MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, September 8, 2014
Malden Senior Center – 75 Washington Street, Malden

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

Mayor Christenson announced that the next School Committee meeting will be Monday, October 6, 2014 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	Present
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
Clerk	Present

Mayor Christenson moved to take the agenda out of order and introduced Mr. Iovino to open Public Comment.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the Regular and Executive Sessions of June 23, 2014, August 11, 2014 and August 25, 2014. Mayor Christianson made a motion for approval of all the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment

Mr. Iovino announced the passing of Ms. Jean O'Neil. Ms. O'Neil was a valued member of the Salemwood School community for years. Mr. Iovino asked for a moment of silence in honor of Ms. O'Neil. Mr. Iovino then introduced Ms. MJ McBride, also a teacher at the Salemwood School, who shared memories of Ms. O'Neil. Ms. McBride praised Ms. O'Neil for all her years of service and dedication to the Malden Public Schools.

Mr. Iovino announced the passing today of Mel Baran, who was a retired teacher from Malden High School. Mr. Iovino requested a moment of silence in his honor.

4. Superintendent's Reports

Superintendent DeRuosi announced the hiring of 4 new managers to the Malden Public School. The Superintendent introduced Patricia Lugo as the new Business Manager, Mike Schiavo as the new Technology

Manager, Elinor Perry as the new Cafeteria Manager and Robert Lombardi as the new Building and Grounds Manager.

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 8, 2014 School Committee Meeting - Background Information & Documents
Date: September 8, 2014

Please find below background information and documents I am submitting for consideration during the September 8, 2014 School Committee meeting.

Superintendent's Report:

1. New additions to our staff: On behalf of the School Committee I would like to welcome the following members to our Malden Public School Team. Patricia Lugo is our new business manager, Michael Schiavo is our new technology manager, Elinore Perry is our new cafeteria manager, and Robert Lombardi is our new buildings and ground manager. I will be inviting these people to future meeting to address the school committee.

2. Opening Day: After a busy summer we had a smooth opening to our school year. Kelly, Maura and I made it to every school in the first few days of the new school year. I must acknowledge the work of our building principals and their administrative team who got the buildings open in spite of transitions in the technology department and cafeteria. I would also like to extend a thank you to the custodial teams in the buildings who also pulled together to ensure the buildings were ready for opening. Nice work to all involved.

3. Consultants: We will continue to work with our partners in Bay State Reading, Achievement Net and Ribas Associates during this current school. All of these partners have been working with Malden and making a difference for our students and staff. We have made a smooth transition to Teach Point for our evaluation work. Near the end of last year we asked West Ed, an educational research company, to take a look at the needs of our high school Ell and Special Education students. They have provided us with information on our programs and instructional methods which the high school administration and staff have started to work on. I believe these consultants, along with the dedicated staff we have here in district, are working well together. The benefits are seen in student achievement in our buildings.

4. Whitson: Our new food service provider is on the ground and doing well. Elinore Perry and the cafeteria staff have done a great job in a short amount of time to implement new menus, new food products, and a new general feeling to our cafeterias. I would like to acknowledge Terri Tusa-Pelosi who due to her commitment and hard work has been moved to Assistant Cafeteria Manager. Elinore recognized early on that Terri was a hard worker and reached out to me and strongly advocated for this employee. Ms. Perry will be invited to our October meeting to provide us with an update.

5. Cafeteria Audit Report: See attachment.

6. Enrollment Update: Last year we began the discussion of increased enrollment in our lower grades. Joan Federico, Lenny Iovino, and I have spent time watching and discussing this issue. School Committee member Mr. Iovino will address this later in the meeting. As your superintendent I have concerns for the wellbeing of the district when class sizes in our K-3 classrooms are exceeding 25 to 27 students. I would encourage the committee to also review current policies on the registration and placements of students coming into the district. The model in place represents a time when new schools were being built, desegregation was the plan, and you had open classroom seats to accommodate a wait list. We find ourselves in a very different environment right now.

7. 2014-2015 Focus: We must begin to focus on specific items as we move forward this school year. Our top three priorities at this time should be a big picture plan for moving technology forward in the district, a true commitment to addressing our space needs in the district, and the development of a five year strategic plan. I ask that the School Committee members assist me in narrowing our focus this year to the areas mentioned above and review many of our policies which will better enhance student achievement in the district.

8. Contracts: Nothing to report

9. Contract Negotiations: We are in the process of finalizing the following negotiations Unit B, and the Custodians contract which will be three year contract extending to 2017. It is our hope to bring the Paraprofessional Unit to the table soon to resume negotiations.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave

Mr. Cicolini asked the Superintendent a question. Since the decision was made in June to go with PARCC, are we prepared in technology to be able to handle the PARCC exams, if we decide to go with electronic format and not paper format? The Superintendent explained that at the end of last year he was able to replace some of the older computers and brought wireless service and fiber optics to all the K-8 schools.

5. **Subcommittee Reports**

6. **Deliberations**
   1. **Enrollment Numbers Report**: Mr. Iovino made a motion to create an Ad Hoc Subcommittee for the purpose of looking at enrollment numbers, policies and space concerns. Mr. Froio seconded. Mr. Iovino reported that since the first of August, our numbers have increased. As of last Friday, the increase was by 117 students, especially affecting the younger grades. Mr. Iovino acknowledged that there is no additional space in the schools, therefore, we need to look at alternatives. Mr. Iovino would like to create an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to look at all the space and the enrollment policy. A plan was made in 1996, but he feels that we are in need for a new plan. Mr. Weldai explained that since we already have a Space Audit and a District Enrollment Subcommittee, should we split the committees so one part could look at the space needs and the other part could look at the policy for enrollment. Ms. Doucette explained that last year's Policy & Procedures Subcommittee revisited the School Choice Policy. The Superintendent explained that the School Choice Policy pertained to space and we are looking at more than just space. Mr. Iovino added that the original plan projected numbers and predicted where we would be today as far as space concerns. Mayor Christenson asked for a report back by the November 3rd School Committee meeting.

7. **Consent Agenda**
   1. **School Choice Policy Vote:** Mr. Weldai explained that this vote usually is taken in June. The Superintendent explained that the School Choice allows children from surrounding districts to attend the Malden Public Schools. He added that since we are looking at such space concerns with our own students, he does not recommend opening up the district to additional enrollments. Mr. Weldai made a motion to not participate in School Choice. Mr. Iovino 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 motion passed unanimously.

   2. **MASC Conference Delegate Vote:** Mr. Weldai explained that former school committee member, Jen Cabral, attended last year's MASC Conference. This year's conference will be November 5-8, 2014 at the Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis. Ms. Doucette nominated Mr. Weldai as the MASC Conference delegate. Mr. Froio seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8. **Resolves**

9. **Personal Privilege**

Ms. Froio announced that there will be a Linden S.T.E.A.M. Academy Governing Board meeting on Monday, September 15th at 6:45 pm. Mr. Iovino welcomed all the students, parents and teachers back and wishes everyone a successful year. Mr. Silverman announced that the Annual Harvest Moon Festival will be held on Saturday, September 13th from 11 am – 4 pm at Fellsmere Park. Mr. Weldai announced that the Second Annual Latino Festival will be Saturday, September 13th at 5:00 PM at City Hall Plaza and would like to congratulate the district on a very successful school opening. Ms. Doucette welcomed back the district and wished the students, parents and teachers a successful year.

10. **Adjournment**

Mr. Casucci made a motion to adjourn at 7:00 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.

Nancy A Weiss

Nancy A. Weiss, Clerk