

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, November 7, 2016
Malden Senior Center 7 Washington Street

Mayor Christenson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Mayor Christenson announced that the next School Committee meeting will be Monday, December 5, 2016 at 6:30 pm in the Malden Senior Center, 7 Washington Street.

Mayor Christenson led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence for those who have served our country and for those who continue to do so.

Roll Call

The following attendance was taken:

Mayor Christenson	Present
Ms. Beardsley	Present
Ms. Bordonaro	Present
Mr. Drummey	Present
Mr. Froio	Present
Mr. Iovino	Present
Mr. Leone	Present
Mr. Marsh	Present
Mr. Silverman	Present
Superintendent Grandson	Present
Asst. Superintendent Keenan	Present
Asst. Superintendent Johnson	Present
Student Representative James Mac Clerk	Present

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the Executive Session of August 29, 2016, Regular Session minutes of October 17, 2016 and Executive Session minutes of October 17, 2016. Mr. Iovino made a motion to approve the Executive Session minutes of August 29, 2016, Regular Session minutes of October 17, 2016 and Executive Session minutes of October 17, 2016. Mr. Leone seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Mayor Christenson deferred to the audience for anyone who may have any comments.

Ms. Sarah Strayer, 43 Havelock Street, Malden

Ms. Strayer, a homeowner in the Salemwood School neighborhood area, has been teaching at the Salemwood School for 18 years. Ms. Strayer, who supports voting no on Question 2, heard concerns raised from neighbors about class sizes in Salemwood School. She suggested that the Parent Information Center (PIC) consider adding a fourth criterion which is class size equity when enrolling students in schools in addition to the current criteria: 1) student's need for a specific program 2) placing siblings in the same school and 3) student's address and proximity to school.

Ms. Bonnie Page, President of the Malden Educators' Association

Ms. Page thanked the School Committee for voting on the resolution to keep the cap on charter schools. She mentioned that the advertisements on television and radio stating that this issue will only affect nine districts are untrue. She said that Malden lost \$9 million last year and this year, contradicting the recent article written by City Councilor and Mystic Valley Chair, Neil Kinnon, that stated Malden will not be affected if Question 2 passed. She mentioned that the article further stated that the Malden Public Schools ended FY15 and FY16 with surpluses exceeding \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 that had to be returned to the city by June 30. She said that the year ended with deficits, the union being asked to give back their negotiated raise and the School Committee having to cut librarians and bus transportation. Ms. Page asked for volunteers to hold up signs for Question 2 on election day.

Penny Kalman, 194 Bainbridge Street, Malden

Ms. Kalman has been teaching at the Salemwood School for 18 years. Ms. Kalman expressed concern about growing student population at Salemwood School. She pointed out that Salemwood School receives most of the non-English speaking students from around the city, who are placed in the SEI1 program. When these students graduate from SEI1 to the SEI2 setting with the regular education population, they add to the class size. Ms. Kalman raised the question of whether the students who exit the SEI1 class should attend their own neighborhood schools, just as any new English speaking students who move to Malden are expected to do. She commented that teachers in her team had 118 students on August 29 but the number increased to 133 students on November 7. She continued that since all Malden school teachers are required to be SEI endorsed, there is no reason why the SEI2 students can't go to their neighborhood schools the following year.

Bonnie Littlejohn, 127 Emerald Street, Malden

Ms. Littlejohn expressed concern about the rationale for the transportation vote to be made at the School Committee meeting. She asked about the source for the extra \$30,000 - \$50,000 that will be spent for the bus transportation. She said that it seems very unfair that the money will be used for less than 2% of the Malden Public Schools student population. She asked the School Committee to consider spending this extra money for all or the majority of Malden Public Schools students rather than just a select few. She commented that there were many cuts made that affected the school system as a whole that could be reinstated with the \$50,000 such as K-8 supplies, long-term substitutes or a clerk at the Parent Information Center (PIC).

Dawn Marie O'Toole, 130 Adams Street, Malden

Ms. O'Toole voiced her concerns as a parent about the bus being only available for the students attending the Linden School. Ms. O'Toole stated that the money would be better spent on the 98% of students rather than just the 2% of students who would benefit from the bus service. She also commented that there were many parents at the earlier school committee meetings this year voicing their concerns over the \$400,000 budget cut on transportation, but that they were not in attendance at the subsequent meetings to follow-up on the transportation issue. She commented that the \$50,000 allocated for the bus transportation could be spent on other things that would benefit more students such as K-8 supplies, long-term substitutes, a clerk at the Parent Information Center (PIC) or a staff member who rotates among all the schools one day a week to open the libraries.

Ms. Birukti Tsige, Ms. Cedrina Missamou and Ms. Ruthie Bilimo, Malden High School Students

Ms. Tsige, Ms. Missamou and Ms. Bilimo spoke about the Malden High School Handbook policy which only allows students to wear head wraps for religious purposes. Many students who have been wearing head wraps for cultural reasons have been asked to take it off. The students commented that the

handbook does not reflect cultural awareness and diversity. They asked that the School Committee consider changing the rule in the handbook. Mayor Christenson informed the students that normally the School Committee members do not converse during the public comment section but because of their presentation, they were going to dispense that rule. Mayor Christenson thanked them for handling the situation with decorum and responsibly.

Mr. Iovino made a motion to insert the word cultural in the Malden High School handbook and Mr. Froio seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Beardsley voted YES

Ms. Bordonaro voted YES

Mr. Drummey voted YES

Mr. Froio voted YES

Mr. Iovino voted YES

Mr. Leone voted YES

Mr. Marsh voted YES

Mr. Silverman voted YES

Mayor Christenson voted YES

Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

1. Beebe School Student Presentation – Authentic Learning by Middle School Students
Dr. Vatalaro, Principal of Beebe School introduced the middle school students from Beebe School who went on to present Google Classroom, Earth Day Memories, Eagles Nest at Stone Zoo and Band Program.
2. District Highlights
Superintendent Grandson spoke about the recent Comprehensive District Review that was conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary (DESE) over four days. DESE will send a final report of their findings in 2-3 months.

As an effort to provide a globally competitive educational experience for every child, Instructional Focus Walks (IFW) have been organized at different schools in the school district. The next IFW will be at the Salemwood School on November 9, 2016.

Congratulations was extended to Mr. Luongo and his class at Malden High School for their feature in the Malden Observer on Art & Politics about the portrait caricatures they made of local and national politicians. Their art will be on display at the Malden High School until November 14, 2016.

The Meet and Greet with Families at the Forestdale School on October 26, 2016, received good response and a great discussion on improving the school system ensued.

3. Transportation Update
Superintendent Grandson informed that the results of the district wide survey sent to parents showed that the Linden School had the greatest need. The school system will have to spend between \$38,000 - \$43,000 on the school bus, even with the cost-share program. The bus transportation is ready to start in December and payment from the families will only be accepted in the form of money order which must be paid by November 28, 2016.

Members of the School Committee provided their comments on the issue of whether to go ahead with providing the transportation for the Linden School as well as other options that might be available to parents and students. It was agreed that any decisions on this matter will be made during the deliberations section of the meeting.

4. Superintendent Grandson presented the MCAS, PARCC and accountability data. Malden Public Schools has been ranked at Level 3 because the ranking is based on the lowest performing school in the school district, which is the Malden High School. All the K-8 schools in the school district are at Level 2. Dr. Grandson concluded the presentation by stating that more work needs to be done to continue making progress in these areas.

Subcommittee Reports

1. **Social, Emotional and Physical Well-Being Subcommittee – Mr. Marsh**
This subcommittee was formed last month with members being Mr. Marsh, Ms. Beardsley and Mr. Silverman. The first task at hand for this sub-committee is to add the substance abuse policy into the school handbook. Mr. Marsh commented that the subcommittee members will set a date to meet about this matter so that they can put together a proposal at the next meeting.
2. **Public Facilities and Safety Subcommittee – Mr. Leone**
The first Public Facilities and Safety Subcommittee meeting was held a few days ago and it was also attended by Chief Molis. One of the two topics discussed was the replacement for the Security and Safety Coordinator position. No decision was made but points were raised and considered. When the Public Facilities and Safety Subcommittee makes a decision and if it involves monetary value, it will have to go to the Budget Subcommittee. Mayor Christenson mentioned that this topic might be further discussed in deliberations.

Deliberations

1. **School Enrollment – Mr. Iovino**
As of November 4, 2016, school enrollment was 6,810. For the last two and a half years, the largest enrollment number was 6,817 in June. Since August, the net increase was 312 students. Mr. Iovino stressed that we're at a point where something needs to be done in terms of acquiring additional space. Mr. Iovino brought up the matter of the letter, a statement of interest to the school building assistance bureau, which is not binding on anyone but is needed to get the message out that we may have to look at an addition to the schools.
2. **Combating the Opioid Crisis – Ms. Bordonaro**
Ms. Bordonaro spoke about the opioid epidemic which is of great concern because it is very widespread. Examples of age appropriate substance abuse prevention curriculums implemented in New York and Los Angeles were highlighted. Everett and Wakefield have posted two positions, Program Coordinator and Clinician, based on funding received. Everett is also waiting for additional funding from the state and federal level to post for a teacher position, who will rotate among schools, teaching the health curriculum focused on the substance abuse problem. Ms. Bordonaro is looking at grants to tackle this issue and requested to act as a liaison for this project, and to continue working with counterparts like Everett, Revere and Wakefield, that have implemented programs around preventing substance abuse. Mr. Iovino made a motion to nominate Ms. Bordonaro to go forward with this effort to gather information on ways to combat the opioid crisis. Mr. Marsh seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Family and Community Engagement Task Force – Mr. Marsh
Mr. Marsh asked for approval to setup an Advisory Committee to the School Committee which is called the Family and Community Engagement Task Force. This will provide a platform for educators, parents and students to help find additional funding for the school district and work as a team. The vision of this task force, if enough people participate, would be to form sub-groups to work on different initiatives. Motion to setup the Family and Community Engagement Task Force Advisory Committee to the School Committee comprised of parents, educators and students, was made by Mr. Marsh and seconded by Mr. Leone. Motion passed unanimously.

4. MHS Building Safety Monitor FY17 – Mr. Leone
Mr. Leone invited Ms. Bordonaro to speak about a topic brought up at the Public Facilities and Safety Subcommittee meeting. Ms. Bordonaro said that in the K-8 Handbook, there is no mention about how student to student altercations will be handled. Ms. Bordonaro added that she will be working with Superintendent Grandson and school officials to look into this matter so that there will be something in place for the next school year. Superintendent Grandson commented that the attorney who worked together with the school on the handbook will be consulted to provide input on the recourse students have if they are involved in physical altercations with other students.

Mr. Leone highlighted two other issues to consider which is firstly, the need for a safety monitor for two nights a week till the end of the school year, and the second issue being the need to fill the recently vacated District Safety Coordinator position. Bunker Hill Community College is currently paying for a safety monitor at the high school for three nights a week.

When asked to comment, Superintendent Grandson clarified that there is a possibility that current staff might be able to help with security needs for 2 nights a week from now to the end of the school year. Superintendent Grandson added that there are plans in place for the District Safety Coordinator position for the remainder of the school year, and that this matter can be reviewed again through the FY18 budget process.

Mr. Leone made a motion to defer this matter to the Public Facilities and Safety Subcommittee, and Budget Subcommittee before bringing it to the School Committee Retreat on November 18-19, 2016. Mr. Iovino seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Beardsley voted NO
Ms. Bordonaro voted YES
Mr. Drummey voted YES
Mr. Froio voted YES
Mr. Iovino voted YES
Mr. Leone voted YES
Mr. Marsh voted YES
Mr. Silverman voted NO
Mayor Christenson voted NO
Motion carries 6-3.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Iovino made a motion to NOT approve the transportation plan to provide a bus for the Linden School. The motion was seconded by Mr. Silverman. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Beardsley voted YES

Ms. Bordonaro voted YES
Mr. Drummey voted YES
Mr. Froio voted YES
Mr. Iovino voted YES
Mr. Leone voted YES
Mr. Marsh voted YES
Mr. Silverman voted YES
Mayor Christenson voted YES
Motion passed unanimously.

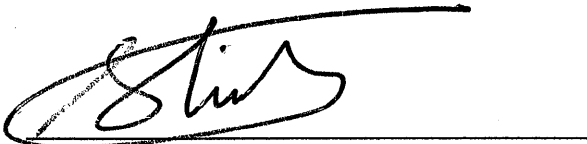
Resolves

Personal Privilege

Adjournment

Mr. Marsh made a motion to adjourn at 8:44 pm. Mr. Froio seconded and it was so VOTED.

I certify that a notice of this meeting was filed with the Clerk of the City of Malden in the manner provided under Chapter 39, Section 23A of the General Laws.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shirley", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Shirley Dorai, Clerk