

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WORKSHOP/BUSINESS SESSION

OF

MARCH 23, 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

2026.03.23

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METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WORKSHOP/BUSINESS SESSION

MARCH 23, 2026

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

Enter from executive session at 5:50 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)

MOTION: Member Baez made a motion to approve Acting Superintendent Lisa Golobski Twomey's contract.
Member McCarthy Sirois seconded the motion.

Discussion: Member McCarthy Sirois wanted to thank Lisa Golobski Twomey for taking on this task. She's doing a fabulous job and it's been a pleasure working with her.

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

MOTION: Vice Chair DiZoglio made a motion to adjourn this portion of the meeting.
Member Keegan seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in favor

Adjourned: 5:58 PM

This Workshop/Business Session started 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)
Mayor David Beauregard, Jr., Chairperson (P)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Lisa A. Golobski Twomey, Ed.D. Acting Superintendent of Schools
Colleen McCarthy, Human Resources Director
Josh Rogata, CTE Teacher, MHS
DECA students
Dr. Susan Gulney, HYA Representative
Dr. George Perry, HYA Representative

Acceptance of the Agenda

MOTION: Vice Chair DiZoglio made a motion to accept the agenda.
Member Keegan seconded the Motion

Discussion: None

VOTE: All Members are in favor

7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Flag Salute

1. Public Participation:

Jack Burke, (mic was off, didn't get an address)

Maria Figueroa, 10 Hughes Road, Methuen

2. DECA International Career Development Conference, April 25-30, 2026 - Approval

MOTION: Member McCarthy Sirois made a motion to approve students to attend the DECA conference.

Member Keegan seconded the motion.

Discussion: Josh Rogato spoke about the DECA program and the work the students have accomplished this year. They have about 250 students compete at the district level and 43 students competed last week at the state competition. Several placed in the top 12 in their respective events. Four students have qualified for the DECA International Career Development Conference in Atlanta in April. This program helps get students ready for the Business world. Three students talked about their experience in DECA and how it will help them choose a career.

VOTE: All Members are in favor 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

3. Interview Firms for Superintendent Search (Zeal Education Group, HYA Corporation)

Presentation from HYA: Dr. Susan Gulney and Dr. George Perry talked about how the company works, what the search process looks like and why the committee should choose them. They also explained what to expect from them and what the process is.

Discussion: Members wanted to know how they choose members to be on the screening committee and how many they would need. There are usually 7-10 members on the committee. Member Willette wanted to know if they are familiar with other area communities that are looking for Superintendents. He also asked if the search committee would be composed of diversity. They reassured that it all happens during the planning of the search committee. Then they would get who they want to include on the search committee.

Member Donovan Grassi wanted to know out of five to seven candidates, how many are sitting Superintendents and the impact on salary. They give every School Committee they work with a candidate summary sheet and they break down for the committee to show exactly how many individuals they have reached out to and how many have applied for the position and what their current position is. She also wanted to know what type of candidate they would get to be in place for August where it's so close. They assured the committee that their job is to find the perfect fit for Methuen. There was a discussion regarding the salary for the position.

Vice Chair DiZoglio inquired about the time of year the search happens and if there is a criteria for finding good candidates and what is the best time of year to find candidates. The company is busy in September and March. They are in constant contact with the committee. If they don't find a good candidate or need more time, they would let the committee know.

Member Baez wanted to know if the company would just be focusing on our community while the search is happening. They would be. Also he wants to make sure that they take in

consideration the dynamics of the city when it comes to choosing candidates. They will gather a list from the committee on what the community would like to see in a candidate.

Presentation from Zeal Education Group: Jeff Melendez talked about his career in education and how he started the firm. He discussed the different ways the firm reaches out to communities and students to get feedback on what type of candidate they are looking for. They take the information from Thought Exchange and different meetings they hold to create their version of a leadership profile. The firm will bring eight to ten of the best applicants to the committee. They do training with the committee as well to help them with the process of selecting final candidates. They offer Post-Hire Support for the new Superintendent.

Discussion: Members had several questions for Mr. Melendez. Member McCarthy Sirois was interested in what would make a candidate go across the country to apply for a job so far away. If there were several search teams going on at the same time, would they cross reference candidates. They would do that. Member Baez wanted to know if someone would be able to fill the survey out many times. There are many factors they put in place so you wouldn't be able to. He wanted to know how the search committee and School Committee works when they get the candidates. Vice Chair DiZoglio asked if there was a specific time of year that was better to find a Superintendent by September. Member Willette wanted to know if there was an advantage for the firm as it's a new market for them in Massachusetts. Mr. Melendez said that geography doesn't matter, it's about understanding the local community. Member Donovan Grassi asked if they offered bilingual representatives to help with the committees. They do offer someone. Could they have multiple searches going on at the same time as Methuen is having a search. There could be but it wouldn't interfere.

4. Policy Subcommittee Update

Member Baez updated the Committee on the first meeting they had. Member Baez was voted Chair and Member McCarthy Sirois was voted in as Secretary for the Policy Subcommittee. They identified what their duties, functions and goals are. The goal of the subcommittee is to finish the policy review with MASC by June. Working on Section I and Section J as well as working on the handbook for the district. Meetings will be held weekly. They also identified that one of their duties will be to consider policies that have been referred from the full committee to the subcommittee on an as needed basis. They will be reporting to the full committee any recommendations on a wellness policy that needs to get passed.

Discussion: Member Donovan Grassi wanted to know that if the subcommittee brings a recommendation to the School Committee, will it be a true recommendation that the board has agreed on and wants them to consider.

Member Baez said they talked about procedures and how things will be done. When they go through policies, Alicia, from MASC will send them her recommendations on the sections and they would all discuss it.

Vice Chair DiZoglio reminded everyone that anything coming from the subcommittee is a recommendation from that committee. He will be scheduling a meeting for the Redistricting Subcommittee soon.

Member Donovan Grassi gave an update on the Budget Subcommittee. They are starting to get some preliminary numbers and are waiting for some additional information. There will be a joint meeting with the City Council.

5. Methuen Public Schools Subcommittee Meeting Recording and Public Access Policy

Proposal First Read (Member Baez)

MOTION: Vice Chair DiZoglio made a motion to have the first read on the Subcommittee Recording and Public Access Policy.

Member Donovan Grassi seconded the motion.

Member Baez explained what the purpose is for this policy. The School Committee affirms its commitment to transparency, public access and accountability. To ensure the public has meaningful opportunities to follow the work of its subcommittees. This policy would require that all subcommittee meetings be recorded and that those recordings be made available to the public through the district's official website and media platform.

Acting Superintendent Lisa Golobski Twomey explained how this policy is feasible. Lisa checked in with the IT dept and Mr. Wilkins. They feel confident that there is a way to have a portable recording station. This way they wouldn't have to have subcommittee meetings in a large venue with a few people. There may be concerns about where all the footage would be stored and if there would be a cost.

Discussion: Members support the idea. They would like to see consistency of where the subcommittee meetings would be held. There were also concerns about having different timelines. They would like the meetings held at the same venues with the same times for consistency. At times it's not feasible to have them at night where employees will need to be present during the meetings. Chair Beauregard mentioned that they could hold the meetings anywhere, record them, then air them later. We also have the capability to meet via ZOOM and have those recorded.

Vice Chair DiZoglio wants the public to have access to the subcommittee meetings. *He would like to make a friendly amendment to Policy Section 1, Recording Requirement A. to add or before video format. He would like the sentence to read:*

All standing and ad hoc subcommittee meetings of the Methuen School Committee shall be recorded in audio and or video format. He wants this change in case some day there is no video, you can at least record it on a cell phone.

Member Baez will accept a debate on the amendment. There were discussions on how this would work and why each felt they wanted to keep the same wording or change it.

VOTE: All Members are in Favor 7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Motion: Vice Chair DiZoglio made a motion to approve Section 1, Recording Requirement A as amended.

Member Donovan Grassi seconded the motion.

Discussion: Member Keegan has concerns about storage and to have a video backup. There were also concerns about the cost.

Member Donovan Grassi wants to stay focused on the policy for now and address the storage at a later time. She would like to have Owl cameras for the meetings.

Member Baez does agree that there should be the same time and location. The language was built to accommodate all possible scenarios. For the storage, the language in the policy does say that it should follow the state retention schedule. Where to store it, they will look at different options.

MOTION: Member Donovan Grassi makes a motion to move the questions.
Vice Chair DiZoglio seconded the motion.

VOTE: All Members in favor of moving the question.

VOTE: All Members in favor of the Proposal as Amended. (Passed on the first read)

6. Maintenance/Custodial Supervisors Job Title and Description Change- Approval

Motion: Member McCarthy Sirois made a motion to approve the job tile and description change.

Member Keegan seconded the motion.

Discussion: Acting Superintendent Lisa Golobski Twomey reminded the committee that this was the same proposal brought by Mr. Gosselin on March 5, 2026 on the agenda and didn't have the vote for approval.

VOTE: All in favor

7-0-0 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

7. Selection of Additional School Committee Meeting Dates for Budget Workshops

Discussion: The Committee is discussing when they could add additional meetings to discuss the budget. Acting Superintendent Lisa Golobski Twomey is proposing April 16, 2026 for the date to present their first preliminary budget for review within subsequent workshop dates for them to discuss. Then go back and alter and revise it based on their feedback.

Members discussed if they could have more time and get the budget in advance to review the information so they could give their feedback at the next meeting. It would not be a comprehensive package presented to the Committee, just highlights on where they can make significant savings. Member Willette talked about funding from the state and federal level and the impact on the schools.

8. Any Other Business from the Committee

Member Donovan Grassi reminded everyone that the Methuen Scholarship Foundation Telethon is March 24 and 25, 2026. The first Literacy Meeting will be on March 24, 2026, 6-8 at the Timony School.

Member McCarthy Sirois wanted to remind everyone that we are still taking donations for the Backpack Program.

Member Baez mentioned that the 22nd Annual Valley Patriots Scholarship Badge will be awarding two Methuen students with scholarships on March 27, 2026.

Member Willette would like to see a second survey sent out based on the audit results.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Member Baez made a motion to adjourn the meeting
Member DOnovan Grassi seconded the motion.

VOTE: **All in favor,** adjourned at 8:43 pm