

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUSINESS/EXECUTIVE SESSION

OF

APRIL 13, 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

2026.04.13

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METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BUSINESS/EXECUTIVE SESSION
APRIL 13, 2026

This Business/Executive Session 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 this Business Session of April 13, 2026 to order at 6:00 PM, with a quorum of Members in attendance, and listed below.

ROLL CALL

Nicholas DiZoglio (A)
Mary Beth Donovan Grassi (P)
Alejandro Baez (P)
Laurie Keegan (P)
Martha McCarthy Sirois (P)
Kenneth Willette (P)
Mayor David Beauregard, Jr., Chairperson (P)
6 Present 1 Absent

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Vice Chair DiZoglio

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Lisa A. Golobski Twomey, Ed.D. Acting Superintendent of Schools
Ian Gosselin, Asst. Superintendent of Finance and Facilities
Colleen McCarthy, Human Resources Director
Gina Bozek, Asst. Superintendent
Tom Ryan, Athletic Director
David Finnerty, Student Representative
Tayyab Afzal, Student Representative
Ryan Sheehy, Red Rangers Girls Hockey Coach

MOTION: Member Baez made a motion to accept the agenda.
Member McCarthy Sirois seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

VOTE: All Members in favor

1. Flag Salute

Moment of Silence- Dr. Charles "Phil" Littlefield

2. Participation by Others

a. SOAR Award-None, (couldn't make it to the meeting)

b. Student Representative Update

David Finnerty gave an update on Stage Door 22 performance of "Mean Girls". The Eagle Tribune and the Blue and White (Methuen High School paper) worked together to publish a fullprint newspaper. Papers were given out for free to staff and students. April 2, 2026 was the Junior Prom at Castleton in Windham, New Hampshire. Winterguard wrapped up their 2026 season with great reviews.

c. Outstanding MHS Athletic Recognition: Red Rangers Girls Ice Hockey Team

Mr. Ryan talked about the girls hockey team, Red Rangers. The team won the state championship. He introduced Coach Ryan Sheehy. Ryan was named Boston Globe Coach of the Year and Lowell Suns Coach of the Year. He talked about their season on and off the ice. Senior Captain Ella Duffy spoke about the team and the year they had.

d. Public Participation

Tom Duggan , The Valley Patriot, presented a scholarship to Kellen St. Marie

Kristen Maxwell, 5 East Prospect Street, Methuen

Maria Figueroa, 10 Hughes Road, Methuen

Ellen M. Baranowski, Chairperson for Methuen Cultural Council, 23 Fairways Lane, Methuen
(letter read by Chair Beauregard)

3. Approval of Minutes- February 25, 2026 Workshop; February 25, 2026 Special Meeting;
March 9, 2026 Business Meeting; March 9, 2026 Special Meeting

MOTION: Member McCarthy Sirois made a motion to approve the minutes for February 25, 2026, Workshop.

Member Donovan Grassi seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

VOTE: All Members in Favor

MOTION: Member McCarthy Sirois made a motion to approve the minutes for February 25, 2026, Special Meeting.

Member Donovan Grassi seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

VOTE: All Members in Favor

MOTION: Member McCarthy Sirois made a motion to approve the minutes for March 9, 2026, Business Meeting.
Member Baez seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

VOTE: All Members in Favor

MOTION: Member McCarthy Sirois made a motion to approve the minutes for March 9, 2026, Special Meeting.
Member Baez seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

VOTE: All Members in Favor

4. Staff Reports

a. Acting Superintendent Update

Acting Superintendent Lisa Golobski Twomey talked about the accelerating achievement initiative from DESE. There will be three schools participating in the accelerating achievement program next year. The Tenney, Timony and High School will be in this new program. The district will be offering career advancement opportunities for Program Assistants. Staff members particularly in Special Education and English Learner Education have the opportunity to become certified license teachers through Bay Path University. So far, forty one staff members are interested.

Discussion: Member McCarthy Sirois wanted to know if Bay Path would be helping the staff members pass all the tests. It is part of the program.

Member Willette thanked the Acting Superintendent for sending the email regarding the Senate proposal for supplemental budget which passed recently. There is a differential between the Senate and the House. He is advocating for another letter or email to the legislative delegation on the House side to be advancing the Senate proposal.

b. Maintenance /Custodial Update

Mr. Gosselin gave an update on the cleanups at the buildings. The custodial staff will be working weekends to get this done. He is pleased to say that there were no rodent reports this year.

Discussion: Member Baez received emails regarding the snow put on the Tenney fields and wanted to know if the issues were addressed. They have been, the school worked with the DPW to clean it up.

Member Donovan Grassi wanted to know when the elevator floor would be fixed at the High School. The contract is complete so it should be soon. The goats will be back to clean up any poison ivy at the schools.

Member Willette received emails regarding the bleachers in the Timony field house while the Winterguard was in there. Sections of the bleachers are broken and out of service. There was a very large crowd at the performance. He asked when they would be fixed and what we are doing about over flows in the field houses.

Mr. Gosselin did reach out to Hussy for repairs. They did a temporary fix but they need to be overhauled. Due to the amount to, Ian needs to get two more quotes. It will be fixed once that is done. Acting Superintendent Lisa Golobski Twomey is aware of the situation. There was a miscommunication. The original date for the showcase had been planned then there was rescheduled. At the time it was rescheduled, it was understood that it was a practice site that was needed, not that they would be hosting other groups. The group was at the Timony due to other fieldhouses being booked. The Acting Superintendent had discussions with Mr. Ryan and Mr. Gosselin to make sure this doesn't happen again. Mr. Willette stated that he was pleased to see no reports from any school about rodents.

c. Student Enrollment Data Report

Discussion: None

d. Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Report

Discussion: Member Donovan Grassi wanted to know what the plus forty five means under the McKinney Vento section. Ms. Bozek explained that those numbers reflect from last month's report to now. It reflects from the invoices they received from different companies. Mr. Willette noticed that students were being withdrawn every month. He wanted to know if we are looking at the Real Estate transactions to match students up. Ms. Bozak said that they do use that. He would like to see the numbers on a report for that. Member Keegan wanted to know if we were checking residency for out of district students, they are. Member McCarthy Sirois would like Ms. Bozak to thank her staff at the FamilyResource Center for doing a great job. Ms. Bozek said that out of five hundred and ten residency checks from the Tenney and Marsh, only two have been withdrawn. Member Baez wanted to know if we track evaluation requests for IEP's from either educators or parents. He would like a report of how many requests they receive and from who.

e. Director of Human Resources Report

Discussion: There was discussion on CORI's for the employees. Member Baez wanted to know if they were completed for all staff. Mr. Gosselin and Ms. McCarthy explained what the school department does and what company we use. Front Line will be able to keep track and automatically send the form out to staff who need to renew it after three years. All CORI's will be completed soon. Member Willette thinks we should be aligned with the FBI database and not focused exclusively on CORI's. Human Resources uses the SAFIS, the national fingerprinting system, for new employees. The employees pay the fee unless it's requested later by the district. Then the district would pay for it.

5. Old Business and Other Pending Matters

a. Finance Subcommittee Update

Member Donovan Grassi gave an update on the Finance Subcommittee. The Committee met as well as having a joint meeting with the city. They ran ideas off of each other and talked about how they could work together.

b. Policy Subcommittee Update

Member Baez updated the Committee on the Policy Subcommittee. The meetings are weekly on Wednesdays at noon. They are making great progress and working on section I then section J after that. The Wellness Policy has been updated and they are hoping to have it passed soon.

c. ADF School District Wellness Program - Second Read -Approval

Member Baez wants to make an amendment before they proceed. Under the section Wellness Committee, the sentence:

The school committee designates the following individual(s) as wellness program coordinator, Food Services Director to the Superintendents designee.

MOTION: Member Baez made a motion to adopt the proposed amendment.

Member McCarthy Sirois seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in Favor Passed

Member Baez made a motion to approve as amended and return to the main motion.

Member Sirois seconded the motion.

Returning to the main motion, Member Baez mentioned that the policy came back from the first read due to two different proposals for the policy. The subcommittee came back to the table and had a discussion with the MASC representative on how to move forward. She gave them suggestions on the language and then had the Wellness Committee come in with recommendations and goals based on the policy.

Discussion: None

VOTE: All in Favor Passed

d. Memo Policy JICFB revision-Second Read - Approval

MOTION: Member McCarthy Sirois made a motion for the approval of Policy JICFB revision-Second Read.

Member Keegan seconded the motion.

Discussion: Member Baez wasn't on the committee for the first read so he went back and looked at the meeting. There is a policy and an implementation plan all in one document which means the Bullying Policy would need to be changed every two years. He is suggesting that there should be a Bullying Policy and have the Superintendent create an implementation plan that is changed and approved every two years.

VOTE: All in Favor Passed

e. JICFB-Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan- Second Read - Approval
(On agenda twice in error)

6. New Business

a. 2025-2026 Last Day of School Monday, June 22, 2026- Approval

MOTION: Member Donovan Grassi made a motion to approve the last day of school.

Member Keegan seconded the motion.

Discussion: Member Donovan Grassi wanted the situation at the Marsh School clarified. The school was closed for the day due to the cold and some pipes froze and burst. Acting Superintendent Lisa Golobski Twomey wrote a letter to the Commissioner requesting a waiver for the Marsh, which he granted. He realized that opening the district for one day would come at a cost to the district and we already met the required hours for instruction. All students will conclude on the same day.

VOTE: All in Favor Approved

b. 2026-2027 School Calendar - Approval

MOTION: Member Baez made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar.

Member McCarthy Sirois seconded the motion.

Discussion: Member Keegan and Member Baez will be voting no. They would like to have all major religious holidays considered and not just one group.

Member Baez asked if the teachers always had one day to prepare for their class before the students started school. He was concerned about IEPs getting read. Acting Superintendent Golobski Twomey said that it is common practice and the teachers have in their MOA the structure for the start of school. They have access to the class lists prior to the start of school. Member Willette wanted to make sure that staff and students had excused absences if they take their religious holiday off. The district does offer excused absences for the staff and students. Other communities have tried to take Good Friday off the calendar but it resulted in too many staff members out and they had to cancel school. The holiday is in all the contracts as a day off. Tayyab Afzal talked about how he and his friends have had their religious holidays off and they had their absences excused. The staff are also very respectful when it comes to homework as well. They are very understanding.

Member Donovan Grassi appreciates the concerns and to keep in mind the challenges if it's taken off with staff. Moving forward, she would like to have more discussions on it.

Acting Superintendent Golobski Twomey went through some other changes in the calendar for next year and explained why they were changed.

ROLL CALL

Nicholas DiZoglio (A)

Mary Beth Donovan Grassi (Yes)

Alejandro Baez (No)

Laurie Keegan (No)

Martha McCarthy Sirois (Yes)

Kenneth Willette (Yes)

Mayor David Beauregard, Jr., Chairperson (Yes)

VOTE: 4-2-1 Approved

c. 2026-2027 School Committee Meeting Calendar - Approval

MOTION: Member Baez made a motion to accept the 2026-2027 School Committee calendar.

Member McCarthy Sirois seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

VOTE: **All in Favor** **Approved**

d. Awarding of Bid for Superintendent Search- Approval

MOTION: Member Keegan made a motion to approve and award ZEAL the bid for the Superintendent search.

Member Baez seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

VOTE: **All in Favor** **Approved**

7. Finance and Operations

a. Expenditure Report – Monthly

Discussion: None

b. Revolving Funds Report – Monthly

Discussion: Member McCarthy Sirois asked about the budget for utility bills. Mr. Gosselin said they are struggling right now. We need to transfer funds at the next meeting to close out the year.

c. Grants Report – Monthly

Discussion: Chair Beauregard mentioned that he has undergone a bidding process for grant writing services through the city which would also help to support the schools. They are going through the process of evaluating the responses and hope to have a contract on the next agenda or the one after that. He has the bid specs for a federal funding consultant which is separate from what they would use for the grant writing vendor. This is more of a government relations/lobbying firm to help us go after federal earmarks.

d. Student Activity Accounts – Monthly

TENNEY TIMONY CGS MARSH MHS

Discussion: Member Keegan mentioned that the CGS needs to either move the funds or spend some of it. Mr. Gosselin said that they are all set now.

e. Food Services Report & Memo – Monthly

Discussion: None

f. Warrants Approved since last meeting:

1. March 5, 2026
2. March 12, 2026
3. March 20, 2026
4. March 30, 2026
5. April 2, 2026

Discussion: None

g. Contract Awards - None

h. Acceptance of New FY26 Grant Awards - Approval

MOTION: Member Baez made a motion to approve the acceptance of the New FY26 Grant Awards.

Member McCarthy Sirois seconded the motion.

Discussion: Member Donovan Grassi wanted to know what the funds over three years are allocated for.

Acting Superintendent Golobski Twomey explained that OpenSciEd is a science program for students in grades six through eighth. There is a fifth grade curriculum that's available but is not included in this grant. The funding from the grant brings professional development for the teachers. There's a four day launch for professional development experience that they will all have access to. There's an option to go late summer or in September. It's a nice opportunity to connect with other districts within our cohort. Hotels and accommodations are provided for the teachers. This continues over three years.

Tayyab Afzal wanted to have a better understanding of the cafeteria refresh grant. Was the money allocated from that grant specifically for the cafeterias environment or were there any other conditions. He was hoping to have more student input.

Mr. Gosselin said that it was not a grant, it was money raised by the cafeteria and needs to be spent on the cafeterias or on the lunch program. It's a good idea moving forward to the Grammar schools to have surveys or committees to get student and staff feedback.

Member Willette would also like to see a survey for that as well.

VOTE: All in Favor Approved

8. Notification of Appointments and Other Personnel Matters

a. Discussion and vote on the appointment of Acting Superintendent to Interim Superintendent for the 2026-2027 school year - Approval

MOTION: Member McCarthy Sirois made a motion to appoint Acting Superintendent Lisa Golobski Twomey to Interim Superintendent for the 2026-2027 school year.

Member Keegan seconded the motion.

Discussion: Member Willette was concerned with the urgency of having the agenda amended. It should be done for emergency purposes only. We need to make sure we are in compliance and it could have been done in May. He also feels that Vice Chair DiZoglio should be there to vote. He does feel that Acting Superintendent Golobski Twomey is doing a great job. He would like to table the vote.

Other members had a discussion and feel that there is an urgency to this vote. With the budget coming up, staffing decisions, year end closing, test scores coming out, they need to put the staff at ease and have stability. Member Baez just wanted to make sure the procedure was being followed. A vote can take place now. Any contractual agreements need to be done in executive session.

Member Willette wants to wait until May and have it on the original agenda.

MOTION: Member Willette made a motion to table this vote.
Member Baez seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL

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

VOTE: 1-5-1 Motion to Table Failed, (back to main motion)

Discussion: None

ROLL CALL

Nicholas DiZoglio (A)
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: 5-1-1 Approved

9. Business from the Committee

Member McCarthy Sirois wanted to remind people that we still need food donations for the Backpack Program.

Member Donovan Grassi mentioned that Methuen Scholarship Foundation had a successful telethon and the auctioning is still continuing. It's run by parents and the scholarships are offered to Methuen High School students. There are still events that are being held. A Craft Fair May 2, 2026 at Methuen High, Music Bingo May 16, 2026 at the VFW, Community Yard Sale, June 13, 2026 at Branch Street. All year they collect unused clothes that can be dropped off anytime at Branch Street in the big box truck.

Member Willette would like to add his voice to supporting the GIC and the entry into the GIC. It's a difficult task the Mayor is doing and he appreciates that. Other neighboring communities have joined it. We could produce a five percent savings by joining the GIC.

Chair Beauregard wanted to let everyone know that no decision has been made. They are engaging in active conversations with members of the negotiating committee and unions.

Member Baez is requesting that on the discipline report, get another section on incidents that lead to lockdowns in our schools.

10. Executive Session

- 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; Unaffiliated
- 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 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 declares – Methuen Custodian Association.

We will not reconvene after the executive session.

MOTION: Member Baez made a motion to go into executive session.
Member McCarthy Sirois seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL

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

Adjourned at 7:46 PM