

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING BUDGET ADOPTION

OF

MAY 7, 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

2026.05.07

RECORDED MINUTES

METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING BUDGET ADOPTION

MAY 7, 2026

A Public Hearing of the FY'27 Budget of the Methuen School Committee will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., followed by the Adoption of the FY'27 Budget in the Media Center, Methuen High School, 1 Ranger Road, Methuen, MA.

Chair Beauregard called the meeting at 6:01 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 Keegan seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

VOTE **All in Favor**

Flag Salute

1. FY'27 Proposed Budget Presented by Acting Superintendent Golobski Twomey

Acting Superintendent Lisa Golobski Twomey presented her latest version of the budget. She has had several meetings with the School Committee and City Council. The Leadership Team has cut where they could and have reduced to a degree where they are able to maintain

services. The Acting Superintendent explained the binder that the School Committee Members received and the information in it. All materials handed out are posted on the Methuen Public Schools website. She explained how they arrived at the \$4.7 million reduction from the original proposal and also explained the different positions reduced and why they were reduced. The grid handed out shows the new class size threshold.

2. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FY'27 BUDGET

Tom Myers, 57 Cox Lane, Methuen
Sarah Calla, 151 Hampshire Road, Methuen
Maria Figueroa, 10 Hughes Road, Methuen
Colleen Muller, 13 Buttonwood Drive, Methuen
Ben Thompson, 318 Ferry Road, Haverhill (employee)
Dan Shibila, 22 Riverview Avenue, Methuen
Matt Bock, didn't give an address
Laura Peck, 14 Coachman Lane, Methuen
Noreen Flannigan Johnson, 11 Wayside Avenue, Methuen
Laurie Amico, 17 11th Avenue, floor 3, Haverhill (employee)

3. Close Public Hearing

MOTION: Member Baez made a motion to close the public hearing.
Member Donovan Grassi seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in Favor

4. ADOPTION OF THE FY'27 BUDGET

MOTION: Member Keegan made a motion to adopt the operating net school spending portion of the budget.
Member McCarthy Sirois seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Members wanted to make sure that the number presented was the number Mr. Gosselin gave them, not Mayor Beauregard's numbers. Mr. Gosselin reminded Members that we have not received any funds from the state. Mayor Beauregard has a one time cost and unemployment on his budget to come out of free cash. The investment in Constellations is not included. That will be separate.

Member Willette talked about how disappointed he is in the unions. He was hoping they had come forward with some solutions and ideas for them. He talked about the lack of government funding and that the union being so large, should go to Beacon Hill where the fight is to get more funding.

The GIC was brought up, this would save the city a very large amount of money.

Member Donovan Grassi expressed that everyone knows what students, staff and families need. No one feels good about this budget. The schools have always taken the brunt with layoffs. She is sorry we are in this position and need to move the city forward.

They all looked into ways to save and what they could do to bring money into the school system. Investing in the school district will be a priority moving forward. All Members and Chair Beauregard are working together to find a solution.

Member Baez thanked the public who spoke tonight and the Leadership Team doing their best in this process.

Chair Beauregard talked about the three biggest drivers of the cost going up. Out of district placements for special ed, transportation and contractual obligations. With cuts in federal aid, state aid not increasing by much and level service up by 11%, it's not enough to cover the difference. We are reaping decades of underinvestment in the schools. We need to start investing in school programs. He talked about the insurance issues the city is facing.

Members discussed their concerns on this budget, some are confused with the process and it doesn't make sense. They agree the Committee is collaborating well and will work together to come up with solutions. Many expressed how they were going to vote tonight and why. With class sizes increasing, safety in the classroom is very important. They talked about maintenance issues they faced in the past. They will go through each aspect of the budget and vote on it.

Vice Chair DiZoglio and Member Willette moved the question.

MOTION: No motion was made to adopt the operating net school spending budget of \$106,590,457 (no chargebacks).

Discussion - None

ROLL CALL

Nicholas DiZoglio (yes)

Mary Beth Donovan Grassi (yes)

Alejandro Baez (yes)

Laurie Keegan (no)

Martha McCarthy Sirois (no)

Kenneth Willette (no)

Mayor David Beauregard, Jr., Chairperson (no)

VOTE: 3-4-0 Failed

MOTION: Vice Chair DiZoglio made a motion to approve \$11,855,430 for total non-net school spending for transportation contracts and crossing guards.

Member Keegan seconded the motion.

Discussion - None

ROLL CALL

Nicholas DiZoglio (yes)

2026.05.07

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: Member Keegan made a motion to approve the total operating FY'27 budget of \$118,445,887.
Member Sirois seconded the motion.

Discussion - Vice Chair DiZoglio questioned the total amount they are voting on. He was told it's a formality.

ROLL CALL

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

VOTE: 3-4-0 Failed

MOTION: Member Keegan made a motion to approve the city chargebacks estimated at \$23,697,481.
Vice Chair DiZoglio 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 (yes)

2026.05.07

VOTE: 6-1-0 Passed

MOTION: Vice Chair DiZoglio made a motion to approve the total FY'27 operating budget (net and non net) plus chargebacks for \$142,143,368. Member Keegan seconded the motion.

Discussion - Member Baez mentioned that we have great Senators doing their job and trying to get more funding for us. He asked questions about different positions and if some could be moved around to other schools. He asked what the difference was between the bilingual liaison and a school secretary and the pay scale.

Member Sirois had a point of information. Secretaries have been reduced in the K-8 buildings. It was given up in cuts and never put back. She explained the difference in the jobs. She thanked Chair Beauregard for what he has done for the schools and the mice situation. She ran for the School Committee to try and make things better on the budget. The schools take the hit every year.

ROLL CALL

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

VOTE: 3-4-0 Failed

MOTION: Member Sirois made a motion to close the budget adoption session.
Vice Chair DiZoglio seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in Favor

MOTION: Vice Chair DiZoglio made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Member McCarthy Sirois seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in Favor

5. Adjourned at 7:57PM

2026.05.07

