

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, June 19, 2017
Malden Senior Center, 7 Washington Street

The Chair (Mayor Christenson) called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Chair said that the School Committee will have a recess until the beginning of school unless the Chair calls for a meeting due to some unforeseen circumstance.

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
Clerk	Present

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the May 30, 2017 Special Meeting of the School Committee, May 30, 2017 Executive Session Special Meeting of the School Committee and the Regular Session of June 5, 2017. Mr. Leone made the motion to approve the minutes as a group. Mr. Iovino seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

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

Ms. Page stressed that we need to listen to the educators and keep lines of communication open. The educators advocate for students, colleagues and families. Ms. Page said that the educators are in the classrooms, face-to-face with students and families every day and they have a wealth of knowledge to contribute towards dialogues and decision-making processes. Ms. Page continued that educators have faced multiple challenges over the years such as an unreliable evaluation system, developmentally and academically inappropriate curriculum, demands of too much testing, lack of appropriate district professional development, a rise in students' social emotional needs, influx of students with severe special needs and serious behavior issues, cutting of positions and programs and, some administrators who do not treat members with respect or professionalism. Despite these difficulties, the teachers remain committed to their profession and students. Ms. Page said that we need to work together with the educators. Ms. Page expressed her thanks to everyone for working with her for the last 2 years as President of the MEA. Ms. Page concluded that it has been an honor and privilege to serve the MEA and to have taught in the school system for 30 years.

FY18 Budget

Mr. Iovino said that at the Public Hearing of the Malden School Committee that was held earlier at 6:00 p.m., the Budget Subcommittee composed of Mr. Silverman, Mr. Froio, Mr. Iovino, Mr. Leone and Mr. Drummey heard from members of the public. Then, the Budget Subcommittee members unanimously voted on the FY18 budget in the amount of \$69,218,947. Mr. Iovino made a motion to bring the FY18 budget for a vote by the School Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Froio.

A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Beardsley voted NO

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 carries 8-1.

Superintendent's Report

1. District Updates and Highlights

Superintendent Grandson thanked Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services, Ms. Maura Johnson, who is retiring at the end of this academic year after over nine years of service at the Malden Public Schools and many more years at other schools. Superintendent Grandson also thanked the Malden families, teachers, principals, assistant principals, directors, and staff who make everything the schools do for students possible. Superintendent Grandson continued by thanking Assistant Superintendents, Ms. Carol Keenan and Ms. Maura Johnson and Business Manager, Ms. Toni Mertz for their leadership, integrity, and commitment. Superintendent Grandson thanked Mayor Christenson and the school committee members for their passion and commitment to quality education. Superintendent Grandson said that it has been heartwarming and inspiring to be part of such a passionate community. Superintendent Grandson thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as Interim Superintendent and stated that it has been a great year with many accomplishments. Superintendent Grandson wished the Malden Public Schools the best in educating the students with the best education opportunity possible. Superintendent Grandson also said that with Superintendent John Oteri, the Malden Public Schools is in good hands.

2. NESDEC Presentation

Superintendent Grandson said that at the request of Mr. Iovino, the Chair of the Space and Enrollment Ad-Hoc Subcommittee, an invitation was sent to Dr. Don Kennedy from the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) to present at the School Committee meeting. Superintendent Grandson said that NESDEC does a great job at keeping track of school systems' enrollment data on an annual basis and that they provide another level of service in terms of space. Mr. Iovino welcomed Dr. Don Kennedy to begin his presentation.

Dr. Kennedy said that in the last 10 years, the Malden Public Schools has grown by an average of 41 students a year. This amounts to 410 students more and although the high school only represents a third of the grade levels in the school system, 215 out of the 410 students were added at the high school level. So, there is a fairly robust portion of the growth at the high school level.

Total enrollment for the Malden Public Schools was up and down during the last 4 years. Three years ago, the enrollment dropped by 55. Two years ago, the enrollment number rose by 163. Last year, the enrollment number dropped by 92 and this year, the enrollment number rose by 155. Ten years ago, there were 6,320 students in grades K to 12 and this year, there are 6,746 students, which is a growth of over 400 students in 10 years.

From 2016 to 2026, the projection shows that the birth rate which drives the Kindergarten enrollments remains the same. Malden has been having an average of 868 annual births for the last 10 years but now the birth rate is at 871 and it will probably remain the same for the next few years. Dr. Kennedy said that quite a few Eastern Massachusetts school districts have an older population with lower numbers of births than Malden. Dr. Kennedy also said that the Malden school system has been receiving about 54% of the number of babies born in Malden entering Kindergarten 5 years later but now that percentage is at 57%. The student population is growing by 1.5% in 1st Grade compared to Kindergarten. At the high school level, an increase of 8% is noted in 9th Grade. So, the 9th Grade classes are 8% larger compared to the 8th Grade classes the year before and that appears to be continuing on into the future. This shows a growth projection of 15 students a year for the next 10 years. So, at the moment there are 6,746 students in grades K-12 and this number is expected to grow to 6,898 in the next 10 years. Dr. Kennedy said that this figure does not include PreK students because the number of students in PreK depends on available space, funds and policy decisions to run the programs. Since there is no universal PreK, only Grades K-12 are taken into account to see if the system is growing or shrinking.

For Grades K-12, there are 25 students per grade in K-8 and 30 per grade in high school who go to private or parochial school. There are about 70 students per grade in K-12 who live in Malden but have "choiced-out" or are in charter schools. The numbers have been quite stable and not changed much in the last couple of years.

Dr. Kennedy continued by saying that three years ago, when NESDEC did some work in Malden, interviewing parents, administrators and others, they were told by a few people that after 8th grade, many students leave for other schools instead of going to Malden High School. However, the data showed that this trend was only true about 15 years ago. For the last 11 years, this was no longer the case as the trend had changed. There were 458 students in 8th grade in June 2015 and the following year the number increased by 32 students to 490 students who entered 9th grade. In June 2014, there were 453 students in 8th grade and the following year, 507 students were enrolled in 9th grade at the high school. This was an increase of 54 students. The overall trend has been for more students to show up in 9th grade than there had been in 8th grade the previous year.

Dr. Kennedy said that there are reasons why we see trends of more students in this year's official count on October 1st. Several online real estate firms have identified that Eastern Massachusetts is among the top 10 U.S. real estate markets. The newspapers report that there are a number of nearby school districts that are experiencing various stages of growing pains in their recovery from the 2008 recession. Based on the many projections that NESDEC does for school districts in New England, they found that the growth seen in Malden is somewhat similar in trying to achieve a healthier real estate situation after the 2008 recession. Malden was averaging 266 home sales a year for 5 years or so during the bubble and then shrank to 170 in 2011. This was only 64% of the prior home sales figure. This percentage is actually very good because many other districts were only selling 30% as many as they had before. Malden rebounded to selling 258 homes in 2015 and 242 homes in 2016. The median prices were in the mid \$300K but it dipped down to \$262K after 2007 and it went up to \$380K in 2016. New information just received shows that the current median up to May 2017 is at \$420K. Baby boomers who were thinking of downsizing but held off because the value of their homes dropped during the recession will now have a good reason to put their homes on the market. Condominium sales show a similar growth. Condominiums are now selling more rapidly than previous years.

Dr. Kennedy continued that Grades 1-8 tend to be the most stable grades in any school system. The enrollment data for Malden shows that there was an average loss of -61 students a year for the last 4 years. However, this

pattern reversed in 2016-2017 with a gain of +64 students. According to Dr. Kennedy, the data gathered indicates that there will be modest enrollment growth for the next 10 years.

Ms. Bordonaro asked whether an economic crash much like the one in 2008 was incorporated into the table for enrollment projections. Dr. Kennedy replied that the report did try to take all the real estate and economic information available. NESDEC belongs to a group called NEEP (New England Economic Partnership) that not only provides information about New England in general but also State specific information and data about Eastern Massachusetts. The Boston metropolitan area is like a bubble onto itself and different from the rest of the state. The majority of the rest of the state is not very far out of the 2008 recession. Most of the districts in Eastern Massachusetts, near Boston are a lot better off than much of the rest of the state in terms of numbers.

Ms. Beardsley inquired whether the predicted growth rate over 10 years is normal and whether it means that we need more space. Dr. Kennedy said the predicted growth rate is normal and modest. Dr. Kennedy added that since NESDEC did not do any building capacity study in Malden, they do not know the details but Dr. Kennedy mentioned that it is good to keep a little bit of capacity in advance because it is very expensive if all of a sudden there is a need to expand. Dr. Kennedy concluded that it is worth it to do some advance planning.

Subcommittee Reports/Discussions

1. Budget Subcommittee – Mr. Iovino
This matter was addressed earlier in the meeting.

2. Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee – Mr. Iovino
Mr. Iovino said that the superintendent evaluation process was lengthy as the documentation was 18 pages in length and it required a number of meetings because there were four areas to consider: Instructional Leadership; Management and Operations; Family and Community Engagement; and Professional Culture. Under each area, there are several other items that further delineate and explain what a superintendent has to achieve. Mr. Iovino said that the Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee was composed of Mr. Leone, Ms. Bordonaro and Ms. Beardsley and himself. The evaluation was completed three weeks ago with some aid from Dr. Irwin Blummer from the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (M.A.S.S.), who narrowed the focus and helped the subcommittee to evaluate. Mr. Iovino said that there are four levels to evaluate a superintendent; Exemplary, Proficient; Needs Improvement; and Unsatisfactory. Mr. Iovino added that Superintendent Grandson received a proficient grading from the subcommittee. Earlier in the year, as part of the evaluation, Superintendent Grandson submitted his goals and his plans to achieve the goals to the subcommittee. Mr. Iovino wished Dr. Grandson well in his future endeavors. Mr. Iovino made a motion to accept the completed evaluation. Ms. Bordonaro seconded it and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Families Against Drugs (FAD) Ad-Hoc Subcommittee – Ms. Bordonaro
Ms. Bordonaro informed that the meeting at the Linden School earlier this evening was productive. There were about thirty families who attended. There will be no meetings in the summer but the monthly meetings will start again in September. Ms. Bordonaro added that Malden Overcoming Addiction (MOA) representatives will be present at future meetings to provide support and information. Superintendent Grandson thanked Ms. Bordonaro for her vision about forming Families Against Drugs (FAD) as there have been more and more families attending the FAD meetings.

4. Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Task Force – Mr. Marsh
Mr. Marsh informed that the Family and Community Engagement Task Force met last Thursday and showed their appreciation for the support from Superintendent Grandson. Superintendent Grandson thanked Mr. Marsh for starting this task force. Superintendent Grandson also thanked Ms. Kristy Magras, parents and families for their efforts.

5. Space and Enrollment Ad-Hoc Subcommittee – Mr. Iovino
Mr. Iovino informed that the enrollment figure for last week was 6,770. Compared to the enrollment figure last year at this time, we have 55 fewer students this year. Mr. Iovino thanked Ms. Federico for providing the enrollment numbers.

Motions and Resolutions

1. FY18 Budget – Mr. Iovino
This matter was addressed earlier in the meeting.
2. Superintendent Evaluation – Mr. Iovino
This matter was addressed earlier in the meeting.
3. Unit A, B and C Contracts – Mr. Iovino
Mr. Iovino said that the three contracts need to be considered are: Unit A - Teachers; Unit B – Administrators and Directors; and Unit C – Paraprofessionals. Mr. Iovino said that each contract will be brought forward for a roll call vote separately. These contracts were negotiated throughout the school year through the Negotiations Subcommittee. Mr. Iovino added that the raises in the contracts were budgeted for and thus caused no negative effects on the budget.

Mr. Iovino read out the percentages for the raises for Unit A:

- 1% on the first day of the 2017-2018 school year
- 1% on the ninety first day of the 2017-2018 school year
- 2% on the first day of the 2018-2019 school year

Mr. Iovino made a motion to accept the contract for Unit A. 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 ABSTAINED
Motion carries.

Mr. Iovino read out the percentages for the raises for Unit B:

- 1% on the first day of the 2017-2018 school year
- 1% on the ninety first day of the 2017-2018 school year
- 2% on the first day of the 2018-2019 school year

Mr. Iovino made a motion to accept the contract for Unit B. 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 YES
Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Iovino read out the percentages for the raises for Unit C:
2% on the first day of the 2017-2018 school year
2% on the first day of the 2018-2019 school year

Mr. Iovino made a motion to accept the contract for Unit C. Mr. Froio seconded. A roll call vote was taken.
Ms. Beardsley voted YES
Ms. Bordonaro voted YES
Mr. Drummey ABSTAINED
Mr. Froio voted YES
Mr. Iovino voted YES
Mr. Leone voted YES
Mr. Marsh voted YES
Mr. Silverman voted YES
Mayor Christenson YES
Motion carries.

4. Global Conference on Educational Robotics Trip (Oklahoma) and Donations – Mr. Froio
Mr. Froio said that the MHS Robotics team won the New England championship and has been invited to compete in the national robotics competition in Norman, Oklahoma next month. Mr. Froio thanked Mr. Kevin Duffy from the Mayor's Office for helping the robotics team raise \$7,700 for the trip. Mr. Froio also thanked KISS Institute for Robotics, HeliDirect, Callahan Inc., L & L Services and Top Flight Technologies for providing generous donations. Assistant Superintendent Keenan said that on behalf of Mr. Bazzonotti, permission is being requested to send two teachers and three Malden High School students to the competition in Oklahoma with the money kindly donated by the companies mentioned earlier. Assistant Superintendent Keenan also added that permission is requested to accept the \$7,700 in donations.

Mr. Froio made a motion to approve the trip to Oklahoma. Mr. Leone seconded it and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Leone made a motion to accept the \$7,700 in donations for the purpose of the trip to Oklahoma. Mr. Froio seconded it and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Renewal of Food Service Contract with Whitsons – Mr. Iovino
Mr. Iovino said that for the last three years, Whitsons New England Inc., has been providing cafeteria services for the Malden Public Schools and since their contract is up for renewal, the School Committee needs to make a decision whether to renew the contract. Mr. Iovino added that the new contract seems satisfactory, within budget and that Whitsons is going to be providing over \$113,000 worth of new equipment for the Malden High School and Salemwood kitchens. Mr. Iovino said that Whitsons is showing their commitment to upgrade the food service program and that there has been no negative feedback about their service.

Based on their proposed agreement, Ms. Bordonaro brought attention to the section where it was stated that Whitsons will receive automatic adjustment to its Administrative Fee to equitably compensate Whitsons for the loss of Administrative Fee due to the change in the Equivalency Factor. Ms. Bordonaro expressed concerns about the automatic adjustment. Ms. Bordonaro also pointed out that in the proposed agreement, Whitsons' general support services allowance for overhead services is identified as the Administrative Fee.

Business Manager, Ms. Mertz said that the contract term is for one-year with two one-year renewals and that nothing will change automatically as it will be reviewed before anything is changed. Ms. Mertz continued that the bid was for three years but the School Committee will review the contract every year before renewing it for the subsequent year.

Mr. Iovino made a motion to approve the renewal of the Food Service Contract with Whitsons. Mr. Silverman seconded it. 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 YES

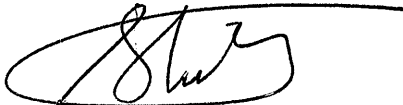
Motion passed unanimously.

Personal Privilege

Adjournment

Mr. Iovino made a motion to adjourn at 7:32 p.m. 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