

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, May 1, 2017
Malden Senior Center, 7 Washington Street

Mayor Christenson called the meeting to order at 6:39 pm.

Mayor Christenson announced that the next School Committee meeting will be Monday, June 5, 2017 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	Absent Present

Superintendent's Report

1. Malden High School Student Presentation

Principal Lombardi introduced Malden High School students, Jonathan Dong, Jesse Bouley, Cleverina Cong and Guetchina Letang to speak about their experiences at the high school and their future plans. The students commented that they appreciate the diversity at Malden High School. The teachers, extra-curricular activities and resources available at the high school also helped them do well in school and prepared them for college.

When Mayor Christenson questioned the students as to what could have been improved or changed to enhance their experience at high school, one of the students commented that it would have been helpful if they were advised of all the class options when they first started high school so that they could have taken classes more relevant to the career path they wanted to follow.

Approval of Minutes

The Chair brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the March 27th, March 29th, March 30th and April 13th Special Meeting of the School Committee, and the April 3rd Regular Session of the School Committee as well as the minutes of the Executive Session of April 3rd and Executive Session Special Meeting of the School Committee of April 13th. The Chair said that all the meeting minutes can be approved individually or as a group. 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 the social, emotional and well-being of students as well as educators is important. She also reminded everyone of the MEA Retirement Party.

Superintendent's Report

2. District Updates and Highlights

Superintendent Grandson said that at the earlier Budget Subcommittee meeting, Mayor Christenson presented the projected FY18 budget number that will determine how resources are prioritized to ensure that the school system can continue to effectively meet the educational needs of the students. In consultation with the Budget Subcommittee Co-Chairs, Mr. Iovino and Mr. Froio, additional Budget Subcommittee meetings will be scheduled throughout the month of May to prepare a budget for submission to the School Committee at the June meeting.

Superintendent Grandson informed that the Unit A contract negotiations has begun with the Malden Educators' Association. Superintendent Grandson added that a meeting has been scheduled with Superintendent-Elect John Oteri this week to begin the transition regarding budget, personnel and the overall effective functioning of the district. Superintendent Grandson is looking forward to working with Superintendent-Elect John Oteri to ensure a smooth transition as of July 1st, 2017.

Superintendent Grandson announced that at a regional science fair, three students from the Linden STEAM Academy, Johnathon Brill, Rahul Chopra and Gunjan Kumar received honorable mention and will attend the state science fair on June 3rd, 2017. Superintendent continued that this is an amazing accomplishment because out of over 300 participants at the regional science fair from Grades 6-8, there was a first, second, third place and only 10 honorable mentions.

Superintendent Grandson also announced that the Malden Public Schools was awarded the Youth Opioid Prevention Grant from the Attorney General's Office. Superintendent Grandson thanked Mr. Marsh, Ms. Bordonaro and Assistant Superintendent Keenan for their efforts.

Superintendent Grandson called on Principal Lombardi to speak about the Malden High School Program of Studies. Principal Lombardi highlighted the two major changes to the program of studies, which is in math and science. For math, the move will be from traditional math to a fully integrated curriculum whereby Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2 students will now be doing Math 1, Math 2 and Math 3 instead. This is already being implemented in many districts such as Lexington, Newton, etc. The early MCAS results from the schools where it is already being implemented are good. Principal Lombardi continued that this will help to improve the high school MCAS results to work towards going from a Level 3 to a Level 1 school. This will not change the standards or rigor of the courses. Colleges are very well aware of this curriculum and are familiar with seeing this on high school transcripts. This curriculum will not limit any student's path or options. For science, the change is the rearranging of the order of courses for college prep (CP) students so that Grade 9 CP students will take Environmental Science and Grade 10 CP students will take Biology, instead of vice versa. This will help them do better at MCAS. For Honor students, there are no changes.

In response to Mr. Froio's question, Principal Lombardi said that the math courses are year-long courses. Mayor Christenson asked how long other school districts have implemented the new math curriculum. Principal Lombardi answered that it is relatively new but gaining momentum and that it has been about 5-7 years since the first few school districts adopted it. In Malden High School, the DSAC grant from DESE has enabled this curriculum development to be teacher-led instead of getting a boxed curriculum developed by other companies. Mayor Christenson asked if the curriculum would still enable students to meet the MCAS requirements as the testing requirements might change from year-to-year. Principal Lombardi responded that he believes the MCAS will stay

the same for the next two years. Principal Lombardi added that any changes after that will be around the format and vehicle for the test but the core principles of the test will not change. Principal Lombardi said this new curriculum is better because it is more flexible and adaptable to any changes in testing. The curriculum changes recommended will take effect in September 2017. In response to Mayor Christenson's question about whether these changes will help the high school achieve a Level 1 or 2 status, Principal Lombardi explained that there are a number of issues that contributed towards the Level 3 status of the school such as special education graduation rate, MCAS participation and others. Principal Lombardi continued that once these issues are overcome and the school achieves a Level 2 status, the ability to then progress to become a Level 1 school will depend on the growth as a school. So, anything that can be done to go in this direction, both in terms of growth and proficiency will help.

Mr. Marsh asked whether the other school districts who have adopted a similar curriculum have noticed any student achievement improvement. Principal Lombardi said there was a vast improvement in terms of the test scores in the schools that have adopted the new curriculum such as Lawrence Public Schools. Principal Lombardi continued that the focus is on the timeliness because if students are taught 75% of the test content one year before the test instead of days before the test, the results will not be as good. Superintendent Grandson said that this change is supported at the Central Office level.

Superintendent Grandson asked Principal Lombardi to also speak about the non-substantive changes in the exploratory courses. Principal Lombardi explained that in an effort to expose 9th graders to more exploratory courses, Business and Technical Education will be introduced at the 9th Grade level next year. Principal Lombardi continued that this will address the issue highlighted by one of the high school students who spoke earlier in the meeting about not being familiar with all available class options at the beginning of 9th Grade. Principal Lombardi said that with this change, over the course of a semester, students will have four segments of 5-6 six weeks of instruction in different areas. So, in the course of the year, if students take both Business and Technical Education as exploratory, they would be exposed to 8 different courses which will be offered as full courses in the higher grade levels.

Mr. Froio thanked Principal Lombardi for making the changes in the exploratory courses. Mr. Froio made a motion to accept the changes in the Malden High School Program of Studies. The motion was seconded by Mr. Silverman and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Subcommittee Reports/Discussions

1. Families Against Drugs (FAD) Ad-Hoc Subcommittee – Ms. Bordonaro
Ms. Bordonaro informed that the last meeting was held on April 25th, 2017. There were many ideas on how to move the program forward. The next meeting will be held on May 22nd, 2017 at 4:00 pm at the Salemwood School cafeteria.
2. Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Task Force – Mr. Marsh
Mr. Marsh thanked the parent involvement subcommittee group and many other members of the committee for putting on the event last week at the Malden High School to celebrate the diversity in Malden. The next meeting is being planned for the middle of May.
3. Policy and Procedures – Mr. Leone and Mr. Silverman
Mr. Leone said that two items were voted on at the last subcommittee meeting. One of the items was the Malden Public Schools Calendar and the Linden STEAM Academy Calendar. The second item was the Substance Abuse Policy. Both items passed unanimously at the subcommittee meeting.

4. Space and Enrollment Ad-Hoc Subcommittee – Mr. Iovino
Mr. Iovino commented that space continues to be an issue but not as great as last year. Mr. Iovino informed that the current enrollment figure is 6,802. The number has fluctuated between 6,795 and 6,802.
5. Library Update – Ms. Beardsley
Ms. Beardsley informed that the libraries have been open at the Linden and Forestdale Schools since they have parent volunteers. Ms. Beardsley said that this has been successful and thanked the volunteers.
6. Budget Process – Mr. Leone
Mr. Leone informed that a vote was taken and passed unanimously at the subcommittee that the Superintendent must prepare a budget for the subcommittee no later than October 1st. Mr. Leone continued that although the final figure from the city will not be available at that time, the preliminary budget from the Superintendent will be something to work with to help plan months in advance. Mr. Leone made a motion to have the Superintendent prepare a budget by October 1st. Mayor Christenson said that this issue has nothing to do with the Superintendent because the Superintendent had just received the number from the Mayor's Office a few days ago. Mayor Christenson said that there are many moving parts to this matter and that we will see it when the entire budget is submitted to the City Council. Mayor Christenson continued that everything that can be done is being done to maintain the good things happening in the schools. Mr. Iovino said that he is in agreement with Mr. Leone because it is possible for the Budget Subcommittee, starting next school year, by October 1st, to look at the budget number from this year and add 2 to 2.5 percent because we know the budget is not going to go up by more than this figure. This way, instead of speaking in the abstract, realistic goals and realistic budget priorities based on the addition of 2 to 2.5% to the previous budget figure can be discussed.

Mayor Christenson commented that under the proposed scenario, there is no need for the Superintendent to reveal a figure because the discussion around the goals and priorities can be done at any time. Mr. Leone, Ms. Beardsley and Mr. Silverman provided comments that there is a need for the Superintendent to provide a figure by October 1st, based on what the Superintendent feels is needed to operate successfully the next year so that the budget subcommittee can then begin to work on that number and create some contingencies. Mr. Silverman continued that this will give a starting point for the budget process. Mr. Silverman added that the Budget Subcommittee wanted to start the process much earlier this year and had scheduled a few meetings but because of the lack of information, it was difficult for the meetings to be productive to set priorities.

Mayor Christenson commented that this matter does not necessarily need a motion, especially since the Superintendent-Elect has not even started the job yet and we do not know his view on this matter. Mayor Christenson suggested that this can be taken under advisement and when the new Superintendent starts work, the matter could be revisited. Mr. Leone said that the motion to have the Superintendent prepare a budget by October 1st should still go forward and Mr. Marsh 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 NO

Motion carries 8-1.

Motions and Resolutions

1. 2017 – 2018 Malden Public Schools Calendar and the Linden STEAM Academy Calendar – Mr. Leone
Mr. Leone said that this item passed unanimously 4-0 at the subcommittee level. Mr. Leone made a motion to approve the 2017-2018 Malden Public Schools Calendar and the Linden STEAM Academy Calendar. Mr. Marsh seconded. Assistant Superintendent Keenan explained that the only actual change in these calendars compared to previous years is that, the first staff professional development day will be held on August 29th instead of waiting till September or November. The first staff professional development day will be focused on the SEL (Social Emotional Learning) curriculum because under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), all schools need to adopt an SEL curriculum.

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.

2. Substance Abuse Policy – Mr. Leone
Mr. Leone said that this item passed unanimously 4-0 at the subcommittee level. Mr. Marsh said that when the Social Emotional and Physical Well-Being Ad-Hoc Subcommittee was formed in late fall, Ms. Ashley Wright from the Malden Board of Health had contacted him to get a few stakeholders to work on a K-12 substance abuse policy. The group met regularly and worked hard on developing the substance abuse policy.

Superintendent Grandson thanked Ms. Ashley Wright, administrators, teachers and counselors who participated and helped develop the substance abuse policy. Superintendent Grandson continued that this policy will help ensure that Malden Public Schools meets the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's requirement that all school districts by the end of this school year update their policies to reflect an educational approach to substance abuse prevention on top of making sure that there are rules and regulations in terms of how to address violations to the policy.

Mr. Marsh made the motion to adopt the substance abuse policy. Mr. Leone seconded and it was so VOTED.
Motion passed unanimously.

3. Linden STEAM Academy Innovation Plan - Renewal 2017-2022 – Mr. Froio
This item was tabled for the next meeting.
4. Changes in Malden High School Program of Studies – Mr. Froio
This item was voted on earlier in the meeting.
5. New Superintendent Contract – Superintendent Evaluation - Ms. Bordonaro
Ms. Bordonaro said this will be tabled for the next meeting.

6. Mr. Anerio Cincotta Honorary Diploma – Mr. Iovino
Mr. Iovino brought forward the request from Mr. Anerio Frederick Cincotta, who was a Malden resident for more than 40 years. Mr. Cincotta lived at 22 Ellis Street, Malden and is a graduate of the Lincoln Jr. High School. Mr. Cincotta was in the military during the Korean War. Mr. Cincotta left high school before graduation. Mr. Iovino continued that Mr. Cincotta did not just serve his country honorably during the Korean War, he obtained a GED in Massachusetts, according to the Massachusetts Department of Education. Mr. Cincotta further went on to graduate from Newbury College with a degree in Business Management and attended Bentley College where he also took Business Management courses. For many years, Mr. Cincotta worked as a Quality Control Manager in the Missile Department for Raytheon in Tewksbury. Mr. Cincotta had two cousins who were in the Second World War, one of whom was killed in Belgium. Mr. Cincotta's other cousin was recently deceased, Colonel Joseph Cafarella. So, Mr. Cincotta comes from a long line of Maldonians, having lived here for 60 years. Mr. Cincotta did make the statement that leaving Malden High School is one of the biggest mistakes of his life and that nothing will please him more than to be able to get an honorary diploma from Malden High School. Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve Mr. Cincotta's request. Mr. Froio seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

7. DESE School Choice Vote – Mr. Iovino
Mr. Iovino explained that this is a matter brought forward by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for a vote every year to see if Malden Public Schools would want to open enrollment to students in other school districts. Mr. Iovino said that he would urge the School Committee to vote no on this motion considering the high enrollment numbers in Malden.

Mr. Iovino made a motion to vote no in terms of Malden Public Schools being a School Choice school district. Mr. Froio seconded.

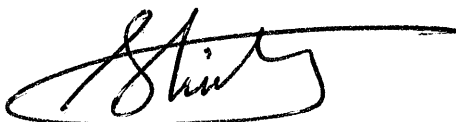
A roll call vote was taken.
Ms. Beardsley voted NO
Ms. Bordonaro voted NO
Mr. Drummey voted NO
Mr. Froio voted NO
Mr. Iovino voted NO
Mr. Leone voted NO
Mr. Marsh voted NO
Mr. Silverman voted NO
Mayor Christenson voted NO
Motion passed unanimously.

Personal Privilege

Adjournment

Mr. Marsh made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 pm. Mr. Leone 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