

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, January 8, 2018
Malden Senior Center, 7 Washington Street**

Mayor Christenson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Mayor Christenson announced that the next School Committee meeting will be Monday, February 5, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Malden Senior Center, 7 Washington Street if the School Committee votes on it at this meeting.

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
Ms. Leon	Present
Ms. McCarthy	Present
Mr. Spadafora	Present
Superintendent Oteri	Present
Student Representative Tsighe	Present
Clerk	Present

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the December 4th Regular Session of the School Committee. Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Froio seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed. The new School Committee members, Ms. Spadafora, Mr. McCarthy and Ms. Leon abstained from voting.

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the December 4th Executive Session of the School Committee. Ms. Bordonaro made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Drummey seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed. The new School Committee members, Ms. Spadafora, Mr. McCarthy and Ms. Leon abstained from voting.

Public Comment

Ms. Deborah Gesualdo, President of the Malden Educators' Association (MEA) and Teacher at Linden School Ms. Gesualdo welcomed the new and returning school committee members. Ms. Gesualdo said that as an educator she is deeply committed to the success of every student and hope that this year, everyone can renew that commitment because the students are at the center of everything we do and at the center of every decision that is made. She added that the MEA looks forward to working with everyone in a positive and productive way to advocate for opportunity for all students, time to learn for all students, and a good education that inspires students' natural curiosity, imagination and desire to learn.

Superintendent's Report

1. Nature's Classroom Field Trip for Ferryway

Principal Sepulveda from the Ferryway School said that Ferryway is committed to hands-on learning and the best way of doing this is to take the students to a classroom where they can experience everything. Principal Sepulveda said that Nature's Classroom enables students to learn science and math in a hands-on manner. Ms. Kelly Swanson, 6th Grade Science teacher from Ferryway commented that thus far, 45 students have signed up to attend Nature's Classroom in Freedom, New Hampshire from April 30th to May 4th. She added that there are about 15 students or so who are also interested in attending and that the total cost for each student is \$250, which includes bus transportation.

Superintendent Oteri said that this is the 3rd school that has requested to go to Nature's Classroom and that it is a fantastic opportunity for our students who live in an urban environment to get away, receive experiential learning, and experience nature in an unfettered way. Superintendent Oteri also added that it provides team building and bonding opportunities which is important at the 6th grade level as it will help them become leaders in the school at the 7th and 8th grade levels. Superintendent Oteri said that he is in favor of the trip. Ms. Beardsley asked if there was any help for students who are unable to go because of financial reasons. Ms. Swanson responded that she had already spoken to the students, informing them to come see her privately if the cost was an issue. Ms. Swanson also said that some parents have contributed more than the \$250 fee and that the school is planning fundraisers for this purpose. Ms. Swanson added that Nature's Classroom had asked to be kept informed as the date draws closer about students who were having financial difficulty so that they can look for ways to provide further discounts. Mr. Drummey commented that all of his three children attended Nature's Classroom and enjoyed the experience.

In response to Mr. Iovino's question, Ms. Swanson said that either a nurse or an EMT will be present 24/7 depending on the needs of the students. Mr. Iovino also asked how individuals can make donations towards defraying the cost. Ms. Swanson replied that checks can be written to the Ferryway School with a note attached stating that it should be applied towards the Nature's Classroom trip.

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

2. District Updates and Highlights

Superintendent Oteri acknowledged the appointment of Mr. Chris Mastrangelo as the Interim Principal of the Malden High School (MHS). Mr. Mastrangelo was the Principal of Boyle House at MHS for the last 9 years. Superintendent Oteri also acknowledged the appointment of Mr. Richard Tivnan as the interim House Principal for Boyle House at MHS. Just prior to this appointment, Mr. Tivnan served as a social studies teacher at MHS for the past 11 years and has also been an advisor as well as mentor.

Superintendent Oteri said he is working with the school administration on developing protocols and improving communication within the school, community and elected officials. Another area of focus for communication is parents and guardians as well as community partners. Along the lines of communication, Superintendent Oteri said that repetition and having reminders for what we are doing is critical and therefore two posters will be distributed tomorrow to all classrooms in the schools to be displayed, one of which is "Writing with Colors" and the other on "MPS Beliefs". Superintendent Oteri continued that the "MPS Beliefs" poster has simple and directed goals that reaffirms our commitment to excellence, student safety, student academic success as well as the reason for why we are here, which is because of the "students". Superintendent Oteri said that this repeated theme will help ensure that we keep our eyes on that target.

“Writing with Colors” is an initiative that is being implemented voluntarily but it will be mandated district wide, next year. Superintendent Oteri said that he can attest to its effectiveness and the impact it has on improving test scores. It is applicable for K-12. Because writing is a very abstract concept, it can appear daunting but “Writing with Colors” gives it some context, especially for students whose first language is not English. Superintendent Oteri said that Ms. Abbey Dick, Director of Humanities has already held a number of workshops for teachers to help them with implementation and the attendance has been good.

Superintendent Oteri is meeting with the administrative team and the principals to begin the budget process internally to identify needs and staffing. On December 19th, Boston Public Schools officials and Superintendent Tommy Chang as well as Baystate Reading Institute personnel visited the Linden STEAM Academy. They were impressed with the school. A few days later, the 7th grade students at Linden had their model UN, a paradigm of collaborative and cooperative learning. Superintendent Oteri said that they were solving world problems while setting aside nationalistic egos. The students were following procedures, conducting themselves in a mature manner and representing their countries well.

Dentacare, a free preventative dental care program funded by MassHealth will be coming to MPS soon. Superintendent Oteri said that letters to parents will be sent home and there is an option to opt out. Ms. Shalini Lahoty from Dentacare will be coming to do dental screening, fluoride treatment and sealants. They can also help with MassHealth enrollment for families and connect them to neighborhood dentists who can speak the same language. Ms. Lahoty has worked in several neighboring communities. Superintendent Oteri added that the students will also receive a goodie bag with a toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.

On December 21st, the administrative team received training from CrisisGo. Superintendent Oteri said that CrisisGo is an application that provides instant communication in emergency situations. Superintendent Oteri continued that it will be rolled out in a protracted, thoughtful, and systematic manner. This app can connect 1000s of people including parents, students, classrooms and coaches with just a click of the button and it can be housed on cell phones. If there is a situation, it can also be used to contact all emergency personnel such as the police, fire, ambulance and the Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC) simultaneously. Superintendent Oteri said that together with Principal Dolan, the training and implementation of this app will continue to the next stage.

Superintendent Oteri said that he will be serving on the advisory board of the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Superintendent Oteri said that this is an opportunity to increase our communication and partnership with this community agency that helps keep our students safe and potentially provide training for school staff. The DCF office is located in Malden.

With regard to snow days, Superintendent Oteri said that school is called off with consultation with the Mayor’s office and city departments, and the call is made early to help families prepare and make arrangements. The weather has caused many burst pipes at the ELC and Salemwood School. The Salemwood School sustained significant damage to the carport. Repairs are underway. Superintendent Oteri thanked public facilities and custodial staff. There was minimal impact on teaching and learning. Police detail was deployed at Salemwood School for helping to direct traffic.

Superintendent Oteri addressed the post on social media picturing weapons and a possible threat to “MHS” but the MHS mentioned on the post was not referring to the Malden High School. Chief Molis looked into it and the post was traced to a school in Virginia. Superintendent Oteri continued that a message was sent via email and the school website to inform the community that there was no threat to MHS. Superintendent Oteri thanked Chief Molis and the police for their rapid response.

A news story that was reported on Channel 7 recently was about an incident that happened in December during a girls basketball game at MHS. Superintendent Oteri said that Athletic Trainer Jen Sturtevant, Coach Scott Marino, Administrative Assistant Jeanne Marquardo and Athletic Director Charlie Conefrey jumped to action when the referee at the MHS Girls basketball game against Revere collapsed and prior to ER services arriving, each one responded with speed, compassion and kindness. Coach Marino kept the girls together, who with Revere, knelt in prayer and respect. Athletic Trainer Jen was a first responder who was first on the scene and administered emergency procedures. Athletic Director Charlie Conefrey and his Administrative Assistant Jeanne Marquardo made sure everything was taken care of, including going to the hospital. A decision was made jointly with Revere to postpone the basketball game to a later date. The referee, Mr. Anthony Abatessa, after his release from Tuft's Medical Center on 12/28 notified us that that he will make a full recovery and greatly appreciates the support from the Malden Staff.

Superintendent Oteri said that he attended the 5th anniversary of the Malden Teen Enrichment Center as well as other celebrations and concerts held at the schools in the district. Superintendent Oteri also attended the Malden Choral Arts performance at the State House on December 12th. Superintendent Oteri mentioned that the Fire Safety Poster winner was Ms. Hall's 3rd grade class at Beebe School and to celebrate, the class had a pizza party.

In response to Mayor Christenson's question, Superintendent Oteri concurred that the pipe problems at Salemwood School was caused by the weather but he added that no heat was lost in the building. Mayor Christenson also asked about the parking situation at Salemwood School. Superintendent Oteri responded that close to 50 parking spaces were lost because of the damage. Superintendent Oteri said that in order to help with the parking situation, about 10-15 parking spaces along the bike path which were unused are now being used, staff are now allowed to park at the church and the city officials were requested to relax the parking regulations on the street to enable cars with placards to park. Superintendent Oteri sent an email to the Salemwood staff to thank them and acknowledge the hardship as well as informing them that the matter is being addressed. Superintendent Oteri also thanked MEA President, Ms. Gesualdo and the police for their assistance. Superintendent Oteri informed that the timeline for completion of the repairs cannot be determined as yet because there are a number of underlying issues that need to be identified and the weather needs to cooperate.

Superintendent Oteri announced that beginning this school year, all Massachusetts public schools will offer voluntary screening program designed to help students make healthy choices. The Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to treatment (SBIRT) will be made available to all 7th and 9th grade students. It is mandated by state law and is part of the new opioid bill. There is an opt-out for the students. The purpose of SBIRT is to screen and provide the education and intervention required. MPS staff will be going through training provided by the Department of Public Health.

Ms. Beardsley commented on the tenacity of the Salemwood School and the community that came together to donate items to replace damaged items at the school. In response to Mayor Christenson's question about damaged items in the schools because of the pipe breaks, Superintendent Oteri said that ELC sustained more damaged items than Salemwood which included rugs and mats. Superintendent Oteri said that the items are being replaced.

Subcommittee Reports/Discussions

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

Mr. Iovino said that the enrollment was 6,733 students as of January 5th, 2018. Mr. Iovino added that there are 85 more students now than there were in September.

Motions and Resolutions

1. Change of Start Time for School Committee Meetings – Mayor Christenson

Mr. Iovino confirmed that no school committee member would be negatively impacted by the change of time. In response to Ms. Bordonaro's question, Mayor Christenson said that the Budget Subcommittee meetings will be held either before or after the School Committee meeting. Ms. Bordonaro made a motion to change the start time for the School Committee Meetings to 6:00 pm instead of 6:30 pm effective February 5, 2018 onwards. Ms. Beardsley seconded it and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Personal Privilege

Mayor Christenson announced the subcommittee assignments for 2018-2020.

Adjournment

Mr. Drummey made a motion to adjourn at 7:31 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