

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, March 5, 2018
Malden Senior Center, 7 Washington Street

Mayor Christenson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Christenson announced that the next School Committee meeting will be on Monday, April 2, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Malden Senior Center, 7 Washington Street, Malden.

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. A moment of silence was also observed for the victims at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

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	Absent
Mr. McCarthy	Present
Ms. Spadafora	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 February 5th Regular Session of the School Committee. Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Ms. Deborah Gesualdo, President of the Malden Educators' Association (MEA) and Teacher at Linden STEAM Academy

Ms. Gesualdo said that there have been 18 mass shootings since the start of 2018. Ms. Gesualdo said that bringing guns into schools and arming teachers will not make schools safer and will not protect students from gun violence. Ms. Gesualdo continued that schools need to be fully funded and staffed. Students need access to more adjustment counselors, guidance counselors, nurses, fine and performing arts programs, more recess for elementary grades, books, healthy school lunches and wrap around services. Ms. Gesualdo said that parents, educators and student at Malden Public Schools (MPS) overwhelmingly reject the idea of arming school staff. An educator's job is to reach, teach and inspire students, and not be an armed guard in the classrooms. Ms. Gesualdo said that the MEA stands behind

any student or educator in MPS who choose to exercise their first amendment right to peacefully demonstrate and speak out on this issue.

Mr. Matthew Bach, 163 Glenwood Street, Malden

Mr. Bach requested the School Committee to make a resolution in support of the statement made by the MEA. Mr. Back also requested the School Committee to support any expressive action that Malden teachers and students make with regard to this issue.

Emily Taylor, 5th Grade Student from Linden STEAM Academy

Emily informed that Linden students from grades 5-8 will be participating in the walk-out on March 14th.

Superintendent's Report

1. Recognition Certificates

Mr. Drummey invited Alexander Vasquez, a Kindergartener from the Ferryway School to the podium. The School Committee and City Councilor Peg Crowe presented certificates of recognition to Alexander Vasquez for raising \$1,310 for the Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart fundraising event sponsored by the American Heart Association and the Society of Health and Physical Educators. Alexander's original goal was to collect at least \$30 for this cause. His motivation and effort was an inspiration to all.

Harrison Zeiberg, a senior at Malden High School (MHS) also received a certificate of recognition from the School Committee. Harrison attained the rank of Eagle Scout recently. The rank represents a milestone of accomplishment and is recognized across the country. Harrison earned 23 merit badges and had to complete a major community service project. His major project was the creation, from scratch, of a Butterfly Garden at O'Connell Park in Malden. In addition to scouting, Harrison is also involved in many other activities at MHS.

2. School Safety Update

Superintendent Oteri acknowledged that safety is a top priority at MPS. Students do not learn if they do not feel physically and emotionally safe. Superintendent Oteri added that the support system of staff at the schools all work towards ensuring safety of students. Superintendent Oteri concurred that arming teachers is not the answer and instead of weapons, staff should be provided with resources and training to keep the students safe. Open and constant communication is paramount. Superintendent Oteri said that the communication between the schools, police and other public safety departments has been crucial in handling issues. The physical safety of the school buildings underwent an audit this fall. This was a proactive measure and everything identified during the audit such as door handles, door locks, and keypads were fixed. Keypads and locks have also been changed. Eight security cameras were added in MHS during February vacation. At the moment, there are 84 security cameras at MHS, 27 at Beebe, 11 at Early Learning Center (ELC), 15 at Ferryway, 16 at Forestdale, 16 at Linden and 26 at Salemwood. Superintendent Oteri added that effort is being made to change the culture with emphasis on safety. Security at MHS is also being continually monitored and improved. Lockdown drills and shelter-in-place are done at least 3 times a year. Superintendent Oteri informed that the district's CrisisGo app is currently at the data loading stage. This process will take some time but eventually, the app will be ready for use on mobile phones.

Mr. Dolan explained that the Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC) School Threat Assessment and Response System (STARS) is a regional police organization made up of over 60 communities in the northern part of Massachusetts. It is the only group of emergency responders made up of police, fire and educators that responds to school emergencies. Mr. Dolan is on the Executive Team of this group and attends monthly meetings and trainings as well as serves as a point person in school emergencies in this part of the State such as the one at the Danvers High School, a few years ago. Mr. Dolan has given presentations to the Principals Association and the Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Dolan drew attention to the STARS Toolkit that was developed based on a lot of material from Malden. The STARS Toolkit website provides a comprehensive resource to aid in school crisis management planning and response. Mr. Dolan is also on the Malden City Emergency Management Team representing the school department. The team is comprised of the school, police, fire and public works departments as well as the Board of Health and the Mayor's Office. The team meets every month to plan. Mr. Dolan said that each school has their own site-based emergency management group. Staff and students are trained on what to do in emergency situations. Malden's S.W.A.T. team has trainings at night and weekends in the school buildings to familiarize themselves with the buildings. Mr. Dolan also explained how the door tabs in the classrooms work so that the doors can easily be locked. This year, new digital radios will be purchased for the schools that will allow the principals to communicate directly with police and fire. The safety policy will also be renewed and a new flipchart will be made. Mr. Dolan said that monthly emails will be sent to staff on various safety topics.

Mr. Dolan said that a book that he wrote two years ago about safety for PreK-2 grade students was donated to every classroom at MPS. There was no material for PreK-2 before this book was published. Mr. Dolan said that there will be more drills to make everyone think about safety areas that can be improved such as door numbering at schools. Duplicate numbers can cause confusion. Mr. Dolan added that he has also served on Governor Deval Patrick's Task Force on School Safety. A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate), a set of safety procedures has now been adopted in many schools systems including Malden. Mr. Dolan explained that the measures in A.L.I.C.E. need not follow any particular order. It will depend on the situation. A.L.I.C.E. has been approved by the Department of Homeland Security, FBI and local police associations.

Ms. Bordonaro asked if the safety information is being relayed to the parents. Mr. Dolan answered that when these safety measures were first rolled out, parent meetings were held to inform them. The book and some information can also be found on the website. Mr. Dolan added that Connect Ed and CrisisGo will also help with communication. Mr. Dolan spoke about how students' perception of police and communication can be improved. In response to Ms. Spadafora's question about safety policies for special needs students, Mr. Dolan said that continuous training and drills are important so that students with special needs and disabilities can familiarize themselves with safety measures including barricading. Mr. Dolan explained that the school nurses have been trained in safety protocols so that they will be able to implement it for students who have physical disabilities. Mr. Iovino asked if there are any grants like the one the Department of Justice had some time back for School Resource Officers. Mr. Dolan responded that he will consult with Captain Cronin to look into this matter.

Superintendent Oteri said on March 1st, a forum was held with Congresswoman Katherine Clark, Mayor Christenson, Principal Mastrangelo, Mr. Dolan as well as the staff and students at MHS. Superintendent Oteri said that the teachers at the forum were vociferously against the notion of

arming teachers. Congresswoman Katherine Clark was impressed with the thoughts and comments from the students at the forum as well. Superintendent Oteri added that since the incident at Parkland, Florida, the student driven movement for change has caught the attention of the nation and has moved the debate in a direction that adults have not attempted in decades. Superintendent Oteri said that we must foster their activism to make positive change. In response to Mayor Christenson's question about radios, Mr. Dolan said that the radios have been ordered and that they are currently being programmed and should be ready by the end of the school year. The radios will not only enable the principal to contact the police and fire but also there will be more channels so that the schools can use them. Each school will have their own frequency. Mr. Dolan said that the radios will be faster than CrisisGo but that CrisisGo is still useful as it has many facets that will be beneficial such as anonymous reporting for bullying. Mr. Dolan emphasized that despite all the safety measures and equipment, we need to ensure that every single student has a personal connection with an adult who they can approach with any issues and that the adult in turn feels comfortable to come forward and relay the information to the administration.

3. District Updates and Highlights

Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee that he is speaking with the Family Resource Center about some of the services that can be provided to students and their families such as clothing, food, parenting classes, daycare vouchers, etc. Superintendent Oteri has met with Ms. Liliana Patino and will be meeting Ms. Carol Rubin to coordinate efforts based on a grant with Gateway Cities. This will help to meet the needs of some of the families.

Over February vacation, two additional classrooms were added to the Early Learning Center to accommodate the growing population. Superintendent Oteri said that the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) will be rolled out by the end of March instead of mid-March because this will allow more time to revise some of the questions. A public meeting will be held to inform parents of the survey and the opt out option. The information from the data that will be collected from this survey is important because it can be used to apply for grants.

Superintendent Oteri commented that he was one of the personnel interviewed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) during the audit on the Extended Learning Time (ELT) program at the Ferryway School. The audit was done over a period of two days and DESE found that the school is utilizing ELT satisfactorily. Superintendent Oteri also attended Malden's Promise training on My Life My Choice which is an anti-trafficking and exploitation training that has run through the Middlesex District Attorney's Office. There has been an increase of students affected, especially those in middle school and early high school grades in the country. Some school staff have already been trained and Superintendent Oteri is looking into expanding the training to other staff members. MHS held their Model UN from February 13th to 15th and Superintendent Oteri was able to attend some of the sessions. Over the past weekend, the same students took part in a regional Model UN competition and a number of them were singled out for various achievements.

Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee that he recently met with Mr. Paul Hammersley of Malden Overcoming Addiction (MOA) who will be organizing Stop the Stigma Day on April 11th. MPS will participate in this event. On March 13th, Senator Jason Lewis will be coming to Malden to host a "Discussion on Community Conversations: The Future of Work in the Commonwealth" and the Superintendent will be on the panel along with the Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Rosalin Acosta. Senator Lewis, State Representative Paul Brodeur

and Mayor Christenson will be providing the opening remarks. Senator Lewis and Representative Brodeur serve as the co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development.

Superintendent Oteri went on to provide some of the sports achievements of MHS students:

Boys Hockey: Revere/Malden Co-Op Hockey team returned to the post season state tournament for the second time out of the four year relationship with Revere High School but they lost to the Swampscott team last week.

Wrestling: Northeast Conference All-Stars Senior Carlos Parada Araujo and Senior Seth Jones. Senior Junior Pericles qualified for the MIAA State Tournament and was the Heavyweight division runner up in Division 1.

Indoor Track: Boys and Girls Track both finished in second place out a sixteen team league with records of 6-1.

Boys NEC All-Stars: Ameen Anwar, Eric Toh

Girls NEC All-Stars: Kylie Dimaro

Special Recognition to Shataeya Smith: Shot Put Longest League Throw at 31'10"

Broken MHS Track Records:

Rachel Eaglin ran 8.95 in the 55m hurdles

Shataeya Smith threw 34' 9" in the shot put.

Jasmine Gray ran 5:31.08 in the mile.

Boys 4x800m relay team of Eric Toh, Oussama Ourich, Omar Asousy, and Ameen Anwar ran 8:25.90 (indoor record).

Boys Basketball: For the second straight year the boys basketball team qualified for the state tournament finishing with a 14-8 record (last year 15-7). However, they were defeated last week by St. John's Prep.

Swimming: The boys swim team won the Northeast Conference Championship! Pete Jinapin was named NEC Boys Swimmer of the Year!

NEC Boys All-Conference Team: Pete Jinapin, David Lombardi, Kevin Ochoa, Haoxi Wang, Dylan Ha

NEC Girls All-Stars: Joanne Ho and Myo Theingi

Broken MHS Boys Swimming Records:

Kevin Ochoa 200 Meter Freestyle: MHS Record Time: 1:45.81

Pete Jinapin 500 Meter Freestyle: MHS Record Time: 4:54.77

At the MIAA State Swimming Championships:

The boys team made a splash finishing 8th out of 55 with just five swimmers Pete Jinapin, David Lombardi, Kevin Ochoa, Haoxi Wang and Dylan Ha.

Co-Ed Gymnastics is going strong and was just points away from winning the NEC South Division Championship!

The Gymnastics team won The NEC Sportsmanship Award, a true testament to the time and effort put in by coaches Katie Bowdridge and Michael Nicholson.

Superintendent Oteri announced that the 78th Annual Junior Varieties will be held on March 9th and 10th. Superintendent Oteri also congratulated Mr. John Lopresti, who taught Physical Education at MHS from 1977 to 2012. Mr. Lopresti was inducted into the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. This award is representative of a lifetime devoted to wrestling and the principles taught within the sport. As a coach and mentor, Mr. Lopresti was instrumental in the development and leadership of so many young student-athletes. Now, his legacy is going to be recognized at the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Superintendent Oteri announced that the Special Education contract for transportation beginning on July 1st has been awarded to NRT. Superintendent Oteri said that meetings for the MHS and Beebe School principal search focus groups have been organized. There will be focus group meetings for students, staff as well as parents and guardians. Superintendent Oteri also said that he is working on organizing the composition of the search committees as well as the timeline for the search process.

Superintendent Oteri said that he has met with the Mayor and Principals regarding the proposed national walk-out on March 14th at 10 a.m. which will take place at each school for 17 minutes. The Mayor and Superintendent have been working with high school student leaders to support and make the walk-out productive and peaceful. The Principals at the K-8 schools are working with the students from grades 7 and 8 regarding the walk-out. Some of the schools are looking into ways to include and support the younger students. Superintendent Oteri added that it is a civic engagement exercise for students and is looking forward to see them take the lead as well as provide input. Superintendent Oteri continued that he has always been a student-centered educator and administrator.

Mayor Christenson asked if the YRBS data would be comparable to the State data if the questions are revised. Superintendent Oteri answered that by modifying and customizing some of the questions, it would enable the data to be more useful and comparable to State data. In response to Mayor Christenson's question about Dentacare, Superintendent Oteri responded that Dentacare provided services to over 250 students at Ferryway recently. Superintendent Oteri will provide more feedback regarding the program after Dentacare has visited the other schools in the district. Mayor Christenson requested an update regarding the possibility of changing the start time at MHS. Student Representative Tsige who is on the committee that was convened to look into this matter said that they have had a meeting and are now doing some research before meeting again next week.

Subcommittee Reports/Discussions

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

Mr. Iovino commented that the enrollment is growing especially with the two new additional classrooms at the ELC. Mr. Iovino said that as of last Friday, the enrollment at MPS was 6,766 which is an increase of 118 students since the start of the school year.

2. Social, Emotional and Physical Well-Being Ad-Hoc Subcommittee – Ms. Beardsley

Ms. Beardsley said that the recent meeting that was held focused on recess, restorative practices and the social emotional needs at schools. Ms. Beardsley said that the subcommittee is looking to make a resolution to support House Bill 235 at the next meeting. Ms. Beardsley explained that the Bill mandates unstructured free-play recess for elementary school children because it is crucial for learning and studies have proven this point. Ms. Beardsley said that another agenda item for the next meeting will be the policy in the handbook around recess so that everyone in the district will be on the same page. Ms. Beardsley said that Superintendent Oteri and Assistant Superintendent Donah informed her that the restorative practices and circles have been received well and are being implemented by the schools. This is the first year or the three year program. Ms. Beardsley said that more guidance and adjustment counselors at the schools might be needed in order to cater to the social emotional needs of the students. Ms. Beardsley said that the subcommittee is

also looking into ways where students can get more physical activity such as before and after-school, if the time they have during recess is insufficient.

3. Malden Rising Leaders (MRL) - Ms. Bordonaro and Ms. Beardsley

Ms. Bordonaro invited Mr. Louis-Jacques to the podium to talk about increasing diversity among the faculty. Mr. Louis-Jacques said that as the budget season approaches, it is the time to reflect on the state of the schools and some of the issues at the schools. Mr. Louis-Jacques said that Malden city officials and school staff do not reflect the diversity that is in the community. Mr. Louis-Jacques continued that he wants to bring attention to this matter so that it can be addressed with collaboration. Mr. Louis-Jacques said that there are free resources to further this initiative such as from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Ms. Bordonaro asked about the role of MRL in promoting diversity. Mr. Louis-Jacques responded that the board itself reflects diversity. MRL has also launched a social justice initiative and provide scholarships to students. Mr. Louis-Jacques also commented about liaising with foundations that do equity work.

Motions and Resolutions

1. Proposal for School Nurses to be Supplied with Narcan – Mayor Christenson

Mayor Christenson said that opioid deaths in the nation is increasing at an alarming rate. Mayor Christenson continued that strictly as a precaution, we should supply Narcan in all of the K-12 schools in preparation for any situation that may arise in the future. The proposal calls for the application of Narcan in the form of the very common nasal spray. MPS in cooperation with the Malden Police and Fire Departments would like to support this endeavor. Under the proposal, the fire department will provide the Narcan that will be needed. School nurses will be responsible for securing and administering Narcan. The district will provide a training under the “train the trainer” model to then train all nurses in the district on how to appropriately use the potentially lifesaving drug. The Director of Nursing will be responsible for making sure that all Narcan doses are maintained and expiration dates are checked. The Director of Nursing will also be responsible for making sure that everyone is properly trained and maintain their certification to administer the drug. Mayor Christenson asked the School Committee to support this proposal, not because of any issues at the schools but because it is a life-saving drug that would benefit the community in emergency situations. The Malden Police and Fire Departments have now had a few years of experience with storing and administering Narcan. Superintendent Oteri commented that he supports this proposal. Ms. Bordonaro said that she is in support of this proposal as well. Ms. Bordonaro questioned how many Narcan nasal sprays will be supplied and whether it will be on an annual basis. Mayor Christenson responded that there is no cost associated with it as it is received free through a grant. Superintendent Oteri said that probably one Narcan nasal spray will be supplied and that it has a shelf life of 2 years. The Fire Department will be replacing it as it expires. In response to Mr. Drummey’s question, Superintendent Oteri responded that Narcan will also be supplied to ELC. Mr. McCarthy asked about the disposal process for Narcan. Mayor Christenson answered that the Fire Department will outline that as they have been using a procedure for disposal for the last few years. Superintendent Oteri added that it will be disposed in similar fashion to medical waste. In response to Ms. Beardsley’s inquiry, Superintendent Oteri said that he is aware of a few other districts who utilize Narcan and that he does not see any negative effects to supplying school nurses with Narcan. Ms. Spadafora asked about how the nursing staff view this responsibility. Superintendent Oteri said that they will be trained and that this will not be something additional for them as they have a medical task to do anyway in cases of emergency. Superintendent Oteri added that the nurses are compassionate and dedicated to

medical safety and thus will be in support of anything that will save lives. In response to Ms. Spadafora's question of whether nurses will have to be present after-hours such as Parent Teacher Nights in order to administer Narcan should an emergency arise, Mayor Christenson answered that they will not need to be present after-hours as the other city emergency services will be responsible for any emergencies during those hours. Mr. Drummey made a motion to support the proposal for school nurses to be supplied with Narcan. Ms. Bordonaro seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Naming of the Ferryway School Library for Dr. George Holland – Mr. Iovino

Mr. Iovino said that Dr. George Holland was a kind, compassionate, empathetic and an outstanding educator. Dr. Holland began his career teaching chemistry at MHS in 1962. After earning his Doctorate from Yale University, he became the Head of the Math Department and in 1975, he was appointed as Assistant Superintendent for MPS. Later, he served as Superintendent for 16 years. Dr. Holland was also on the Board of Directors for the Malden Public Library for over 3 decades. Mr. Iovino made the motion to name the Ferryway School Library after Dr. George Holland. Mr. Froio seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Personal Privilege

Ms. Beardsley announced that Principal Concannon of Forestdale School was inducted into the Massachusetts High School Hockey Coaches Hall of Fame in May this year for his many years of coaching.

Executive Session

Mr. Iovino made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:54 p.m. Mr. McCarthy 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

Ms. Leon ABSENT

Mr. McCarthy voted YES

Ms. Spadafora voted YES

Mayor Christenson voted YES

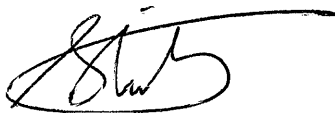
Motion passed unanimously.

The committee reconvened to the Regular Session at 8:19 p.m.

Adjournment

Mr. Iovino made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Mr. Drummey 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