

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUSINESS/EXECUTIVE SESSION

OF

MARCH 9, 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

2026.03.09

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METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUSINESS/EXECUTIVE SESSION

MARCH 9, 2026

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

CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Chair Beauregard called the Business Meeting of March 9, 2026, to order at 6:00 PM, with a quorum of Members in attendance, and listed below.

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)

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

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 Golobski Twomey, Ed.D., Acting Superintendent of Schools
Ian Gosselin, Asst Superintendent of Finance & Operations
Gina Bozak, Asst. Superintendent of Student Services
Atty Michael Maccaro

Acceptance of the Agenda

MOTION: Member Baez made a motion to accept the agenda for March 9, 2026.
Member Keegan seconded the Motion

Discussion: None

VOTE: All Members are in favor

7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

1. Flag Salute

2. Participation by Others

a. SOAR Award - World Language

b. Student Representative Update

c. Staff Recognition - Vanessa Guthrie, Media Specialist

d. Public Participation

Tracy Swinarski, Staff Member

Deb Birch, 16 1st Street, Methuen

Kristen Maxwell, 5 East Prospect Street, Methuen

Heather Plunkett, 115 East Street, Methuen

3. Approval of Minutes- January 28, 2026, February 9, 2026

MOTION: Vice Chair DiZoglio made a motion to accept the minutes for January 28, 2026.

Member Keegan seconded the motion.

Discussion: Member Baez will be voting present due to not being there for the meeting.

VOTE: 6 Members in favor, 1 Member Present (Member Baez) **Approved**

MOTION: Vice Chair DiZoglio made a motion to accept the minutes of February 9, 2026.

Member Keegan seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

VOTE: 6 Members in favor, 1 Member Present (Member Baez) **Approved**

4. Staff Reports

a. Acting Superintendent Update- Memo

Acting Superintendent Lisa Golobski Twomey updated the Committee on Title 1 funding. Explaining how the State and Federal guidelines are and what we might be anticipating on getting for the next school year.

She did take the recommendation from Vice Chair DiZoglio to look for help while she is doing two positions. Acting Superintendent Lisa Golobski Twomey has many projects that she is working on. To maintain these, she reached out to staff within the district who are already working on some of these projects. John Crocker, Mental Health/Behavior Director, Meredith Moore, Math Dept Chair, and Christine Dumont, English Dept Chair. They will help execute her plans for the remainder of the school year. A stipend was offered to them.

b. Maintenance/Custodial Update- Memo

Mr. Gosselin did a memo regarding job description and title changes to the Facilities Director position. He would like to add a second shift Maintenance/ Custodial Supervisor who would report to the first shift Maintenance/ Custodial Supervisor, Willie Hernandez. This position is already in the budget.

Discussion: There was a discussion regarding the job titles, funding, and whether the changes need to be approved. Ian will add the approval for the next meeting.

c. Student Enrollment Data Report

Discussion: Acting Superintendent Lisa Golobski Twomey and Committee Members had a discussion about Kindergarten numbers and where we stand now. They had questions regarding why some school numbers have decreased while others have increased. Class sizes were another concern; teachers would be moved around to other grades if needed to bring the class size numbers down. Another discussion was about how the trend is showing a decline in the numbers. Member Keegan would like to see a different format on the report to have a clearer picture and breakdown of enrollments.

d. Assistant Superintendent of Student Services - Memo

Discussion: Member McCarthy Sirois would like to thank the FRC for their work on the residency re-checks for specific grade levels. Members asked when the ELPAC and CPAC groups would have meetings and when they would be at a School Committee meeting.

e. Director of Human Resources Staffing Report

Discussion: There was a discussion to see if there is anything the school district can do to fill the vacant positions for the upcoming school year. A suggestion was made to reach out to other communities that are having layoffs, offer courses, or reach out to Universities and work with them. Transparency with the community is important. Some concerns were if these positions could affect IEP's if not filled, and if the staff member is contracted, do they have access to email to contact parents.

f. MPS Discipline Report

Discussion: None

5. Old Business and Other Pending Matters

a. Methuen Public Schools Reconsideration of Classroom Library and Media Center Materials Procedure (Secretary Donovan-Grassi)- Second Read

MOTION: Member McCarthy Sirois made a motion to have a second read on the Classroom Library and Media Center Materials Procedure.

Member Keegan seconded the motion.

Member Donovan Grassi would like to clear up any misconceptions. This procedure would go in the handbook, which is the purview of the School Committee. This procedure is in response to legislation that was overwhelmingly passed by the House and Senate that promotes creating guidelines for how schools and libraries review challenged books. Specifically, books that are in our media centers that children have access to, and specifically to classroom libraries. Does not have to do with books in the curriculum.

Member Donovan Grassi wants to make an amendment.

MOTION: Member Donovan Grassi made a motion to amend the procedure to add: If a challenge book is reviewed and the decision is made to retain it, the same title may not be reconsidered for review for a period of three years.

Member Keegan seconded the motion

Discussion: Vice Chair DiZoglio would like to see this procedure put in section six under record keeping in the student handbook.

MOTION: Vice Chair DiZoglio made a motion to place the procedure under section six, record keeping, in the student handbook.

Member Donovan Grassi accepts the motion

Discussion: Vice Chair DiZoglio would like to have a book be eligible for review at twelve months, not three years.

Member Donovan Grassi explained that some communities found that there were repeated attempts to challenge the same book. It's a strain on the school to begin the process over again with typically the same outcome.

Member Willette mentioned that in ten years that the current policy has been in place, not one book was challenged. Focus should be on the Supreme Court decision and protecting the parents' rights through the Parents' Bill of Rights.

Vote on the amendment to put the procedure in section six, record keeping, in the student handbook.

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

MOTION: Motion made by Member Keegan to add as amended.
Member McCarthy Sirois seconded the motion.

Discussion: Vice Chair DiZoglio wants to add another amendment. He doesn't want a time limit on when a book can be reviewed. He amends the time from three years to twelve months.

MOTION: Vice Chair DiZoglio made a motion to change the book review time from three years to twelve months.
Member Baez seconded the motion.

Discussion: Members had a discussion regarding the pros and cons of having a difference from twelve months and three years. Some feel it should be a school year. Member Willette mentioned that in the ten years the policy has been in place, zero books have been challenged.

ROLL CALL (for the twelve month amendment)

Nicholas DiZoglio (Yes)

Mary Beth Donovan Grassi (No)

Alejandro Baez (Yes)

Laurie Keegan (No)

Martha McCarthy Sirois (No)

Kenneth Willette (Yes)

Mayor David Beauregard, Jr., Chairperson (No)

VOTE:

3-4-0

Amendment Fails

Discussion: Member Donovan Grassi explained that it's not about book banning. It's about creating a procedure so that parents can be heard. There would be a group of educators who are well-versed in grade-level reading for what's appropriate.

Vice Chair DiZoglio is fine with the procedure; he doesn't agree with the time to be challenged. Members discussed more about the time frame to challenge a book, and some feel it limits access for parents to come to the Committee.

Member Baez made it known that we have a policy already in place that covers this. He wants clarification on the difference between the current policy and the procedure presented, and which one would take precedence over the other with conflicts. He asked for advice. Council recommends making this a policy and not a procedure.

Member Baez would like to make a friendly amendment.

Member Baez would like to strike the first sentence of section 2, Formal Request for Reconsideration. Strike a parent/guardian, student or staff member may submit a completed request. He wants to add: any resident of Methuen may submit a completed request. He would also like to strike. A parent/guardian may submit a book challenge only for materials assigned to or within the grade level in which their child is currently enrolled. He asked for advice from the Council to see which would take precedence. The existing policy or procedure. Council recommends making the procedure a policy.

Member Willette seconded his proposed amendment.

Discussion: Member McCarthy Sirois isn't in favor of having community members challenge a book.

Member Willette is not in favor of book bans.

Chair Beauregard wants to focus on involving parents.

Member Baez explained why he proposed the amendment.

ROLL CALL (for Member Baez's proposed amendment)

Nicholas DiZoglio (No)

Mary Beth Donovan Grassi (No)

Alejandro Baez (Yes)

Laurie Keegan (No)

Martha McCarthy Sirois (No)

Kenneth Willette (Yes)

Mayor David Beauregard, Jr., Chairperson (No)

VOTE:

2-5-0

Amendment Fails

Back to the main motion

Member Donovan Grassi recommends that, after discussions to table this procedure and ask the Policy Subcommittee to take this on.

Vote to table the procedure

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

Tabled

6. New Business - None

7. Finance and Operations

a. Expenditure Report - Monthly

Mr. Gosselin pointed out that the available funds for both professional and other salaries on the sheet, due to vacancies, will need to be transferred out to other areas.

Discussion: None

b. Revolving Funds Report - Monthly

Mr. Gosselin mentioned that they are due for another circuit breaker deposit. With the heavy plowing, he did use some funds from the parking lot account to offset some of the plowing costs at the High School.

Discussion: None

c. Grants Report – Monthly

Discussion: Chair Beauregard mentioned that on the city side, the RFP for grant writing services recently closed and are in the process of evaluating the responses that they received. This will help the schools as well.

d. Student Activity Accounts – Monthly

TENNEY TIMONY CGS MARSH MHS

Discussion: Vice Chair DiZoglio had questions about the funds in the Marsh band line. Mr. Gosselin explained that those funds are raised by the students and used for supplies for the students. He will look into why there's a substantial amount in there.

e. Food Services Report/Memo

Discussion: Mr. Gosselin mentioned how good the High School cafe looks. They started painting and putting stencils up. The furniture will be coming in during April vacation and the furniture at the High School now will be going to the Grammar Schools to get rid of some older equipment.

There's a bid out to get new, upgraded energy-efficient serving line equipment for the grammar schools. Member Keegan wanted to make sure that this was going to help the long lines and give students more time to eat.

Member Willette thanked Mr. Gosselin and Mr. Fraiti for all their work in the cafes and the survey.

f. Warrants Approved Since Last Meeting:

1. February 6, 2026

2. February 13, 2026

3. February 20, 2026

Discussion: None

g. Contract Awards

Discussion: None

h. Transfer of FY26 funds - Approval

MOTION: Vice Chair DiZoglio made a motion to approve the transfer of FY26 funds.

Member Keegan seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mr. Gosselin is still going through the utilities to see how far we may be behind. He might need to do another transfer later.

Vice Chair DiZoglio wanted to know where we stand with the RFP for solar panels and how long it will take to approve it.

Chair Beauregard said it was in the Legal Department right now.

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

Unanimously Approved

8. Notification of Appointments and Other Personnel Matters

Discussion: None

9. Business from the Committee

Vice Chair DiZoglio wants to commend the girls' hockey team for making it to the championship game, which will be held at the Garden.

Member Donovan Grassi wanted to remind everyone that the Methuen Literacy Partnership has its first community meeting on March 24th at the Timony. She would like to see all the members there.

Member McCarthy Sirois mentioned the backpack program. Donations are still needed.

Chair Beauregard talked about the ST. Patrick's Day parade, and that the committee was still looking for school or PTO participation.

10. Executive Session

- **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;**
Acting Superintendent contract

MOTION: Member Baea made a motion to enter into Executive Session.

Member Keegan 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

Unanimously Approved

Adjourned: 8:09 pm

We will reconvene to an open session after the first executive session.

Open session begins at 9:23 PM

The committee took a vote to extend past 9 PM in executive session.

11. Approval of Acting Superintendent contract, No vote was taken

12. Executive Session

- Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 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 litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares; Custodian Negotiations

We will not reconvene after the executive session.

MOTION: Vice Chair DiZoglio made a motion to enter into executive session.

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)

VOTE:

7-0-0

Unanimously Approved

Adjourned: 9:25 PM

We will not reconvene after the executive session.