

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION  
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Monday, June 5, 2017  
Malden Senior Center, 7 Washington Street

Mayor Christenson called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Mayor Christenson announced that the next School Committee meeting will be Monday, June 19, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. 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	Absent
Clerk	Present

Mayor Christenson informed that the City Council Finance Committee will meet with the School Department on Tuesday, June 6th at 5:45 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the May 1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session of the School Committee. Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the minutes as a group. Mr. Leone seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment**

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

Ms. Page said that while she is happy that the school budget for next year did not require the School Committee to lay-off any educators, it is still upsetting that that three librarians, three health teachers, a Human Resources Director and other needed staff cannot be hired. Ms. Page continued that since the SPED transportation costs and translation costs have increased dramatically, the city should be adding more funding to the School Budget to offset these costs. Ms. Page suggested that the School Committee members increase their visits to the school next year to talk to the educators about the positives and negatives, to get to know the curriculum and how it is being taught. Ms. Page urged the School Committee to find out how everyone involved will be affected before they make any decisions.

Ms. Kimberly Gillette, Ferryway PTO President, 7 Tufts St Apt 3, Malden

Ms. Gillette commented that the volunteers are really working hard to keep the library in the school open. Ms. Gillette added that the teachers jump at the opportunity to get their students in the library for the three hours a week that it is open. Ms. Gillette added that it has been almost 3 years since the students had to go without daily access to the library. Ms. Gillette urged the School Committee to buy more books for the libraries and hire a librarian who can spearhead the effort as the volunteer parents alone are not enough.

Eden Garhart-Smith, 44 Greystone Road, Malden

Ms. Garhart-Smith said that she has one child in the Linden School and another who will be attending the Early Learning Center next year. Ms. Garhart-Smith asked the School Committee to hire librarians, health teachers and also to have more special education programs in-district so that students will not need to go to other schools.

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### **1. District Updates and Highlights**

Superintendent Grandson congratulated the Class of 2017 for completing their course of studies and Principal Lombardi, Malden High School (MHS) leadership team, faculty, and staff for organizing a successful graduation ceremony. Superintendent Grandson said that the graduates will go do great things along their journey and looks forward to them coming back whenever possible.

Superintendent Grandson also congratulated the MHS Robotics team for winning over many public and private schools in the region at the regional competition (Botball). As a result of winning this competition, the team has been invited to compete in the national robotics competition in Norman, Oklahoma this summer. Superintendent Grandson thanked Mr. Morrison, Mr. Bazzinotti and the advisors for all their support to make this possible.

Superintendent Grandson said that the FY18 proposed budget was presented to the Budget Subcommittee in May. The budget process began in November 2016 and budget priorities for the Malden Public Schools from multiple stakeholders were received. The goal was to create a widely agreed upon priority set-list and then to have a conversation about priorities should there be funds available in the FY18 budget to fund new initiatives. From December 2016 to March 2017, Superintendent Grandson was certain that there would be funds available based on the work of the Cabinet team, Business Manager and the Mayor's finance team. While the FY18 budget accounted for all possible scenarios, it came as a shock and surprise to everyone that the vendor for SPED transportation would request an almost \$2 million increase. While the actual increase will be substantially less, the additional funds that were going towards educational enhancements are unfortunately depleted due to this increase in transportation costs.

From here, the Malden Public Schools and community, has a list of priorities from which to make decisions about what to fund should additional funds become available over the summer months. Superintendent Grandson made a commitment to propose to the school committee to look at restoring librarians on a part-time basis as part of the K-8 literacy initiative. All year, Dr. Grandson has been advocating for the addition of a Human Resources administrator to be hired to address a very crucial part of our infrastructure for a district our size. Later, through many conversations with Ms. Bordonaro's Families Against Drugs effort, we discovered the critical need to expand Health Education in some of the K-8 schools. All of these efforts are important, but unfortunately, they cannot all be funded through this allocation. Dr. Grandson said that a \$69 million budget however is fluid as almost 80% of the budget is personnel which changes daily with retirements and resignations. As changes happen, funds could potentially come available, which means that these priorities are not completely out of the question. Given that, Superintendent Grandson said it is a solid, balanced budget with no lay-offs and that while we all wish more funds were available, we have to be careful not to make perfect, the enemy of good.

Mayor Christenson reminded everyone that the entire budget including the school department budget can be viewed on line at [www.cityofmaiden.org/budget](http://www.cityofmaiden.org/budget).

2. Linden STEAM Academy Innovation Plan – Renewal 2017-2022

Superintendent Grandson said that the Linden STEAM Academy is designated by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as an Innovation School and under that designation, they are required to provide an Innovation Plan that must be approved by the School Committee either every 5 or 7 years. Since it has already been 5 years, the Linden STEAM Academy needs to submit the plan this year for approval. Superintendent Grandson invited Principal Bransfield to present the new plan, highlight some of the changes and speak about some of the successes under the innovation model.

Principal Bransfield said that the new plan is very similar to the last plan, and it includes new partnerships like Tufts University while any previous partnerships that are no longer in place have been removed. Principal Bransfield continued to speak about some of the accomplishments during the last five years such as being the recipient of the recent \$26,000 FUSE Grant and the 3D printers from the General Electric Grant. Principal Bransfield said that the Linden School is the only school in New England that has engineering in Grade K-8. The Linden School also has an extensive arts program. The focus at the Linden School is project-based learning and the philosophy behind it helps all students learn as well as gives all students, including students with disabilities, an opportunity for hands on training. Eight out of the nine students in the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pathways Program will be mainstreamed when they go to the high school next year. Focus has also been on small group instruction. Principal Bransfield spoke about the Exhibition Night and thanked the staff for all their hard work.

Mr. Froio commended Principal Bransfield for the wonderful work. In response to Mr. Iovino's question about the STARBASE program, Principal Bransfield said that the STARBASE program is run by the Department of Defence. STARBASE offers 5th grade students an opportunity to participate in a variety of learning experiences designed to increase interest in and knowledge of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The hands-on program also promotes positive self-esteem, helps students to focus on setting and achieving personal goals, and raises student confidence in problem solving. STARBASE Academy at Hanscom AFB enhances the students' school experience with 20-25 hours of STEM activities packaged within an intensive five day program.

In response to Mr. Froio's question about how the 3D printers will be used, Principal Bransfield said that initially, 2 staff members will be trained to work with the 3D printers using CAD, and then they in turn will train other staff members.

Mayor Christenson asked about the after-school program that has been running for two years now. Principal Bransfield said that the idea was to continue with the STEM learning from the morning into the after-school hours. However, this is a work in progress. Mayor Christenson also asked about the Writing with Colors effort. Principal Bransfield said that Writing with Colors took a life of its own. It was first introduced at the high school but now students in Grades K-8 at the Linden School are working with it. Principal Bransfield continued that with the writing and open response component of MCAS, highlighters and scrap paper can be used. The long composition allowed the students to use Writing with Colors and Principal Bransfield said that the writing has increased tremendously with this method.

Ms. Beardley said that having the library open for one hour after school has done wonders, and provides space to use for projects. Principal Bransfield said that he is trying to entice middle school students to stay after-school to do things like robotics or drama, etc.

Mr. Marsh asked about how the community was convinced to accept the school uniform policy at the Linden School. Principal Bransfield said that at first, there was some resistance because there was fear about whether it

would be affordable. Principal Bransfield continued that for students who cannot afford the uniforms, it is given to them for free. The PTO President at the time bought every single uniform at the store so that no student will go without. Principal Bransfield said that now parents say the uniforms make it so easy to get the children ready for school in the morning.

Mr. Froio made a motion to approve the Linden STEAM Academy Innovation Plan Renewal for 2017-2022 and Mr. Iovino 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.

### **Subcommittee Reports/Discussions**

#### **1. Budget Subcommittee – Mr. Iovino**

##### **- Remaining FY17 Funds**

Mr. Iovino said the discussion earlier this evening at the Budget Subcommittee meeting was about Chromebooks for the Malden High School and about scheduling another meeting before the July 19<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting. Mayor Christenson said that although this budget is not where we want to be, this is what we can do based on available revenue. Mr. Iovino said that there will be a public hearing for the budget which will be scheduled.

#### **2. Families Against Drugs (FAD) Ad-Hoc Subcommittee – Ms. Bordonaro**

Ms. Bordonaro informed that the FAD meeting last month was held at Salemwood School at 4pm. Ms. Bordonaro advocates for health teachers and invites colleagues to come and listen to the parents so that they can hear why health teachers are needed. Ms. Bordonaro said that the problem is very serious. Ms. Bordonaro invited everyone to the next meeting.

#### **3. Social, Emotional and Physical Well-Being Ad-Hoc Subcommittee – Mr. Marsh**

Mr. Marsh said that about two weeks ago, Ms. Candace Julian did a presentation about restorative justice at the Social, Emotional and Physical Well-Being Ad-Hoc Subcommittee meeting. Assistant Superintendent Keenan said that under ESSA, Social Emotional Learning (SEL) needs to be part of the curriculum for students in Grades PreK-12 starting next school year. So, a year from now, Malden Public Schools will be a fully trained and fully implemented restorative practices district. This will be achieved utilizing the following components such as the partnership with Ms. Candace Julian, and the formation of restorative practices team in every building which consists of principals, assistant principals or house principals and teachers. Each school based restorative practices team will be trained on June 26, 27 and 28, using the train the trainer model. They will then train their own school staff on the first professional development day on August 29<sup>th</sup>. This will encompass all three levels of the restorative practices. The whole purpose of meeting the SEL needs of the students is to be able to foster a district-wide culture that incorporates problem solving skills and strategies. Superintendent Keenan said that we have done a fine job of triaging problems and dealing with students that have trauma or students in crisis. Assistant Superintendent Keenan continued that there are no worksheets or activity sheets, it is going to be an entire district culture so that

students will be trained and will be able to implement strategies and skills to deal with conflict resolutions and problem solving. Assistant Superintendent Keenan has a year-long professional development plan in writing at the grass roots level.

4. Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Task Force – Mr. Marsh  
Mr. Marsh informed that the next FACE meeting will be at 6:30 pm in the Malden High School Gallery on Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.
5. Space and Enrollment Ad-Hoc Subcommittee – Mr. Iovino  
Mr. Iovino informed that the enrollment figure was 6,794 this past Friday. Mr. Iovino said that it is a good deal more stable than it was last year.
6. Library Update, Immigration and Malden Public Schools – Ms. Beardsley  
Ms. Beardsley informed that she met with Ms. Karen Hayes and Ms. Kristy Magras to get resources on the website for the benefit of the community on topics such as immigration and others. Ms. Beardsley thanked the volunteers at the libraries. Ms. Bordonaro commented that there are some free legal services available for immigration matters.

#### **Motions and Resolutions**

1. FY18 Budget – Mr. Iovino  
This matter was addressed earlier in the meeting.
2. Linden STEAM Academy Innovation Plan - Renewal 2017-2022 – Mr. Froio  
This matter was addressed earlier in the meeting.
3. Donation of \$1,000 from Northrop Grumman Corporation, Burlington – Mr. Iovino  
Mr. Iovino said that the \$1,000 donation from Northrop Grumman Corporation was to be used to offset the cost of transporting the students to the STARBASE program at the Hanscom Air Force Base this summer. Mr. Iovino made a motion to accept the donation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Froio and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Renewal of Food Service Contract with Whitsons – Mr. Iovino  
Mr. Iovino made a motion to table this matter to the next meeting so that more information can be gathered. Mr. Marsh seconded it and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Personal Privilege**

#### **Adjournment**

Mr. Leone made a motion to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. Mr. Drummey 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.



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Shirley Dorai, Clerk