

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, September 17, 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, October 1, 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.

Roll Call

The following attendance was taken:

Mayor Christenson	Present
Ms. Beardsley	Present
Ms. Bordonaro	Present
Mr. Drummey	Absent
Mr. Froio	Present
Mr. Iovino	Present
Ms. Leon	Present
Mr. McCarthy	Present
Ms. Spadafora	Present
Superintendent Oteri	Present
Clerk	Present

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the June 4th 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.

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the June 4th Executive Session of the School Committee. Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Spadafora seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Mayor Christenson deferred to the audience for anyone who may have any comments. There was no response. Mayor Christenson closed this portion of the meeting.

Superintendent's Report

1. District Updates and Highlights

Superintendent Oteri introduced Ms. Kathryn Larsen from Bay State Textiles who presented checks to the three schools' PTO that collected the most amount of textiles. The Forestdale PTO received a check for \$275, the Beebe PTO received a check for \$225 and the Early Learning Center

PTO received a check for \$175. This is as a result of the Bay State Textiles sponsored Spring Closet Clean Out Contest from March 1st - June 30th where the Malden boxes placed at the schools had to collect 33,600 pounds to release the contest money of \$675.00 on top of the monthly rebate. Ms. Larsen said that the Malden boxes at the schools which were placed in 2016 have since collected over 230,000 pounds of textiles generating over \$11,500 for the schools' PTO. For this contest, Ms. Larsen said that the schools collected 46,345 pounds.

Superintendent Oteri introduced the new administrators at the Malden Public Schools (MPS):

- 1) Dr. Kelly Chase, Assistant Superintendent – Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction
- 2) Mr. Timothy Ruggere, Linden STEAM Academy, Principal
- 3) Ms. Sharon Seyller Catteau, Linden STEAM Academy, Assistant Principal
- 4) Ms. Stephanie Sibley, MHS, Boyle House Principal
- 5) Dr. Yvonne Endara, ELE & Title III Director
- 6) Ms. Elizabeth Smith, MHS SPED Program Manager
- 7) Ms. Laura Miceli, SPED, K-8 ILP, MH, PACE, PW Program Manager
- 8) Ms. Tanya McDonald, SPED Out of District
- 9) Ms. Patti Tramondozi, Nursing Director
- 10) Ms. Linda Kelley, Before & After Schools Program Director

Superintendent Oteri mentioned that at the Administrative Retreat on August 20th and 21st, the administrators were informed that the focus will be on the Five Tenets: Safety, Communication, Documentation, Transparency and Improving Student Achievement.

Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee about the safety improvements that were made at MPS. The schools are now using Raptor, a device that checks the ID of visitors against the sex offender registry and prints out a sticker with a date stamp and picture of the individual. All visitors and outside contractors are using it and are escorted in and out of the buildings. A manual explaining procedures and protocols has been written and distributed to those using the device and are in place for any issues that may arise. Staff have been trained on the use of the system. Superintendent Oteri stressed that this is not a deterrent for parents and guardians without a license or documentation as they will still be allowed in the school but will be escorted.

New cameras have been added, inside and outside, to all schools. The Early Learning Center and all the K-8 schools have added keyless entries. MHS has keyless entries on their main doors as well. Superintendent Oteri recognized the efforts of Principal Dolan who updated the flipcharts and distributed them to all classrooms, common rooms, and offices. This particular flipchart can also be found on STARSTOOLKIT.ORG as a model for other schools to use. This is a school safety website designed for NEMLEC STARS and Homeland Security. Many other documents that Malden has produced can be found there as resources for schools.

Superintendent Oteri said that Crisis Go is not yet fully implemented but will be shortly. It is an app that all staff and administrators are currently installing on their electronic devices. Superintendent Oteri continued that eventually, it will be available to students and parents as well. It

helps to identify and contact different groups of people depending on the situation that arises. Superintendent Oteri added that all new educators and administrators have been trained and drilled in the districts school safety procedures.

The 207 new walkie-talkies that were purchased last year have all been distributed to the schools. This enables the main office, principals, and assistant principals to have direct communication with the Malden Police dispatch. All school entrances have had signage placed to inform everyone that cameras are present and that they are being recorded. Some schools have been given new phones that have also enhanced communication and emergency response. Staff just has to hit a specially designated button to be able to initiate hands free communication with the office. All phones can now call 911 without dialing any other numbers first. When a classroom calls 911, an alert is sent out to the secretaries, nurse and administration informing them where the call originated. Educators now have voice mail to help improve communication with parents. Outside lines also have the capabilities of recording phone calls for safety reasons. A recording at the beginning of the phone call explains that the caller may be recorded.

Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee that the principals and fire department are working closely on improving fire drills evacuations and doing drills 4 times during the school year. The drills include blocking exits and stairwells to have staff think about alternative escape routes. Back to school emails went out to all staff, and an additional email went out to all administrators, on reminders about school safety. Monthly emails some of which will have videos related to school emergencies attached will continue to be sent to all staff to inform them on what to do in emergencies. Students will be reminded of emergency procedures several times during the year by classroom educators. Students in grades 3 and 9 will have formal assemblies on school safety and threat assessment. Superintendent Oteri continued that Narcan has been distributed to all buildings and the athletic trainer. All schools nurses and the athletic trainer have been trained on how to look for signs and symptoms and the administration of Narcan if needed.

During this school year, Superintendent Oteri said that Go Kits will be supplied to each school for reunification, outside doors numbering will be redone to be more accurate and reflective at night, floor plans will be redone to include new cameras, keyless entry, and door numbers and they will be distributed to Malden Police, Fire, Crisis Go, and School Administrators. Threat Assessment Teams will be trained in each building with referral and assessment tools for school psychologists to use when needed. Superintendent Oteri added that a School Counseling Response Team will be also established and trained for school and district response if needed.

Superintendent Oteri said that at the end of last year, new chromebooks and charging carts were purchased for grade 6 at Beebe, Forestdale and Linden. Through the Extended Learning Time (ELT) grant, Salemwood and Ferryway purchased devices for their grade 5 students. With these new devices in place, MPS is primarily 1:1 for grades 6-12, with only Salemwood and Ferryway extending this program to grade 5. At MHS, devices are in year 2 of use. Students are responding positively to the durability of the device. No work was needed on the MHS devices this summer.

Over the summer, interns employed through the Mayor's youth program worked with the Director of Instructional Tech to unpack and set up carts for students across the district. Interns also worked to repair chromebooks with damaged screens and keyboards (about 50 for the entire district).

Superintendent Oteri commented that the summer programs, enrichment programs, extended school year program, summer camp and Mayor's Youth Summer Employment program were all going full tilt in many of the schools during the summer. Mayor Gary Christenson joined Malden Department of Public Works Director Bob Knox to welcome MHS's incoming ninth graders as part of the Malden Adventures and Academics Program (MAAP) led by Ms. Craven of MHS. The program is funded by the Adelaide Bayrd Foundation. At the conclusion of the three-week MAAP program, a ceremony was held honoring the commitment and time MHS rising freshmen put in to acclimate to the school and prepare for the road ahead. Superintendent Oteri continued that the New Educator Orientation was held on August 22-23 for almost 60 new educators and administrators.

Prior to the opening of school, the Mayor and Superintendent Oteri toured each school to check on the preparation in terms of maintenance, clean-up, and safety to welcome the students and staff back. The Department of Public Works and Public Facilities worked together with the schools to ensure that everything was ready.

Superintendent Oteri said that schools were opened on August 27th for the faculty and that there was a presentation from the Mayor, Choral Arts and keynote speaker Dr. Darnisa Amante of Disruptive Equity Education Project (DEEP) who gave a very thoughtful presentation on race, equity and working towards eliminating systemic racism & oppression. Superintendent Oteri added that MPS will be working with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), Harvard RIDES Program and DEEP with a focus on equity and becoming more culturally proficient.

August 28th was the first Professional Development day lead by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Chase and the Principals. The following day, MPS opened the doors to students for the 2018-2019 school year. Superintendent Oteri said that it was a very hot day but that MPS was well prepared and that all MPS school buildings are air-conditioned.

Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee that MPS transitioned to a new transportation provider, NRT Bus Inc. over the summer, and that there were a few issues during the first few days of the start of this school year but that MPS has been working closely with them to ensure that the issues are addressed. School administrators, parents and NRT have already had joint meetings to have questions and concerns answered.

In response to Mayor Christenson's question, Superintendent Oteri said that so far there have been no flaws with the RAPTOR system. Superintendent Oteri also said that all cameras have remote access and the process is underway to name them appropriately so that the name indicates their locations. Superintendent Oteri responded to the Mayor's question about the phones in the school saying that the phones at Salemwood have been replaced and that Beebe was next to get their phones replaced. Superintendent Oteri said safety and fire drills will be starting soon. Mayor Christenson also asked about the floor plans that are being updated. Superintendent Oteri answered that the updated plans will reflect the new classes that have been

added at the ELC, as well as numbers and naming of areas. Superintendent Oteri said that there will be a new student representative for this year starting in October. In response to Mayor Christenson's question whether Chromebooks will be provided to grade 5 students in other schools besides Salemwood and Ferryway, Superintendent Oteri said they will not because the funding for the Chromebooks came from the ELT grant which is only available at the two schools.

Subcommittee Reports/Discussions

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

Mr. Iovino commented that the latest student enrolment figure from last Friday was 6,639. This number shows a decrease of 100 students compared to June of last year. Mr. Iovino added that the enrollment numbers will increase as the year progresses.

Motions and Resolutions

1. Little Free Library for the Beebe School – Mr. McCarthy and Ms. Spadafora

Mr. McCarthy said that representatives from the Beebe School approached both Ms. Spadafora and himself at the end of last year about the possibility of having a Little Free Library on the school premises. Mr. McCarthy said that when he approached the carpentry department at the vocational school where he is employed, they agreed to build and donate a Little Free Library. Ms. Spadafora said this is another way to promote literacy and provide students another option outside of school. In response to Mayor Christenson's question, Mr. McCarthy responded that the exact location of the Little Free Library within the school premises will be decided later. Superintendent Oteri endorsed the initiative and commented that the Department of Public Facilities will help ensure that the installation of the Little Free Library is compliant with existing regulations.

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to place the Little Free Library at the Beebe School for the purpose of promoting literacy in a fun, creative and innovative way. Ms. Spadafora seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Transfer for Employee's Child for the 2018-2019 School Year – Mr. Iovino

Mr. Iovino said that Ms. Lisa Keene, a Team Chairperson from the Forestdale School requests permission from the School Committee to transfer her first grade daughter from Saugus to Malden. Mr. Iovino continued that the request was made because of difficult childcare arrangements. Mr. Iovino said that this has been done in the past for employees on a case-to-case basis and that some other school districts also do the same for their employees. Ms. Leon asked if this request is only for the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. Iovino responded that the request is for the 2018-2019 school year and consecutive years. Superintendent Oteri said he is in favor of this request since there has been past practice and precedent.

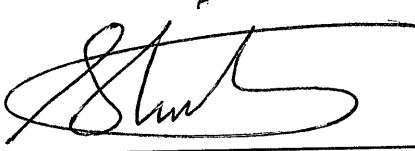
Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the transfer for Ms. Keene's daughter to MPS. Mr. Froio seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Personal Privilege

Adjournment

Mr. lovino made a motion to adjourn at 6:48 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.

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

Shirley Dorai, Clerk