

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED MINUTES

OF

THE METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION

OF

MAY 5, 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

2026.05.05

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METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION

MAY 5, 2026

This Budget Workshop Session of the Methuen School Committee was held at 6:00 PM in the Searles Building Great Hall, 41 Pleasant Street, 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, Virtual)

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: Member Baez made a motion to accept the agenda.

Member Keegan seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

VOTE All in Favor

Flag Salute

1. Public Participation

Sharon LaPlante, Staff

Kara Blatt, Staff, MEA President

2. FY27 Proposed Budget Discussion

Acting Superintendent Lisa Golobski Twomey took a look at the budget again to try and get closer to the Mayor's numbers. They are still way off.

Mr. Gosselin started the budget numbers at approximately \$123 million and has it down to approximately \$114 million. He went over the spreadsheets he handed out.

The Acting Superintendent explained how they came up with the reductions and updated the class sizes. The threshold for class sizes is now thirty but no classes are at thirty. Most are at twenty four to twenty six. These numbers do not include the sub separate students. The reduced positions were discussed as well as the positions that need to be added.

Member Baez acknowledged the City Councilors who met with the Acting Superintendent and Mr. Gosselin to hear about the issues and concerns pertaining to the budget.

Members talked about the positions that were being cut and how many there will be. They also wanted to make sure they were still in compliance with special education. Free cash was discussed for unemployment and to cover other expenses and investments for the school. We are still waiting to hear from the state on the amount they will give the district.

Member McCarthy Sirois needed to leave the meeting, she left at 6:35PM.

There was a long discussion with Members and the Leadership group over user fees. This included looking at fees for busing and user fees to play sports. They were given numbers that other districts charge. Methuen has a large number of students on free and reduced lunch, so the amount of fees collected from other students wouldn't make a big difference. Mr. Gosselin was also concerned about the students walking to school and also that many students wouldn't be playing sports. They would also need to get staff to monitor it. They looked at reducing costs for crossing guards, attorneys, lunch monitors and Humanities Supervisors. Cutting any of those would not save the district the money they need.

Fees for facilities (fieldhouse, ice rink, auditorium) were discussed. The funds that go into the facilities account goes back into the facilities. Member DiZoglio would like to see more revenue coming into facilities to support students long term.

Acting Superintendent Golobski Twomey thanked the Boosters. They are a great help with donations and uniforms.

Ms. Bozek explained how the out placement tuition costs are set. We don't set the rate. We are told the mandatory cost amount to provide services. She is working with Constellations to get recommendations and to find out how the program would work and cost.

Chair Beauregard explained to the Committee how he has to provide a balanced budget to the City Council. Members talked about the process of voting on the budget and if there could be any more cuts.

Chair Beauregard ended the meeting saying that none of this is good for the city or the schools. We are a middle class community and we don't have the option to reach out for more money. The Federal Government has cut the funds that are given to the state. The state needs to pick up added expenses.

3. Any Other Business from the Committee - None

4. Adjourn

MOTION: Vice Chair Dizoglio made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Member Baez seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in Favor

Adjourned at 7:47 PM