

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION  
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Monday, September 11, 2017  
Malden Senior Center, 7 Washington Street

Mayor Christenson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Mayor Christenson announced that the next School Committee meeting will be Monday, October 2, 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. Mayor Christenson also requested a moment of silence to reflect on the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks as well as pray for the victims and survivors of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, along with the wild fires ravaging Western United States. A moment of silence was also observed for the family of Tenzin Kunkhyen, a Malden High School student who tragically lost his life before school started.

**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 Tsigie	Present
Clerk	Present

**Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the June 19<sup>th</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. Penny Kalman, 194 Bainbridge Street, Malden and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher at Salemwood School  
Ms. Kalman said that Salemwood School needs stability. Ms. Kalman continued that during her 19 years of teaching at the Salemwood School, they not only had more administrative changes than any other K-8 schools in Malden but they also endured several administration reorganizations. Ms. Kalman said that the new teachers in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year of teaching have had 3 different principals, 3 different assistant principals and 3 different directors, each with different agendas, different personalities and different outlooks. Ms. Kalman added that they began with 2 principals and 2 assistant principals. Next, they had 1 principal and 3 assistant principals. They went back to 2 principals and 2 assistant principals. Right now, they have 1 principal and 2 assistant principals. Ms. Kalman went on to name the different administrators who served at Salemwood School and the many different initiatives implemented.

Ms. Kalman said that another school is needed to house the SEI1 students and that SEI2 students need to be housed at their neighborhood schools just like the new English speaking students so that the load on the teachers at Salemwood can be eased. Since SEI1 students are co-taught in Science and Math classes in middle school, Ms. Kalman's Science and Math colleagues have a student load of 133 students who have different needs as they come from many different backgrounds and situations. These students include those on IEPs, 504s, SEI1 newcomers with little to no English, SEI2 students who are mainstreamed but still needing extra help as well as students who have been retained. Ms. Kalman added that they were told that Salemwood should have more students because it is an extended learning school. Ms. Kalman said that the staff is paid for the amount of time taught, not the number of students. Ms. Kalman said that according to the 2016-2017 data on the DESE website, the Salemwood School has the largest population of students with high needs and students who are economically disadvantaged out of all the K-8 schools. Many students come to school with no supplies. Ms. Kalman asked for help so that the school can help their students. Ms. Kalman invited the School Committee members to attend team meetings that are held every other day to speak with the teachers.

Ms. Deborah Gesualdo, President of the Malden Educators' Association (MEA) and Teacher at Linden School  
Ms. Gesulado introduced herself and stated that she has been a teacher at the Linden School for the past 14 years. Ms. Gesualdo highlighted some of the amazing things that Malden educators are doing like Ms. Ashley Freeman, Creative Engineering and Design teacher at Malden High School who won the Lawrence O'Toole Teacher Leadership Award because she has found a way to teach and bring opportunity to all of her students in Physics and Engineering classes through her creative and innovative learning model that is student centered. Ms. Gesulado also named educators like Jessica Haralson from Malden High School, Kathleen Sullivan and Laura Vago from Salemwood, and Sharon Solano from Linden that are not just working in classrooms but they are out in Malden and in surrounding communities advocating for social and economic justice to make sure our students and their families have the opportunities that they deserve. Ms. Gesualdo encouraged the School Committee members to visit the schools to talk with the educators and see the wonderful work that they do in the schools and community. Ms. Gesualdo looks forward to working with everyone to bring further student opportunity, success and to build up the support of our high quality educators in Malden.

### **Superintendent's Report**

1. **Malden High School (MHS) Robotics Team Highlights from the International Botball Tournament in Oklahoma in July 2017**

Superintendent Oteri began by saying that he is honored, humbled and grateful to be the Superintendent of the Malden Public Schools and felt privileged to address everyone present. Superintendent Oteri echoed Ms. Gesualdo in saying that amazing education takes place day in and day out with the educators in Malden. Superintendent Oteri added that one of the things to do this year is to recognize the incredibly talented group of dedicated educators who work with our students, who come to us from a variety of backgrounds and they do it not just adroitly, but with passion and dedication.

Superintendent Oteri felt very honored to recognize the robotics team that competed at the world championship this past July in Norman Oklahoma. Superintendent Oteri added that two of the students and the two advisors, Mr. Chis Bazzinotti and Mr. Brian Morrison were present at the meeting. Superintendent Oteri continued that going out to Oklahoma was a major task because it required a great deal of fundraising on very short notice. Superintendent Oteri thanked Mr. Kevin Duffy of City Hall and the Mayor's Office, for helping the school to get major donations from four very responsible corporate citizens in Malden, Mr. Sam Minh Le of HeliDirect, Mr. Phil Dinan of Callahan Construction, Dr. Long Phan of Top Flight Technologies and Mr. Louie Barretto of L & L Trucking. Superintendent Oteri thanked the sponsors and went on to say that because of their generous donations, the MHS Robotics team were able to go to Norman, Oklahoma to compete in the championship and finish in the top eight, in the "elite eight" round. There were teams from as far away as China, Saudi Arabia and South America. In order to get to Norman, Oklahoma, the students had to win the New England Regional Botball Championship that earned them a place at the International Botball Championship in Norman, Oklahoma. They were seeded 33<sup>rd</sup> in

the 64-team competition but advanced to the "Elite Eight", losing to the Dead Robots Society of Northern Virginia who were later crowned World Champions. Superintendent Oteri invited Mr. Bazzinotti, Mr. Morrison and the students, Daniel Augustin, Fabiano Marques Junior and Wojciech Kochanczyk to present them with certificates.

When invited to speak, Mr. Bazzinotti said that together with Mr. Morrison, they have been advisors for MHS Botball for the last seven years. Mr. Bazzinotti thanked everyone who made this achievement possible. Mr. Morrison thanked all the students on the team, which was comprised of more than just the three students who went to Oklahoma. Mr. Morrison said that every one of the seniors on the team have gone on to do a 4-year college program, with one student getting a full scholarship to MIT, another student getting a full scholarship to Northeastern University and a number of students who went to UMass Amherst.

Superintendent Oteri said that as a former principal of a comprehensive high school, he is used to seeing the collaboration between academic and technical fields. Superintendent Oteri continued that one of the reasons Mr. Froio was presenting the certificates of achievement is because he was a former vocational educator in Malden. Superintendent Oteri continued that this is real 21<sup>st</sup> century learning, where the theory of the physics part comes to the nexus point with the application and the vocational technical end. Superintendent Oteri said that two of the sponsors, Mr. Sam and Dr. Long have businesses that are predicated on this model. Superintendent Oteri added that this is the foreshadowing of a great partnership of an education alliance going forward and publicly thanked the sponsors as well as our educators.

## 2. District Updates and Highlights

Superintendent Oteri said that as part of his settling in and getting his entry plan underway, he had met with School Committee members, administrators, staff, teachers, parents and students and other internal and external stakeholders. Superintendent Oteri also mentioned that he has had several meetings with his mentor and coach, Mr. Tony Pierantozzi, former Superintendent of the Somerville Public Schools and current Superintendent of Nahant Public Schools. Upon talking with other superintendents who took part in the formal induction program, Superintendent Oteri believes this mentoring program is beneficial because it is much more focused and tailored toward urban education.

Superintendent Oteri stated that central administration is working on a vision on how they are going to go forward this year and over the next few years to raise the standards for Malden Public Schools. Superintendent Oteri also attended the superintendent conference in Hyannis with Assistant Superintendent Keenan where they had the opportunity to network and attend relevant workshops. Over the summer, Superintendent Oteri was able to take part in some of the hiring and staffing process for about 11 administrators and 59 educators. Superintendent Oteri said that he asked the principals to hire a skill set that cannot be taught, that goes beyond the resume. At interviews, Superintendent Oteri said that the difference between a teacher and an educator was explained in great detail. Superintendent Oteri thanked the MEA for their willingness to put forward volunteers for interview committees and for being willing partners for administrative and line staff. Superintendent Oteri went on to introduce the new administrators, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Guidance and Special Education, Dr. Sandra Donah; STEM Director, Dr. Doug Dias; Director of Instructional Technology, Ms. Natalia Santiago Brennan; and Director of English Language Learner Education, Ms. Heidi Perez. Superintendent Oteri added that there are three administrators who either switched schools or roles; Mr. Abdel Sepulveda is now the Principal of the Ferryway School; Ms. Rebecca Gordon is now the Principal of the Salemwood School; and Mr. Peter Dolan is now the Principal of the Early Learning Center (ELC).

Superintendent Oteri also mentioned that he had the opportunity to attend all the Kindergarten open houses that were held in August to welcome all the new families. The Mayor was able to attend some of the open houses as well. Superintendent Oteri said that the Parent Information Center (PIC), Ms. Joan Federico and her staff have processed hundreds of new student registrations. Superintendent Oteri said that there we'll be rolling out plans to better reach the community but recognized that Ms. Federico and her staff at PIC have really gone out of their way this year working with the families coming in and making this a smoother transition than previous years.

Superintendent Oteri said that this year, instead of the New Teacher Orientation program, the New Educator Orientation program was held. Assistant Superintendent Keenan along with Ms. Santiago Brennan, Ms. Abbey Dick and Ms. Rebecca Gordon ran two days of trainings and workshops. The feedback, questions and enthusiasm was phenomenal. There was a buzz and energy. There was 100 % attendance on both days. The MEA was also part of this program, informing the new educators of the partnership.

Superintendent Oteri explained that at the first leadership summit held at the high school library on August 25<sup>th</sup>, he was able to talk about the vision and direction for the school system, the need to connect with students and families in the community as well as provide an opportunity for the administrative staff to understand him, his style and provide feedback. Superintendent Oteri continued that this platform enabled him to drill upon the goal which is to not only reach a Level 2 status but a Level 1 status by having a comprehensive plan that starts with the mindset and orientation of where we are heading and making students first. Superintendent Oteri said that he understands what it takes to push the needle and to change the level of accountability up because he had the pleasure of leading a high school out of Level 3 into Level 1 where it was sustained 4 years consecutively and possibility a 5<sup>th</sup> year. Superintendent Oteri concluded the leadership summit by giving each of the administrators a piece of a basketball net for them to keep in their office to symbolize the commitment and the goal of where Malden Public Schools is headed. Each of the educators in the schools will receive a piece too. Superintendent Oteri added that the net will remind us to keep students first, celebrate their achievement, work with them and their parents, treat each student as their own and be the best educator possible. Superintendent Oteri then gave each School Committee member an envelope containing a piece of the net as a reminder of his commitment and his administrative team's commitment.

Superintendent Oteri said that schools opened last Monday and that on Opening Day, the Mayor and his staff presented an amazing video of virtual reality, where he envisioned what it was like to be an educator. The Mayor through his video showed that it is not easy, it is a task that few can master. Superintendent Oteri continued that people in high positions make many decisions and the amount of decisions an educator makes in an hour is somewhere in the hundreds, which they do intuitively. Superintendent Oteri also mentioned the student speaker, Ms. Shataeya Smith, a junior at MHS, who spoke poignantly. Ms. Smith spent time in two other school districts and when she came back to Malden, she realized how special Malden was. Ms. Smith spoke about the diversity, the acceptance, the welcoming atmosphere and went on to name all the educators who worked with her. Superintendent Oteri said that this goes to show that the educators are appreciated and to keep doing the great job that they do.

Superintendent Oteri touched upon some major initiatives such as the restorative practices which is taking place in all of our schools as well as the writing with colors which is getting more use and application. Superintendent Oteri said that the writing with colors initiative was one of the major tools that he used in Somerville, which made them the highest English Language Arts school in the state growth wise. Superintendent Oteri added that it is an amazing tool because it actually takes something that is abstract such as writing and makes it concrete.

Superintendent Oteri mentioned that the opening of the school year started with a tragedy but that the educators and crisis team were prepared the night before and when school opened at 6:30 a.m., they were ready to provide

comfort and counseling for students and staff who needed it. The support is still on-going for those who require assistance.

Superintendent Oteri called on Ms. Janice Raymond, Director of Literacy and Title I who spoke about the reading events held during the summer where the entrance requirement for students was an updated reading log. All K-8 students who completed their reading logs would get a coupon for free pizza from Pisa Pizza. Ms. Raymond went on to tell about the other events planned for the rest of the year from September to May.

Superintendent Oteri informed that about 1,200 new chromebooks were rolled out at the high school and thanked Ms. Natalia Brennan and Mr. Brian Wong for their efforts in this regard. Superintendent Oteri added that it was nice that that the students were able to get the new chromebooks on the first day of school.

Superintendent Oteri said that on Friday, together with the Mayor, a joint statement on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) was released. Superintendent Oteri said the statement spoke of the uncertainty of the Act as well as re-affirm the city and schools support to the students, families and staff in the community who may be under DACA. Superintendent Oteri continued that it was very well received and that the city and schools are proud to do it. Superintendent continued that as a city of 70 languages and cultures, it is important that the city and the schools stand behind the citizens.

Mr. Silverman asked which grades have chromebooks for all the students. Ms. Santiago Brennan answered that Grades 10, 11 and 12 have chromebooks. Grade 9 will be getting their chromebooks on September 19<sup>th</sup> and the Grades 7 and 8 already have the devices. Ms. Santiago Brennan added that the chromebooks that the high school had last year and the previous years will be passed down to all 6<sup>th</sup> graders in the next few weeks. Ms. Bordonaro asked about the expiration date for the chromebooks and whether there is a plan in place to replace them in a timely manner because last year, some of the devices had expired. Ms. Santiago Brennan responded that the chromebooks in the high school will expire in 5 years and the ones the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades have will expire in 3 years but that date needs to be double-checked. Ms. Santiago Brennan continued that this is the plan that the school is working toward.

Ms. Beardsley asked whether there is a chance to expand the robotics program to the middle school since it has been so successful at the high school level. Ms. Beardsley said that in Melrose, they have a middle school program and some funding. Superintendent Oteri said that they are exploring opportunities to expand the robotics program such as through an after-school program.

Mayor Christenson asked about the future funding from the federal level for programs such as Title 1. Superintendent Oteri responded that funding is available for this year even though we did not receive the same amount of funding as we did last year. Superintendent Oteri said that upon talking with other superintendents, the consensus is that there is a great deal of uncertainty around educational grant programs in general.

3. **Distribution of Selected Massachusetts General Laws 2017**

Superintendent Oteri said that the latest edition of the Massachusetts General Laws, 2017 edition was distributed to all the School Committee members at the meeting.

**Subcommittee Reports/Discussions**

1. **Space and Enrollment Ad-Hoc Subcommittee – Mr. Iovino**

Mr. Iovino said that the enrollment figure from last week is 6,648 students. The figure is down considerably from last June by 122 students. However, since this is only the second week of school, the numbers are going to be fluid up through and including the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. Mr. Iovino added that this week, there were an additional 3 students and therefore one can expect this number to start going up steadily. Superintendent Oteri commented

that the October 1<sup>st</sup> enrollment figure is what the state accepts for all the funding formulas and everything else. Superintendent Oteri continued that there are a number of students who will be considered as no-shows and will be dropped from the enrollment figures by October 1<sup>st</sup>. So, by October 1<sup>st</sup>, the enrollment numbers will be more concrete.

2. Families Against Drugs (FAD) Ad-Hoc Subcommittee – Ms. Bordonaro  
Ms. Bordonaro informed that the next FAD meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, at the Ferryway School cafeteria from 4 - 6 p.m. A kids table will be provided.

### **Motions and Resolutions**

1. Academic Sub-Committee – Ms. Beardsley  
Ms. Beardsley said that upon some reflection and talking to a few people, one of the subcommittees that is glaringly missing is an academic subcommittee. Ms. Beardsley added that some people asked about the inequalities between the K-8 schools as well as provided some thoughts about the high school and keeping it in check and competitive. Ms. Beardsley did some initial research of communities around and found that Brookline, Boston, Cambridge and some others had this subcommittee as one of their core subcommittees. Ms. Beardsley said that she will be doing a little more research before asking the committee to act any further.

### **Personal Privilege**

### **Executive Session**

Mr. Iovino made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:35 pm. 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 7:55 p.m.

Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the 3-year contract for Dr. Donah for the position of Assistant Superintendent, Student Services and Special Education. 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

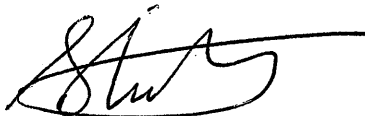
Mayor Christenson voted YES

Motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Iovino made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shirley Dorai', written over a horizontal line.

Shirley Dorai, Clerk