

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, October 2, 2017
Malden Senior Center, 7 Washington Street

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

Mayor Christenson announced that the next School Committee meeting will be Monday, November 6, 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. Next, a moment of silence was also observed for the victims, families and first responders that were impacted by the previous night's shooting in Las Vegas. Mayor Christenson also asked for a moment of silence for the people in Puerto Rico.

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 Oteri	Present
Student Representative Tsige	Present
Clerk	Present

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the September 11th 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.

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the September 11th Executive Session of the School Committee. Mr. Marsh made the motion to approve the minutes as a group. Mr. Iovino seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Ms. Penny Kalman, 194 Bainbridge Street, Malden and 6th Grade Teacher at Salemwood School

Ms. Kalman said that she read on social media sites that Beebe is at capacity but finds this confusing because she has been told as a parent and a veteran teacher of 19 years that there is no cap in Malden. Ms. Kalman added that she was at the School Committee meeting last month pleading for help but since then, Salemwood has received even more students including students on IEP, 504 and new English language learners. Ms. Kalman continued that her home room has 27 students and the total number of sixth graders is currently 138. Ms. Kalman said that she is standing up for her colleagues, who are held accountable for MCAS scores, MTEL, Access and a variety of other tests and data. Ms. Kalman

asked how a teacher could be expected to reach and differentiate for 138 students each day when colleagues across the city have only half or one third of the number of students. The teacher needs to correct 138 quizzes, tests, projects, research papers, lab reports, classwork and homework. Currently, the 6th Grade SEI1 teacher has a classroom of 29 students from 12 different countries speaking 9 different languages. Ms. Kalman asked why SEI students need to be placed at only one school when IEP and 504 students are not. Ms. Kalman continued that the sheer magnitude of responsibilities the classroom teacher has for each student is immeasurable as Salemwood has the most diverse population with diverse needs. Ms. Kalman suggested to the School Committee to set a cap, hire more teachers and obtain classroom pods as there is insufficient classroom space. Ms. Kalman also suggested that SEI2 students be moved to their neighborhood schools and have the Parent Information Center widen the boundaries for other schools. Ms. Kalman said that long term solutions are needed as Salemwood has students from all over the city.

Ms. Deborah Gesualdo, President of the Malden Educators' Association (MEA) and Teacher at Linden School
Ms. Gesualdo said she supports her colleagues from the Salemwood School who have SEI classes with more than 30 students. Ms. Gesualdo added that in order for educators to connect with each student, discover their passions and unlock their potential, it is imperative that the district creates a learning environment with class sizes that enable educators to connect one-on-one with each student. Class sizes of 30 and up are simply not appropriate for SEI classes. As the school and city budget for next year begin to take shape, Ms. Gesualdo asked for a renewed commitment to the success of every child by ensuring educational equity for all students. Small SEI class sizes will increase student opportunity and student success. Ms. Gesualdo also asked if there is something we can do to make the class sizes for SEI classes at Salemwood School more appropriate for this school year as everyone wants what is best for the students. Great schools give students time for one-on-one attention and instruction.

Superintendent's Report

1. Social Studies Field Trip to Holocaust Memorial

Superintendent Oteri said that the students and staff from the Social Studies Department of the Malden High School (MHS) were devastated by the careless destruction and vandalism of the Holocaust Memorial in Boston in August and wanted to do something positive in response to this incident. At the time, Mayor Christenson went to Boston for a press conference with Boston Mayor Walsh and he was met with 92-year old Holocaust survivor Mr. Israel Arbeiter. The students went to Boston in September and met Mr. Arbeiter, President of the Massachusetts Jewish Holocaust Survivors Association, who gave them a personal tour of the Holocaust Memorial. Superintendent Oteri said that the visit was incredibly moving and it showed how Malden students stand up to bigotry, hatred and racism. Superintendent Oteri continued that they did a phenomenal job of representing our city and our schools. Superintendent Oteri added that while in Boston, Mayor Christenson connected with the German Consulate who then invited them to the opening of the "Stumbling Stones" exhibit in Boston. Superintendent Oteri said that Mr. Greg Hurley, MHS Social Studies Lead Teacher, led the field trip with Principal Lombardi and other teachers. Superintendent Oteri invited Principal Lombardi to introduce the staff and students who took part in the event. Principal Lombardi said that the students always produce the most thoughtful, compelling responses in dire times and went onto commend them. Principal Lombardi welcomed Mr. Greg Hurley and the students to the podium to provide a summary of their efforts and experience.

Mr. Hurley said that at the beginning of the school year, many of the social studies students and teachers came to him and said they were upset about what happened at the Holocaust Memorial and wanted to do something in response. Mr. Hurley invited students Hajar El Khalfaoui, Taylor Winters and Leila Greige to speak. The students said that in light of the desecration of the New England Holocaust Memorial, they decided to come together with love, peace and dignity to celebrate our differences and reverse hate. They said that Mayor Christenson invited them to join him at the Holocaust Memorial after receiving an invitation from the German Consulate in Boston to visit the Memorial and later attend the exhibit opening of "Stumbling Stones - Remembrance and Social Sculpture" at Boston City Hall as guests of the Consulate. In coordination with the Jewish Community Relations Council of

Greater Boston, the students then organized a remembrance at the Memorial with Holocaust survivors and their families. They wrote obituaries for victims who did not have them in order to keep their names alive. Before the ceremony, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh thanked the students for being there.

The students continued that they felt that this ceremony alone was not enough to properly pay respect to victims of the Holocaust. When the students visited the Stolperstein or "Stumbling Stones" exhibit, they were made aware that the Stolperstein project lays memorial stones at the last voluntary place of residence of the victims of the Holocaust. Artist Gunter Demnig travels all over Europe installing these stones. The students have begun fundraising in MHS to purchase and install stolpersteins in Europe to honor victims of the Holocaust. The students also wanted to recognize and honor the relatives of two people who are part of our community because they have opened up their lives to them and have moved them to stand up for justice. The students are working to have stones installed in honor of Dr. Arlen Brown, father of Ms. Fern Remedi-Brown and as well as the family of Ms. Janet Singer Applefield who visits MHS every year to talk to students. The students said that the MHS community has stepped up in a big way this year to support this effort. They had been for just over 3 weeks and had already raised \$700. They will also be fundraising through the publication of Holocaust obituaries in the MHS newspaper, The Blue and Gold. Each time, The Blue and Gold goes to print, it will include these obituaries. The obituary page for genocide victims is a paid page and it will cost \$50 to run this page every issue. The money raised through this publication will be put into the Stolperstein fund. The students hope that this becomes a tradition that will continue beyond this year and they were happy to announce that MHS Social Studies Department has sponsored the first edition of these obituaries. The students are also looking into several other initiatives and are committed to proving that MHS students stand up to hatred and bigotry the right way, as leaders of their communities.

Mayor Christenson asked how members of the community can contribute to this effort. Mr. Hurley said that they are currently collecting money through the MHS National History Club with Ms. Sullivan at the main office. Mr. Hurley also said that checks can be made out to MHS with a note stating that it is for "Stumbling Stones" or Solperstein. Mayor Christenson said that what impressed him personally was that the students started all these efforts on their own volition. Mayor Christenson said that it is very touching that the students want to do even more initiatives to continue to make sure the world knows that they will not put up with any hatred, bigotry or intolerance. Mayor Christenson and Superintendent Oteri thanked Principal Lombardi, Mr. Hurley, the Social Studies team and the students. Mayor Christenson added that the students also impressed Mr. Arbeiter so much so that although he stopped speaking publicly, he will be coming to MHS next month to speak with MHS students.

2. Malden Rising Leaders, Inc.

Superintendent Oteri said that as requested by School Committee members, Ms. Bordonaro and Mr. Marsh, he would like to introduce Malden Rising Leaders, Inc., a non-profit corporation focusing on youth development and leadership that was officially formed in May. Superintendent Oteri invited Mr. Ted Louis-Jacques, the founder of Malden Rising Leaders (MRL) to speak more about the organization.

Mr. Louis-Jacques said that MRL is a non-profit corporation which develops the next generation of leaders to engage in their community. MRL focuses on education, character development, life-skills and youth leadership to help the young people in the city become community leaders and organizers to advocate not only for themselves but also for their families. Mr. Louis-Jacques continued that MRL aims to provide these problem solvers with the opportunity to develop innovative solutions to the unique challenges that they face and empower them to transcend the limits of their circumstances so that they can reach their full potential. The seniors graduating this year that are going into public service, education or non-profit will be qualified to apply for the MRL \$1,000 Malden Public Service Leadership Scholarship. Mr. Louis-Jacques said that he enjoys advocating for students and their families as his passion is in education and equity with a strong belief in the collective impact. Mr. Louis-Jacques works at Harvard Graduate School of Education and advises doctoral students seeking to take on leadership roles. Mr. Louis-Jacques wants to ensure that all students despite of circumstances, gender, race,

ethnicity and economic classes have the same access to education and jobs. Mr. Louis-Jacques also wants to ensure that MRL develops not just good job seekers but job creators. MRL's Board of Directors is made up of tactical and strategic thinkers from the field of education, social services and business. MRL seeks to give every student the opportunity to achieve success and be able to return to the community so that they can be active members and leaders. MRL has held student forums at MHS to get to understand the students and see what they are missing so that they are ready for the next chapter of their lives. MRL wants to offer diversity, inclusion training, etiquette classes, financial literacy, etc. MRL has already met with the City Council. On September 19th, together with Principal Lombardi, MRL participated in the Back-To-School Night at MHS where they met with over 200 students, parents, teachers, guidance counselors and adjustment counselors to inform them about MRL and their program. Mr. Louis-Jacques ended his presentation by informing that MRL can be found on Facebook at Malden Rising Leaders and that they also have a website, www.maldenrisingleaders.org.

Mr. Marsh asked if members of the community can learn more about MRL. Mr. Louis-Jacques responded that they are looking for volunteers and people from different backgrounds, experiences and expertise. Mr. Louis-Jacques also commented that some parents have already contacted them to find out how they can help MRL. Mayor Christenson said that he appreciates all that MRL is doing and to reach out if any help is needed moving forward.

3. District Updates and Highlights

Superintendent Oteri commented that all the Back-To-School nights at the schools have already been held. Superintendent Oteri said that for next year, the Back-To-School nights at the schools will be staggered so that they are all not happening at the same time to allow for parents with children in more than one school, the opportunity to attend them. This will also help administrators and others attend more of these events. As for the Kindergarten Open Houses, Superintendent Oteri said that they were held in early August this year but for next year, they will be scheduled when school begins so that students and parents can meet their Kindergarten teacher, principal, and other staff as well as have a tour of the building. This is not possible if the open houses are held in early August because many staff members are not around.

Superintendent Oteri said that he is involved in the Urban Superintendents Network through the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) where representatives from 27 urban districts come together to share information and do advocacy work. Right now, they are working with the Department of Education on some accountability because many of the urban communities are expecting an influx of students as a result of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. Superintendent Oteri commented that Malden too might be receiving some students as they might be coming to live up here with family and friends. DESE is also looking into this matter to see what kind of accommodations will be needed. Superintendent Oteri continued that the Urban Superintendents Network is involved with advocacy and preparing position papers for legislatures as well as bringing concerns that are specific to urban communities to DESE. According to Superintendent Oteri, the Urban Superintendents Network is a strong group and provides many resources.

Along the line of advocacy, Superintendent Oteri informed that he had a meeting with Senator Jason Lewis, who is a great ally of the Malden Public Schools. Senator Lewis is thrilled with the direction taken by Malden Public Schools and has offered his help and services. Superintendent Oteri said that Senator Lewis is on several committees that would be relative to some of the concerns and needs in Malden.

Superintendent Oteri provided updates on grants that the school system has applied for this year. The Title I grant is \$1.94 million, which is down from \$2.1 million the previous year. The Title IIA grant is \$273,000, Title III grant is \$207,000, Title IV is \$55,000, Special Education 94-142 grant is \$1.833 million and the Extended Learning Time grant is \$2.585 million. Superintendent Oteri said that the concern with this is that the figure has dipped below the agreed upon \$1,300 per student. So, this number is likely to go down again for the upcoming fiscal year.

Superintendent Oteri said that the grant situation has to be monitored and considered when decisions have to be made such as in negotiations. Superintendent Oteri is keeping MEA President, Ms. Gesualdo, apprised on this matter. Superintendent Oteri continued that the McKinney-Vento grant is \$20,000, the Inclusive Preschool grant is \$103,000 and the CFCE grant is \$45,000.

Superintendent Oteri informed that Malden's Promise, a broad based coalition including religious leaders and community service providers, is one of the many community endeavors that he has been involved with and that he has had professional relationships with some of them prior to coming to Malden. Superintendent Oteri said that it was good to renew some of those professional relationships and that he is excited about any opportunity that helps the youth in the city. Superintendent Oteri commented that there is a very cooperative environment at the city department levels and the community groups focused on helping Malden's youth.

Last week, Mayor Christenson, Superintendent Oteri and Principal Lombardi had the pleasure of turning the Jenkins Auditorium at MHS into a Federal Courthouse for the Naturalization Ceremony. The naturalization ceremony was presided over by the Honorable Frank J. Bailey, Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Massachusetts. Superintendent Oteri commented that over 300 people from many different countries became citizens of the United States. Superintendent Oteri mentioned the names of the 4 student ambassadors who assisted with this event; Birukti Tsige, Hajar El Khalfaoui, Sherley Maximin and Brandon Li.

On September 21st, Superintendent Oteri met with the District Instructional Leadership Team consisting of around 40 people. Superintendent Oteri said that this meeting was informative and allowed the team to address several items. Superintendent Oteri showed the inspirational video by comedian Michael Jr. titled Know Your Why to the team members because he believes it is a powerful video that is a metaphor for what we hope our educators are doing which is leading and working from the heart with passion to connect with the students. Superintendent Oteri said that the feedback has been extremely positive.

Superintendent Oteri provided an update regarding what was confirmed by the Department of Public Health to be a Shigella infection outbreak at the Salemwood School. Superintendent Oteri said that it is a bacterial infection, highly contagious, unusual but it was confined just to the Salemwood School. The only other case in the region was an adult who was hospitalized at the Melrose-Wakefield hospital. Superintendent Oteri commented that the cooperative spirit was once again seen as the Department of Public Health, Mr. Chris Webb from the Malden Board of Health, Ms. Debbie Spadafora - Salemwood School nurse, Ms. Karen Reynolds - Nursing Supervisor and Principal Gordon of Salemwood School all worked together to handle this matter. The information was communicated to families in multiple languages. MPS worked with the Board of Health to communicate with local area pediatricians, urgent care and hospitals to recognize the symptoms. Superintendent Oteri added that the situation is getting better, numbers have gone down and that the school has been disinfected and cleaned by the public facilities department and their cleaning company. Superintendent Oteri also said there was a hand, foot and mouth disease outbreak at the Early Learning Center last week. Superintendent Oteri said that it is almost as common as a cold but the school has been disinfected.

Yesterday, Superintendent Oteri participated in the walk for Bread of Life at Pine Banks. The Captain's Council students from MHS and about 50 students also participated. Superintendent Oteri later attended the Latino Hispanic festival at MHS and was pleasantly surprised to see many of the same students from earlier that morning over there as well. Superintendent Oteri echoed Mayor Christenson saying that it was a celebration of our diversity which is really a sign of our strength.

In response to Mayor Christenson's question about whether any of the grants applied for were new, Superintendent Oteri responded that the Title IV grant of \$55,000 is new. When Mayor Christenson asked if there were any matching requirements, Superintendent Oteri answered that there were none.

Subcommittee Reports/Discussions

1. Space and Enrollment Ad-Hoc Subcommittee – Mr. Iovino
Mr. Iovino said that the current enrollment at the Malden Public Schools is 6,662 students. Mr. Iovino continued that this is an increase of 14 students compared to the first month of school and indicated that the numbers are going up.
2. Families Against Drugs (FAD) Ad-Hoc Subcommittee – Ms. Bordonaro
Ms. Bordonaro informed that the next FAD meeting date will be changed because it is conflicting with Malden Overcoming Addiction who will also be present during the next FAD meeting. Ms. Bordonaro will prepare a flyer for the next meeting.

Motions and Resolutions

1. Academic Sub-Committee – Ms. Beardsley
Ms. Beardsley said that she had prepared a written motion as requested by the School Committee. Ms. Beardsley read the motion stating that the Malden School Committee establish under its by-laws a committee on student academics and that the responsibility of the committee shall be the following: 1. Conduct a schedule for discussions related to student achievement and academics in the various grades, schools or departments and to make such recommendations to the school committee as may be proper and appropriate. 2. Review and recommend to the school committee budgetary implications of strategies to improve academic achievement and necessary financial resources to achieve success. 3. Review policy-related curriculum issues and developments. This may include such curriculum issues that rise to the level of policy and budget such as new curricula, curriculum matters that are of priority and high interest in the community. The subcommittee shall be comprised of not more than four members of the school committee. Ms. Beardsley said that upon talking to other people, she would also like to have input, especially teachers and representatives from other buildings with the goal of making it equitable among all the K-8s.

When asked to comment, Superintendent Oteri said that the School Committee needs to decide whether this subcommittee will take the place of another subcommittee or whether there is an overlap as well as the priority and scope of the subcommittee. Superintendent Oteri added that some School Committees have an educational program or academic program subcommittee. Ms. Beardsley commented that looking through the existing subcommittees, none of them address these matters. Ms. Beardsley added that the previous superintendent thought that this was a glaring oversight.

When Mr. Iovino questioned if this new subcommittee will be a standing subcommittee or an ad-hoc subcommittee, Ms. Beardsley responded that it will be a standing subcommittee. Mr. Froio asked Superintendent Oteri for his recommendation. Superintendent Oteri said that he believes most school committees have a subcommittee that strictly examines education academic policies, within the scope, with no overlap and clear delineations. Superintendent Oteri added that we need to work in a coordinated method and manner going forward as to what goes before this subcommittee. From his own experience, Superintendent Oteri said that when new courses are created, matters such as the grading policy and whether to have reporting of standardized tests or whether it will be just curricula related, need to be spelled out. Superintendent Oteri stated that he is comfortable in recommending the subcommittee if all this is clear. Superintendent Oteri said that he thinks it is a worthwhile subcommittee to have and concurs with the previous superintendent that it is an oversight. Mr. Froio commented that it should not interfere with the experts in the school system. Superintendent Oteri agreed and said that in his experience with other districts, the experts would give regular reports and updates to the subcommittee and talk about potential new requirements from the state or federal level, potential budgetary impact, as well as creation of courses or eliminating some courses or grading policies that have been archaic. Superintendent Oteri added that another area to consider is the purview of school schedules, such as whether to bring this matter to the subcommittee when a school or high school wants to change a schedule. Superintendent

Oteri said that these are the things that need to be teased out but believes the subcommittee will help the school district operate more smoothly and with more oversight.

Ms. Beardsley made the motion that the Malden School Committee establish under its by-laws an Academic Subcommittee. Mr. Leone seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Nature's Classroom Field Trip for Forestdale School – Ms. Beardsley

Ms. Beardsley said that the Salemwood School has done this field trip in the past and invited Principal Concannon and Assistant Principal Carpenito of Forestdale School to provide more details. Assistant Principal Carpenito said that she had attended Nature's Classroom about 14 years ago for 9 years in a row when she was at the Glenwood School and that Nature's Classroom is a week-long academic, science-based, math experience for the students to get them in touch with nature, away from the city. Superintendent Oteri asked which grade level will be going on the trip. Assistant Principal Carpenito responded that the Grade 6 students will be going as this has been her experience in the past and added that she believes the students from the Salemwood School that had gone were also from Grade 6. Assistant Principal Carpenito added that any student who wants to go will have the opportunity to go as the school will raise money in various ways such as scholarships, help from local businesses and financial aid. Assistant Principal Carpenito said that in her experience, the trip is for students and staff only, not parents. The ratio of adults to students is 1:12. Superintendent Oteri asked if the fundraising has taken place. Assistant Principal Carpenito responded that it has not yet taken place yet as they are awaiting permission from the School Committee for the trip. Superintendent Oteri said that his concern is the short turn-around time for fundraising as the trip will take place in November, which is one month away. Assistant Principal Carpenito said that there is enough time because although the field trip will take place in November 2017, the contract with Nature's Classroom states that payment can be made by May 2018.

Mr. Iovino raised a question as to whether the trip will happen during MCAS but since the trip takes place in November, that will not be an issue. Ms. Bordonaro asked for the dates of the trip and Assistant Principal Carpenito said that it will be from November 13th to 17th. In response to Student Representative Tsige's question about information packets for parents, Assistant Principal Carpenito responded that it has not been sent out yet as they need approval from the School Committee for the trip.

Superintendent Oteri said that he recommends the trip. Superintendent Oteri asked about the participation rate and Assistant Principal Carpenito responded that when she was involved with the field trips in Glenwood, the participation rate was between 85-95% but that was many years ago and she is not sure what the participation rate might be now. Superintendent Oteri said that the participation rate needs to be properly gauged because usually, schools present the trip in the fall, get people on board and fundraise before making the trip in the spring. Superintendent Oteri added that he is concerned about the tight time frame but if the participation rate is good, it is a great endeavor.

Ms. Beardsley made the motion to approve the Nature's Classroom field trip for Forestdale School. Mr. Drummey seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Personal Privilege

Executive Session

Mr. Iovino made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:23 p.m. Mr. Froio 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.

The committee reconvened to the Regular Session at 8:18 p.m.

Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the 2% raise in salary retroactive July 1, 2017 for the three clerical non-union staff in Central Office, Joanne D'Orlando, Marie Lucey and Shirley Dorai. 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 YES
Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the 1-year contract for the position of Interim Assistant Superintendent Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for Ms. Carol Keenan. The revised 1-year contract which will run until the end of June 2018, was also adjusted to \$145,000. Ms. Bordonaro 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.

Adjournment

Mr. Iovino made a motion to adjourn at 8:21 p.m. Mr. Marsh 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