

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, September 21, 2015
City Council Chambers – Malden Government Center

Mayor Christenson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Mayor Christenson announced that the next School Committee meeting will be Monday, October 19, 2015 at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers.

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.

1. Roll Call

The following attendance was taken:

Mayor Christenson	Present
Mr. Casucci	Absent
Mr. Cicolini	Present
Ms. Doucette	Present
Mr. Froio	Present
Mr. Iovino	Present
Mr. Leone	Present
Mr. Silverman	Present
Mr. Weldai	Present
Superintendent DeRuosi	Present
Asst. Superintendent Chase	Present
Asst. Superintendent Johnson	Present
Student Rep. James Mac Clerk	Present

2. Approval of Minutes

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the Regular and Executive Session of August 31, 2015. Ms. Doucette made a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Session.

Mr. Silverman seconded and it was so VOTED (1 abstain). Ms. Doucette made a motion to approve the minutes for the Executive Session. Mr. Weldai seconded and it was so VOTED (1 abstain).

3. Public Comment

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

Erika Israelson, 3 Saville Street, Saugus, came before the committee regarding class size. Ms. Israelson stated that she grew up in Malden and is a 1st grade teacher at the Ferryway. She explained that 1st grade classrooms at the Ferryway have 27 students and no paraprofessionals. She is asking the School Committee to work on short term solutions as well as long term solutions regarding the class sizes. Ms. Israelson commented that she is afraid that with so many students in the younger elementary classrooms, something important could get missed.

Deb Gesualdo, 34 Abington Road, Danvers, a K-8 Music teacher at the Linden S.T.E.A.M. Academy, came before the committee to announce some new innovative classes they were offering at the Linden. She explained that

the Exploratory Team is piloting a new elective program for 7th and 8th grade students. The students have the option of picking from very different classes such as, computer coding, song writing and composition, media and art.

Bonnie Page, 25 Hood Road, Tewksbury, President of MTA came before the committee to inform everyone of an early childhood task force that Superintendent DeRuosi put together. This task force includes 1 kindergarten teacher from every school along with their Assistant Principal. In addition, both Bonnie Page and Jess MacLeod from the ELC are also on the task force. Ms. Page went on to explain that at their last meeting many issues that pertain directly to preschool/kindergarten children were discussed. Ms. Page will be returning to address the committee again with any progress or news from the task force.

Edan Garhart-Smith, 44 Greystone Road. Ms. Garhart-Smith has a son who currently attends 1st grade at the Linden. Ms. Garhart-Smith's concern is also with class size. She stated that her sons class currently has 27 students. She questioned the committee on why the gifted program only has 19 students in it and the regular classrooms are overcrowded at 27. She stated that she didn't think it was fair that there were different standards between the regular classes and the gifted programs.

4. Superintendent's Reports

1. Salemwood School Summer Calculus Project – Principal Keenan reported that national studies have shown that typically high school seniors do not take calculus their senior year. A group of 45 students was formed that did not have high math grades. Several 7th and 8th grade math teachers along with several high school students as teacher assistants taught this program this past summer. These students all passed the class and are now eligible to take Algebra 1, which is not normally taught in 8th grade. There is also a mentoring program that follows the group through high school. The Superintendent added that depending on the success of this group with Algebra 1, the program may be expanded.

2. Title 1 Event Schedule and Summer School – Ms. Raymond explained Title 1 is a 12 months a year program. Ms. Raymond stated that the summer program is actually an enrichment program for K-6th grade and had over 400 students. The purpose of this "invitation only program" is to keep reading and math going over the summer. Teachers reported that all of the children's grades in this program have improved. Ms. Raymond also partnered with the Dockside Restaurant. Children were given a reading log and were asked to return the log to their teacher. The Dockside offered every child that returned their log a \$10 gift certificate to the restaurant. Over 2,000 students returned their log. Ms. Raymond added that Title 1 also run 35 breakfast and family events each year, which include a story teller, game night, bingo for books and a magician. They also run Parent Academies and at every event, parents go home with books for their children.

3. Enrollment Numbers – Mr. Iovino reported that the enrollment numbers are going up and are currently 6,644. The Parent Information Center is also in the process of getting enrollment numbers from apartment buildings in the city, which is currently at over 700.

4. Superintendent's Report: Background Information & Documents below

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Gary Christenson, School Committee Chair, School Committee Members, and Malden Public Schools
From: Dr. David DeRuosi, Jr., Superintendent
Re: September 21, 2015 School Committee Meeting - Background Information & Documents
Date: September 21, 2015

Please find below background information and documents I am submitting for consideration during the September 21, 2015 School Committee Meeting.

Superintendent's Report:

1. Calculus Project: report by Carol Keenan, Principal Salemwood

2. Title 1 Update: report by Janice Raymond, Title 1 Director

3. Enrollment Update: report by Lenny Iovino, School Committee Member

4. High School Principal Search Update: report by Dr. DeRuosi, Superintendent

Under the Mayor's request Maria Luise and I were giving the charge of pulling together a screening team for the purpose of hiring a new Malden High School principal. Principal Brown, after 13 years of leadership, will be resigning at the end of this school year. Starting back in August, a 28 member search team was pulled together to take up the challenge of hiring the next high school principal. This group was broken down into the following subcommittees, a community focus group committee, high school committee, paper screening committee, and interview committee. Each committee will perform specific tasks throughout the process, and all committee members will meet as a whole for scheduled updates. To date there has been work completed by each sub group and we are making strong progress. The timeline is as follows: September will produce community focus group meetings, a high school staff survey, student focus groups and a job description. October will produce the official job posting and paper screening of potential candidates. November will begin the interview process. December will be the interviews of the finalist and an announcement of the new high school principal will be in January. The candidate chosen will start July 1, 2016. People involved in this project have been hard at work and we believe, while this is a tight timeline, we will have the work done.

5. Coordinated Program Review: report by Dr. DeRuosi, Superintendent

Last spring the district went under a multiday audit by the Department of Education. The purpose of this audit is to review the districts policies in the following areas, special education, ELL, and civil rights. As a district we did well in the area of special education receiving a few areas of recommendation, the same can be said for ELL, but our policies on civil rights received the most recommendations. Assistant Superintendents Maura Johnson and Dr. Kelly Chase have been hard at work pulling our action plan together to submit to the state. There will be work that will need to be accomplished by the School Committee's Policy Subcommittee in the near future. I will provide the school committee with a full report in October.

6. District Strategic Plan: report by Dr. DeRuosi, Superintendent

Last year a team of community members, administrators, teachers, students, and parents under my leadership began to craft a new districtwide strategic plan. This team worked with the Department of Education and MassInc. to develop our plan for student success using the framework of the Gateway City Initiative. This project started in January and ended in June. The document created was vented out to the district before the end of the school year and has been adopted as the district plan. It is a plan that will drive school improvement plans, smart goals, and community partnership. The district's work has been recognized by the Gateway City organization as cutting edge work, it was highlighted in articles produced by MassInc, and the Department of Education will use this project as a case study in a major article they are publishing. I have been asked to present with the department at the MASS/MASC Conference in November. I am extremely proud of the work this multi-member team completed last year. The real work now is in making this document come alive and support the students in the district.

7. SEEM: report by Dr. DeRuosi, Superintendent

I would like Malden Public to join SEEM Collaborative to assist us with our out of district student placement needs.

Assistant Superintendent Johnson spoke regarding the possibilities of saving close to \$200,000 a year with tuitions they currently pay by joining SEEM. SEEM is better with more therapeutic needs and Shore is better with the behavior and autism spectrum. We currently have 15 students attending SEEM Collaborative. Assistant Superintendent Johnson explained that the tuition is different by member district to non-member district. The Superintendent asked the committee to vote.

Mr. Cicolini made a motion to suspend docket rules. Ms. Doucette seconded and it was so VOTED.

8. Appreciation Bulletin Board: report by Dr. DeRuosi, Superintendent

In keeping with our opening day message of focusing on the positive, I will include an appreciation board in my monthly report referencing things I am appreciative of. A smooth opening districtwide, on the first day of school principal Keenan stayed until 7:00 pm with a child who was never picked up, the staff of the Forestdale for pulling together to help and support two young students whose mother passed suddenly, the parent who left my office and told all of us how happy and helpful we were to her, to the group of teachers who agreed to work with me after school on our Pre-K transition team. I appreciate your efforts.

9. Contract: Nothing new to report.

10. Contract Negotiations: I will be asking attorney Greenspan to set-up a calendar to start custodian negotiation after Oct 12, 2015. Also in October I will ask for the opening of the Administration Assistants Union to begin the process of preparing for negotiations.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave

5. Subcommittee Reports

6. Deliberations

7. Consent Agenda

8. Resolves

9. Personal Privilege

The new student representative, James Mac, introduced himself to the committee. James attends MHS and is currently a junior. Mr. Iovino announced that the Malden Kiwanis is conducting the kindergarten program Reading is Fundamental and the 2 people running the program are Sue Vatalaro and Maria Sentence. He explained that the members are asked to read to the kindergarten students as part of the program. Mr. Weldai suggested to the audience that they check out the community calendars. He also announced that the Ward 6 Annual Halloween party will be October 25th in the Forestdale cafeteria from 4 pm – 7 pm.

10. Executive Session

Mr. Weldai made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:10 pm for the purpose of contract negotiations. Mr. Cicolini seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Casucci ABSENT

Mr. Cicolini voted YES

Ms. Doucette voted YES

Mr. Froio voted YES

Mr. Iovino voted YES

Mr. Leone voted YES

Mr. Silverman voted YES

Mr. Weldai voted YES

Mayor Christenson voted YES

The committee reconvened to the Regular Session at 7:55 pm.

Mr. Iovino made a motion to approve vacation buyback for Principal Rich Bransfield and Principal Carol Keenan at 20 days per year at the per diem rate as of June 30, 2015 until it is paid out. Mr. Froio seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Casucci ABSENT

Mr. Cicolini voted YES

Ms. Doucette voted YES

Mr. Froio voted YES

Mr. Iovino voted YES

Mr. Leone voted YES

Mr. Silverman voted YES

Mr. Weldai voted YES
Mayor Christenson voted YES
Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cicolini made a motion to approve for the Central Office Executive Assistants, Joanne D'Orlando, Marie Lucey and Nancy Weiss, a 2% retro salary increase from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. Ms. Doucette seconded. A roll call was vote was taken.

Mr. Casucci ABSENT
Mr. Cicolini voted YES
Ms. Doucette voted YES
Mr. Froio voted YES
Mr. Iovino voted YES
Mr. Leone voted YES
Mr. Silverman voted YES
Mr. Weldai voted YES
Mayor Christenson voted YES
Motion passed unanimously.

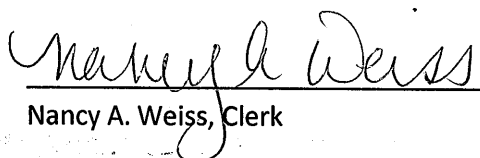
Mr. Weldai made a motion to approve the transfer of 16 vacation days for Rob Lombardi from the City to the School Department pending confirmation from the City Human Resources Department. Mr. Iovino seconded. A roll call was vote was taken.

Mr. Casucci ABSENT
Mr. Cicolini voted YES
Ms. Doucette voted YES
Mr. Froio voted YES
Mr. Iovino voted YES
Mr. Leone voted YES
Mr. Silverman voted YES
Mr. Weldai voted YES
Mayor Christenson voted YES
Motion passed unanimously.

11. Adjournment

Mr. Weldai made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm. Mr. Iovino 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.



Nancy A. Weiss, Clerk