

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, January 9, 2017
Malden Senior Center 7 Washington Street

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

Mayor Christenson announced that the agenda will be re-arranged for this meeting. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence, and Roll Call, the Linden STEAM Academy will do their presentation.

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	Absent
Clerk	Present

Superintendent's Report

Linden School Student Presentation

Dr. Grandson welcomed the Linden STEAM Academy to do the presentation. The students from Linden School showcased the many things they are learning in their different disciplines, from science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Christenson announced that the next School Committee meeting will be Monday, February 6, 2017 at 6:30 pm in the Malden Senior Center, 7 Washington Street. Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the School Committee Retreat minutes of November 18 and 19, 2016 as well as the Regular Session minutes of December 5, 2016. Mr. Iovino made a motion to approve the School Committee Retreat minutes of November 18 and 19, 2016. Mr. Marsh seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Marsh made a motion to approve the Regular Session minutes of December 5, 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. Bonnie Page, President of the Malden Educators' Association (MEA)

Ms. Page thanked the Mayor and School Committee for appointing six members of the MEA to the superintendent search committee.

Ms. Janice Raymond, 77 Glennwood Street, Malden

Ms. Raymond is the Director of Literacy and Title I. Ms. Raymond invited the School Committee members to attend any of the Title I events scheduled at each school.

Superintendent's Report

1. District Updates and Highlights

Superintendent Grandson congratulated all Kindergarten students in the district, who spent 5,587 hours on the program called Footsteps2Brilliance. They read 19 million words and 65,000 books so far this year.

Superintendent Grandson also informed that through the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, on January 4th, Education Week released its 21st edition of the Annual Quality Counts Report on state education systems and for the third year in a row, Massachusetts is listed as the first in the nation for overall quality. Superintendent Grandson said that this year, the focus on teaching and learning will be increased in the Malden Public Schools.

2. District/Superintendent Goals

Superintendent Grandson mentioned the superintendent goals and the superintendent evaluation subcommittee meeting that was held on December 19th, 2016. Superintendents across the state follow the Massachusetts evaluation system which is aligned with the principals and teachers evaluation system. The student learning goal is the primary goal. In our district, the superintendent student learning goal is to increase proficiency by 5% on the Spring 2017 Next Generation MCAS Grades 3-10 in ELA, Math and Science. This is for accountability for the Superintendent and leaders throughout the district. District improvement goals have been a major topic of discussion, especially in the area of social emotional learning. It is aligned with the district's three year strategic plan, to provide and create a framework for our district in terms of curriculum and how to meet the social emotional needs of students. Another goal is to focus on teacher and staff diversity by creating a system with tools and resources needed to promote diversity. The school system has already partnered with NEMNET, an organization that has a lot of practice and success in this area. Lastly, the third goal is the professional practice goal. The New Superintendents Induction Program serves as a professional practice goal. As part of the professional practice goal, the entry planning process provides guidance. The report of entry findings will be ready in February.

Subcommittee Reports

1. Social Emotional and Physical Well-Being Ad-Hoc Subcommittee – Mr. Marsh

Mr. Marsh commented that the first meeting was held last Tuesday and the discussion was about a specific area which was unrestricted free play, and aligning it to the superintendent's district plan. Mr. Silverman added that the adoption of a social emotional curriculum was also discussed. There is a need for a closer look at a number of different options available and resources needed.

Superintendent Grandson commented that a plan was formed to develop a framework for the curriculum and unrestricted free play. Superintendent Grandson also mentioned the upcoming visit to Boston Public Schools to see and learn what they have done in this area. The next Social Emotional and Physical Well-Being Ad-Hoc Subcommittee will be held on February 7, 2017 at 6:00 pm. Mayor Christenson asked whether there will be any cost involved with the curriculum portion. Mr. Silverman replied that the cost will need to be researched. Ms. Beardsley added that other topics besides unrestricted free play or recess were also discussed at the meeting.

2. Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Task Force – Mr. Marsh

Mr. Marsh said the FACE Task Force met last month. The biggest issue discussed was the communication aspect. This group will help keep parents engaged with the community. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 18 at 6:30 pm at the Malden Library. Superintendent Grandson added that the parents at the meeting were involved in three sub-committees to focus on budget, parent engagement and communication. Superintendent Grandson announced that the Budget Forum will be held on January 12th. Mr. Marsh agreed with Mayor Christenson that it will be helpful to have Mr. Ron Cochran, Malden Communications Director, attend the next meeting to talk about how family can become more engaged not only in the schools but the city as well.

3. Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee – Mr. Iovino

Mr. Iovino commented that the superintendent's goals seem lofty but achievable. Mr. Iovino highlighted that the teacher and staff diversity goal was especially appealing because there are teachers in the Malden education community that could step into the role of administrator given the opportunity to do so. Mr. Iovino made a motion to approve and adopt the goals. Ms. Bordonaro seconded. Superintendent Grandson answered Ms. Bordonaro's question of how he intends to achieve the student learning goals, by explaining that for each of the goals, evidence and benchmarks will be identified. Among the things being implemented to achieve these goals are the district-wide Instructional Focus Walks and District Instructional Leadership Team. These initiatives set a good framework for the year.

4. Space and Enrollment Ad-Hoc Subcommittee – Mr. Iovino

Mr. Iovino informed that the student enrollment is at 6,813 students, which is 63 more students enrolled at the end of 2016 compared to the end of 2015. Mr. Iovino commented that the article dated December 23rd from the Malden Observer is not about preventing development but rather about what the city is facing. Mr. Iovino added that serious decisions need to be made about our schools, community and how to educate the increasing number of students. The article mentions that there are 1,134 apartment units approved for construction in Malden. Right now, from various apartment addresses in the city, there are a total of 865 students, who account for 12.53% of the Malden student population. Using the same percentage, this future construction of 1,134 units will increase the student population close to 120 students, even at 10%.

Mr. Iovino said that we cannot let our class sizes become larger. Mr. Iovino continued that although the city is pressed for money, we cannot put a price tag on children's education. Mr. Iovino also said that building an addition to an existing school is more possible than building a whole new school. Mr. Iovino mentioned that Mayor Christenson, Superintendent Grandson and

himself will need to look closely and work towards the goal of preparing a Statement of Interest for submission to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Ms. Bordonaro commented that the closing date for the submission is April 8th. Mr. Iovino recalled that in 2012/2013, the superintendent at the time, Dr. DeRousi commissioned a study by the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) that looked at trends from 2007 onwards to project that in 2021, student enrollment in Malden will be in excess of 7,200 students.

Mayor Christenson commented that financially, it will be difficult to take on building a new school as the city is in Year 3 of a bonding freeze. Mayor Christenson said that the recourse will be to figure out how to work from within. Mayor Christenson added that even if the actual number of children mentioned in the article increases, the tax revenue from the development outweighs the additional number of children enrolling in the schools. Mayor Christenson wants to be sure about the city's means to pay for school expansion before going to the State to request funding. Mr. Iovino commented that spending money on education should be just as important as replacing an emergency vehicle. Mayor Christenson informed that for the past 4 years, the city education budget has increased by \$10 million. Mr. Iovino said that we will need to keep working on this issue and hopefully come to a meaningful conclusion.

Motions and Resolutions

1. 2% Retroactive Salary Increase Effective July 1, 2016 for Non-Union School Employees – Mr. Iovino
Mr. Iovino made a motion to table this matter for the next meeting, pending further discussion with the School Committee attorney. Mr. Leone seconded and it was so VOTED.

Personal Privilege

Adjournment

Mr. Marsh made a motion to adjourn at 7:33pm. Ms. Bordonaro 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.



Shirley Dorai, Clerk