reduced to \$1 to be able to reinstate if it's needed, some were eliminated.

Other ideas discussed were a four day school day, other states are doing this now, virtual teachers and consolidation of departments.

3. Any Other Business from the Committee

Member Baez talked about the Job Fair and what a great success it was. Many students got internships.

Member Donovan Grassi mentioned how hard the Methuen Scholarship Committee works to raise funds for senior scholarships.

Member McCarthy Sirois will be virtual for the next meeting.

MOTION: Member McCarthy Sirois made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Member Keegan seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in Favor

Adjourned at 7:50 PM