

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES
OF
THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WORKSHOP/BUSINESS SESSION MEETING

OF
MAY 27, 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

2026.05.27

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WORKSHOP/BUSINESS SESSION

MAY 27, 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

Vice Chair DiZoglio called the meeting to order at 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)

Chairperson Mayor David Beauregard, Jr. (A, entered the meeting at 6:35 PM)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Lisa A. Golobski Twomey, Ed.D. Acting Superintendent of Schools

Ian Gosselin, Asst. Superintendent of Finance and Facilities

Kelly Ford, Executive Director for Methuen Youth Community Center

Acceptance of the Agenda

MOTION: Member Keegan made a motion to accept the agenda for May 27, 2026

Member Baez seconded the Motion.

Discussion: None

VOTE: **All in Favor**

Flag Salute

1. Public Participation (Email read by Vice Chair DiZoglio)

Kristen Maxwell, 5 East Prospect Street, Methuen

2. School Choice Public Hearing (vote to enter and exit)

2026.05.27

MOTION: Member Baez made a motion to enter into the school choice public hearing.

Member Willette seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in Favor

No one signed up for the school choice public hearing

MOTION: Member Baez made a motion to end the school choice public hearing.

Member Willette seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in Favor

3. Approval of minutes - April 27, 2026 - April 30, 2026 - May 5, 2026

MOTION: Member Keegan made a motion to accept the minutes for April 27, 2026.

Member Baez seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in Favor

MOTION: Member Keegan made a motion to accept the minutes for April 30, 2026.

Member Baez seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0-1 Vice Chair DiZoglio abstained, he was not present for the meeting.

MOTION: Member Keegan made a motion to accept the minutes for May 5, 2026.

Member Baez seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in Favor

4. Strategy Plan Quarterly Update

Acting Superintendent Lisa Golobski Twomey gave her strategic plan quarterly update for quarter four, year two. Objective 1: Improve Literacy Development and Language Acquisition. She went over the Literacy Benchmark results for grades K-4 and presented the end-of-year DIBELS literacy screening data. Grade 1 had the strongest growth. Grades K-3 demonstrated positive improvement trends. Grade 4 showed less improvement. She went over the English Learner data, most EL students fall into the developing proficiency category. Grade 4 had the highest rate of achieving the score necessary to become former English learners. The district focuses on helping students exit the EL status before middle school and high school. New high school students have less time to achieve language proficiency before graduation.

Discussion: Committee Members had questions on the literacy data. Why some grades had increases in students needing support in the middle of the year. How the literacy screening data is

used alongside other information when considering special education evaluations and if grade 4 results indicate a need for further investigation.

For the early literacy and kindergarten readiness, Members discussed concerns that many kindergarten students begin school below grade-level expectations. Member Keegan suggested putting a grade in between kindergarten and first grade. The Acting Superintendent expressed concerns about separating students but acknowledged ongoing concerns about school readiness and the importance of early literacy interventions.

Members requested more information on students who are both English Learners and receive special education services. Trends involving older newcomer students, especially in grade 10 and whether legislative support may be needed to address challenges faced by newly arrived students.

Objective 2: To reduce opportunity and achievement gaps between student groups to ultimately improve outcomes. The Acting Superintendent discussed each of the following points: Accelerating Achievement Initiative, Suite of Grounding Documents, Cascade Updates and MTSS Revisioning Team Update. She shared the spring mental health screening overview. There was a strong participation rate of 86% in grades 5 through 12.

Discussion: None

Objective 3: To enhance partnerships with students and families. The Acting Superintendent talked about these highlighted key actions: Early College- Exploration with Northern Essex Community College, CPS Expansion, Horizon Camp- Year 2, Upcoming Student Activities (grade 8, grade 12) and Parent University.

Discussion: Member baez wanted to mention a few things that are working great, the designation , it's very important in terms of grant funding. The Uprise Summer Opportunity, and the partnership with the Play Ball Foundation. Year end events were discussed. Members would like them to be in an email for them to see what's coming up. Also, to see the 8th grade trips come back and be offered to everyone.

The Acting Superintendent went over some questions from the Committee regarding the Early College Program.

Chair Beauregard came into the meeting and took over at 6:35 PM

5. FY27 Budget Update

Acting Superintendent Lisa Gollobski Twomey and Mr. Gosselin shared their updates. Providing a list of positions needed to be cut to get down to the \$114 million. They also went over positions that were reinstated due to receiving an increase from the City Council and free cash from the Mayor.

Discussion: Members were concerned with cuts for a parent liaison at the Marsh, the clubs and activities advisors, and how staff would be called back. The Acting Superintendent explained the process of being called back and how they hand out the RIF paperwork. She is hoping to reinstate some positions once the funding comes through. Member Willette wanted to thank the

State Senator for the work on the Hill and to the Mayor and City Council for the free cash. He is very disappointed in the millionaires tax revenue not going to the schools where it was intended. Members thanked Mayor Bearegard and the Administration's Leadership Team for all the work that was put into the budget.

6. Discussion on Superintendent Search (Member Donovan)

Member Donovan explained why she put it on the agenda. She wants to move forward and get the process started. Mr. Gosselin said the contract is all set and ready for the School Committees approval.

Discussion: None

7. Discussion on Enrollment Forecast and Potential Redistricting/Building Use (Member Donovan, Member Sirois)

Member Donovan Grassi and Member McCarthy Sirois explained why they would like to see this discussed. Enrollments are dropping across the country. They did research and handed out articles to look at. Over the last ten years, enrollment here has dropped nine percent. They expressed that it's time to work together to address the issue. Redistricting and best use of space in the buildings.

Discussion: Members feel that it should be a discussion for a full committee and not a subcommittee to move forward. A recommendation was made to have an outside professional firm come in and study what's happening and make a formal recommendation to them. There should be a group from the community and hearings as well to give feedback.

Vice Chair DiZoglio also wants to discuss what the plan would be if we do get higher enrollments back.

Acting Superintendent Lisa Golobski Twomey agrees that it's worth looking at in the fall. She is behind bringing in a firm for recommendations. She would also like to do her own research and talk to other districts that have done this.

Members would like to start the process of doing the RFP now and looking at companies. Chair Beauregard reminded them that we don't have the funding source right now for it. Vice Chair DiZoglio will be looking at a grant.

8. Discussion on Establishing/Reviewing Emergency Protocols (Member Willette)

Member Willette discussed why he would like to see this protocol in place and have an emergency management team. This came about due to incidents in other schools, specifically the heat at the Timony. Member Willette requested reports on incidents during the heat wave days.

Discussion: Several Members received letters from parents regarding the heat at the Timony. They wanted to hear what happened and what they did for the situation. Mr. Gosselin explained the repairs made and the Acting Superintendent went over what happened and what procedures were taken that day.

9. 2026-2027 School Choice Vote Memo- Approval

MOTION: Member Baez made a motion to approve school choice for the upcoming school year.

Member McCarthy Sirois seconded the motion.

Discussion: Member Keegan would like to have school choice given the decline in enrollment. The income would help. She would like to see it opened up to a few grade levels with limited slots. Member McCarthy Sirois was rethinking her vote but doesn't feel there's enough time to get it up and running this school year.

ROLL CALL

Nicholas DiZoglio (No)

Mary Beth Donovan Grassi (No)

Alejandro Baez (Yes)

Laurie Keegan (Yes)

Martha McCarthy Sirois (No)

Kenneth Willette (No)

Chairperson David Beauregard, Jr. (Yes)

VOTE: 3-4-0 Fails

10. Constellations Resolution- Approval (Member Baez)

MOTION: Member Keegan made a motion to approve the Constellations Resolution.

Member McCarthy Sirois seconded the motion.

Member Baez explained what this resolution would do for the special education in the district. He would like to see this passed and is looking for the City Council to approve the funding from free cash.

Discussion: Member Donovan Grassi thinks it's a great idea but would like more information about the company and if they have done work in other districts in the area. She is worried and wants to make sure we are getting the best deal.

Members and the Acting Superintendent had a discussion about how good the program will be and it's a risk to take. They have been in our schools and have great data from them.

MOTION: Member Keegan made a motion to extend the meeting past 9:00 PM
Vice Chair DiZoglio seconded the motion

VOTE: All in Favor

Continued discussion, Chair Beauregard talked about where the funds would come from and that he needs the City Council's approval.

ROLL CALL

Nicholas DiZoglio (stepped out)
Mary Beth Donovan Grassi (Yes)
Alejandro Baez (Yes)
Laurie Keegan (Yes)
Martha McCarthy Sirois (Yes)
Kenneth Willette (Yes)
Chairperson David Beauregard, Jr. (Yes)

VOTE: 6-0-0 Passed

11. Bus Stop Traffic Violation Monitoring System- Approval (Member Baez)

MOTION: Member Keegan made a motion to approve the bus stop traffic violation monitoring system.

Member McCarthy Sirois seconded the motion.

Discussion: Members had a discussion about not knowing prior that the School Committee needed to approve this as well as the City Council. The City Council approved having this system a year ago. Chair Beauregard explained that the RFP is ready to go. Once the School Committee gives him their feedback, he will get the RFP out to select a vendor. Revenue from this would go into a revolving account and used to pay for transportation needs.

ROLL CALL

Nicholas DiZoglio (Yes)
Mary Beth Donovan Grassi (Yes)
Alejandro Baez (Yes)
Laurie Keegan (Yes)
Martha McCarthy Sirois (Yes)
Kenneth Willette (Yes)
Chairperson David Beauregard, Jr. (Yes)

VOTE: 7-0-0 Passed

12. Selection of Member to Serve on Wellness Committee- Approval (Member Baez)

Acting Superintendent Golobski Twomey explained what the committee does and who is on it already. They need a member of the School Committee to complete the committee. This committee would execute the wellness program. The policy points to the procedure and the procedure is created and impacted by the wellness committee for approval.

Member McCarthy Sirois nominated Member Baez to be on the committee.

Member Baez accepted the nomination.

ROLL CALL

Nicholas DiZoglio (Yes)

Mary Beth Donovan Grassi (stepped away)

Alejandro Baez (Yes)

Laurie Keegan (Yes)

Martha McCarthy Sirois (Yes)

Kenneth Willette (stepped away)

Chairperson David Beauregard, Jr. (Yes)

VOTE: 5-0-0 Passed

13. Ice Rink Rates FY27 and FY28 - Memo Approval

MOTION: Member Keegan made a motion to accept the ice rink rates for the upcoming school year.

Member McCarthy Sirois seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mr. Gosselin explained that Methuen Youth Hockey put the funds up to cover a partial cost of a zamboni . The school department took money off their rental until the amount they gave them was paid off. The amount has now been paid off. Members talked about how long the rink has been open for the summer and if other districts open as well.

VOTE: All in Favor

14. Apple Device Resale Memo- Approval

MOTION: Member McCarthy Sirois made a motion to approve the Apple device resale memo.

Member Keegan seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mr. Gosselin explained that this is done every year. Devices not usable are auctioned off and the funds are used to offset the insurance on chromebooks.

VOTE: All in Favor

15. Contract Approvals

a. Contract Awards- Memo

i. John Guilfoil - Public Relations and Communications Services Memo- Approval

MOTION: Vice Chair DiZoglio made a motion to approve the contract for John Guilfoil.

Member McCarthy Sirois seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

VOTE: **All in Favor**

ii. Zeal Education - Superintendent Search Firm - Approval

MOTION: Member Keegan made a motion to approve the contract for Zeal Education.

Member McCarthy Sirois seconded the motion.

Discussion: Vice Chair DiZoglio asked Mr. Gosselin if some of the contract could be paid now as a retainer. Mr. Gosselin does not recommend it.

VOTE: **All in Favor**

iii. Adam Schindler Plumbing & Heating - Boiler Repair 10 Ditson Pl. - Approval

MOTION: Member Keegan made a motion to approve the contract for Adam Schindler Plumbing and Heating.

Member McCarthy Sirois seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

VOTE: **All in Favor**

b. Youth Center Lease Addendum- Approval

MOTION: Member Baez made a motion to approve the Youth Center Lease Addendum.

Member Keegan seconded the motion.

Discussion: Members had a discussion on what the change in the lease is. The change is to have the ability to sublease. Kelly Ford, the Executive Director spoke about why they wanted to sublease some of the space. It would be subleased to other nonprofits in the Methuen area and other partners that they have. It's a way to generate revenue to keep their sustainability to continue the Youth Center as is. The revenue would go towards staffing, programming and keeping it free for the community. The square footage was to clarify their space. Member Baez asked if they had a plan in motion and ideas of who to sublease it to. Ms. Ford did explain their plans and ideas. Member Baez was also concerned about the historical records and artifacts in the space. It is being taken out and stored properly.

ROLL CALL

Nicholas DiZoglio (Yes)

Mary Beth Donovan Grassi (Yes)

Alejandro Baez (Yes)

Laurie Keegan (No)

Martha McCarthy Sirois (Yes)

2026.05.27

Kenneth Willette (Yes)
Chairperson David Beauregard, Jr. (Yes)

VOTE: 6-1-0 Passed

VIDEO ENDED, NO LIVE FEED

16. Any Other Business from the Committee , No live feed

Taken from notes from Secretary Donovan Grassi

MOTION: Vice Chair DiZoglio made a motion to adjourn the business session of 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)
Chairperson David Beauregard, Jr. (Yes)

VOTE: 7-0-0

● Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations contract

● Executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Methuen Education Association v. Methuen School Committee, MUP-26-11965.

Executive Session Strategy Session:

MOTION: Member Baez made a motion to enter into executive session.
Vice Chair DiZoglio seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL

2026.05.27

Nicholas DiZoglio (Yes)
Mary Beth Donovan Grassi (Yes)
Alejandro Baez (Yes)
Laurie Keegan (Yes)
Martha McCarthy Sirois (Yes)
Kenneth Willette (Yes)
Chairperson David Beauregard, Jr. (Yes)

VOTE: 7-0-0

Adjourned @ 9:35 pm

We will not reconvene after the executive session.