

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, October 1, 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, November 5, 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	Present
Mr. Froio	Present
Mr. Iovino	Present
Ms. Leon	Present
Mr. McCarthy	Present
Ms. Spadafora	Present
Superintendent Oteri	Present
Student Representative Stumpf	Present
Clerk	Present

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the September 17th Regular Session of the School Committee. Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Bordonaro seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Ms. Jessica Haralson – Malden High School (MHS) Teacher

Ms. Haralson urged the School Committee to unreservedly recommend that the Massachusetts legislature fully fund public schools. Ms. Haralson said that the Malden Public Schools (MPS) is underfunded by \$17 million and it encompasses a social and moral debt that the Massachusetts legislature owes the city. Ms. Haralson continued that budgets are moral documents that fund what we value.

Ms. Deborah Gesualdo, President of the Malden Educators' Association (MEA)

Ms. Gesualdo requested the School Committee to support the resolutions on the docket to fully fund the public PreK-12 education and public higher education. Ms. Gesualdo also requested that the School Committee join the educators, community members, students and families to actively advocate for a change to the foundation budget formula in the legislature.

Mr. Matthew Bach, 163 Glenwood Street, Malden

Mr. Bach said that what is being asked of the School Committee is fundamentally part of their charge which is to make sure that the State is abiding by its foundation budget. Mr. Bach stressed that it is a foundation budget that the State had promised to provide and not an extravagant luxury item. Mr. Bach said that \$17 million which is under-funded is an investment in the city, property, civic pride and Malden commons. Mr. Bach continued that this does not even begin to address the social theft that is occurring because of the corporation of Mystic Valley and what they are perpetrating in the community.

Superintendent's Report

1. Tornado Travelers Club

Superintendent called upon Ms. Shauna Campbell and Ms. Sarah Jones, advisors for the Tornado Travelers Club at MHS, to provide more details on the trips to Belize as well as London and Paris in the 2019-2020 school year. Ms. Campbell said that the trip to Belize will focus on ecology and conservation. The trip to London & Paris is based more on history and art.

Ms. Beardsley who visited Belize to study ecology while she was in college, said that it was a phenomenal experience and gave her full support. The Superintendent also voiced his support as the trips provide interdisciplinary study.

In response to Ms. Spadafora's question about students who cannot afford the cost, Ms. Campbell informed that fundraising activities are being planned. Ms. Campbell responded to Mr. Drummey's question whether a nurse will be available during the trip, saying that although no nurse will be with the tour group, the full-time tour guide and bus driver are knowledgeable about the locations of medical centers in case of emergencies. Mayor Christenson made a suggestion for the tour to include Maldon, England or speak with someone from that location to explore the connection with Malden, MA.

Mr. Drummey made the motion to approve the Belize as well as the London and Paris trip for the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Salma Bezzat and Sebastian Romani, MHS students who went on a Tornado Travelers Club trip to Italy last year said it was very informative and helpful as the trip enabled them relate to some of the things they are learning in school.

2. District Updates and Highlights

Superintendent Oteri welcomed Student Representative Sydney Stumpf. Superintendent Oteri said that the administrators are reviewing and analyzing the MCAS results which will be presented at upcoming School Committee meetings. Superintendent Oteri continued that overall, there are some successes in certain areas such as the progress made by the ELL students compared with other urban neighbors such as Everett, Chelsea and Revere. Malden is either leading or near the top in this area. There is also work to do in some areas and this will be addressed in the coming school year. Last year, the baseline was established with the legacy test at the high school and the new MCAS test for grades 3-8.

Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee that the Barr Foundation awarded \$150,000 to the Malden Public Schools towards Planning for Post-Secondary Success for All Students. It provides an opportunity to take a closer look at students and their experiences in high school and their postsecondary readiness in order to cultivate a comprehensive, strategic plan to better serve them. The funds will be for staff stipends, consultant and professional development concentrated at the high school level and the transition from 8th Grade to 9th Grade. An outside objective organization will be looking at our needs and this in turn will help with student success and budget prioritization. In addition to Malden, the other four recipients of this award in New England are Portland, ME, Manchester, NH, Hartford, CT and Worcester, MA.

MPS received another grant of \$200,000 through the Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP) to help the targeted population of 2-3 year olds coming from families who are non-English speakers, very low income, having multiple risk factors, high risk for not entering into PreK programs, and having no other program involvement to get ready for school success during the most critical early years. The benefits include services, community connection, books, education games and exposure to education for these 2-3 year olds and their families. Superintendent Oteri said that Malden is one of the few Gateway Cities that had not yet partnered with PCHP, which has been around since the 1960s. Superintendent Oteri continued that the grant funding would enable the hiring of a part-time coordinator and two part-time home visitors, all of whom will be bi-lingual and bi-cultural. This grant is a 3-year grant and it will be paid in three installments; \$87,000 in the first year; \$80,000 in year two; and \$33,000 in the third year. Superintendent Oteri said that hopefully after 3 years, the personnel would be absorbed into the budget, just like how it was done in Medford, Somerville, Chelsea, etc.

Superintendent Oteri said that the Boston Celtics and their sponsor General Electric will be bringing their Mobile STEM Laboratory to the Beebe School from January 7-18th and Forestdale School from February 4-15th. The purpose is to expose students to STEM careers in sports and beyond. Superintendent Oteri said that we are very fortunate to have been selected for this opportunity because the Boston Celtics only selected 9 schools in 6 cities; Boston, Everett, Lynn, Springfield, Marlborough and Malden.

The Back-to-School night events were completed at all schools with good turnout. Superintendent Oteri continued that professional development and teacher support work was outlined at the last 5 District Partnership (5DP) meeting in Chelsea. The North Shore Hispanic Festival was held on September 22nd at MHS. Superintendent Oteri along with a few other administrators attended the 23rd Annual School Safety Summit on September 24th at the Reading High School. Superintendent Oteri said that the Malden's Promise Celebration held last Thursday was a way to honor the work that they have done which includes helping to decrease the 2012, the dropout rate from about 7.5% in 2012 to 2.9% last year. Superintendent Oteri said that work will continue to further decrease the drop-out rate. Over the weekend, the Salemwood Family Resource Fair that was sponsored by Malden Reads and the Chinese Cultural Connection was held with interpreters on hand to assist with the before and after school program registrations as well. On September 19th, the free breakfast program started at Forestdale and now all the schools except the Early Learning Center have free breakfast.

Superintendent Oteri provided some updates on sports achievements. The boys and girls soccer teams are off to fantastic starts with the boys team at 5-0-1 and the girls at 4-2-1. The boys and girls cross country are both 2-1. Field hockey is off to its best start in recent memory at 3-5-1. The middle school cross country is off and running with 35 boys and girls. The Inner City Basketball League for both boys and girls opened two weeks ago with 180 middle school students competing for their schools.

Superintendent Oteri said that last Tuesday was National Voter Registration Day. Mayor Christenson, Ms. Maria Luise, Principal Mastrangelo and the Superintendent received an email from Mr. Steven Austerer, Field Organizer from the Arab American Institute. Superintendent Oteri read the email aloud to the School Committee as follows:

"Last Tuesday, National Voter Registration Day, the City of Malden partnered with the Arab American Institute (AAI) for the purpose of registering voters at multiple venues around the city. Beforehand, Ms. Maria Luise, the Mayor's assistant, had put me in contact with Kerry Veritas at the high school to determine if some of her students might be interested in coordinating a voter registration effort at the high school and possibly elsewhere. They did an amazing job!

All told, sixty voters were registered in Malden of which thirty-five signed up at the high school. Some of the student volunteers then committed extra time at the public library and later that evening outside the entrance to the Stop & Shop where a few more were registered. I was so impressed with the enthusiasm, professionalism and "can do" attitude of your students. They and Ms. Veritas deserve special recognition for an accomplishment that helped all the participating organizations register hundreds of thousands nationwide.

AAI was thrilled to be selected as a key partner for NVRD, but we would never have achieved the level of success without teams of volunteers like the students from Malden High School. You and the city should be very proud. Seeing how they embraced civic engagement makes me more optimistic for our future."

The upcoming events highlighted by Superintendent Oteri included the Early Release Day on October 5th when schools will be dismissed at 12:30 pm. There is no school on November 6th as it is a Professional Development Day. Malden's First Annual Public Safety Day will be held on Sunday, October 7th at Linden Park from 10:100 am to 2:00 pm hosted by the Malden Fire Department and the Malden Police Department. Superintendent Oteri continued that on October 18th, about 200 MHS students will be going to watch Hamilton at the Boston Opera House. This came about because on October 2015, Hamilton producer Jeffrey Seller and Hamilton creator Lin-Manuel Miranda, The Rockefeller Foundation, the NYC Department of Education, and the Gilder Lehrman Institute announced an educational partnership to provide 20,000 NYC Title I public school students with the opportunity to see Hamilton on Broadway and integrate the show into classroom studies. This educational initiative, now expanded to reach 250,000 students in Title I-eligible schools nationwide, will run through 2020. Last school year, Mr. Damian Aufiero and Ms. Michelle Filer registered for a chance for Malden Public Schools to participate and were selected to send 200 students to a full day educational program including a matinee of the performance for only \$10 each. Superintendent Oteri said that this is an incredible opportunity for the students.

Mayor Christenson's request for an explanation of the MCAS results at the November School Committee meeting met with no objections. Superintendent Oteri confirmed that the grants received did not require any matching contributions from the city. However, Superintendent Oteri did mention that the funds from the Barr Foundation to study the post secondary success of students would probably result in identification of areas that need more attention and expenditure. In response to Mayor Christenson's question about whether the area of focus would supplement the MHS Academic and Adventure Program coordinated by Ms. Craven which assists students transitioning from 8th Grade to 9th Grade, Superintendent Oteri said that it would augment it. Mayor Christenson noted that the Budget subcommittee would need to consider that the personnel working on the Parent Child Home Program initiative would require to be absorbed into the budget after 3 years. Mayor Christenson asked if the Family Resource Fair will be held again. Superintendent Oteri commented that another fair will probably be held in the spring, in collaboration with other departments to inform families of services and events planned for the summer.

In response to Ms. Beardsley's question, Superintendent Oteri said that the post secondary success study will focus on all students with emphasis on the achievement gap especially among students with special needs, English learners and students of color. Ms. Beardsley commented that the Parent Child Home Program would also be helpful to Kindergarten teachers because incoming students would be on a level playing field with prior exposure to education. Ms. Beardsley asked why free breakfast was not available at the Early Learning Center and Superintendent Oteri responded that he would look into the matter.

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 6,663. Thirty more students enrolled since September 2018. Superintendent Oteri said that October 1st is when the enrollment data needs to be reported to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and therefore, we would have more accurate figures. Superintendent Oteri also echoed Mr. Iovino in saying that the enrollment normally increases until about January and then it will begin to level off.

Mr. Iovino asked if a suggestion can be made to have the reporting date be delayed until November or December in order to take account of all the incoming students. Superintendent Oteri responded that there is another reporting date on March 1st. Superintendent Oteri agreed that the fluidity of student enrollment in urban districts makes it difficult to plan for staffing and other needs. Superintendent Oteri cited the example of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico which caused an influx of students in some cities like Holyoke. Superintendent Oteri said that the Urban Superintendent Network is doing some advocacy around this matter with DESE and legislative liaisons so that schools can be more proactive. Mr. Froio commented that historically after October 1st, enrollment increases when Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational and Charter school students enroll at MPS.

Motions and Resolutions

1. Malden High School Student and Family Handbook 2018-2019 – Mr. Froio

Superintendent Oteri commented that the handbook is in a draft form and that it will be reviewed by the legal team to ensure that the language is consistent with legal updates. Mr. Froio called on Principal Mastrangelo to provide further details. Principal Mastrangelo said a committee was formed in the spring to begin working on the handbook. Principal Mastrangelo said that changes were made in mainly five areas of the handbook. Principal Mastrangelo outlined the changes; Dress Code - Language changed for clarification purposes; Homeroom - Homeroom has been reinstated and language changed accordingly; Number of Class Absences - Changed from 3 to 4 unexcused absences before no credit due to attendance; Appeals Board Eliminated - This will shift to a case by case procedure; and Senior Privileges Eliminated - No off campus privileges for any students due to safety. Principal Mastrangelo thanked Mr. Stephen Freker who assisted with the formatting of the handbook.

Student Representative Stumpf asked how the language was changed about dress code. Principal Mastrangelo said the language now reflects more on specifics about what should be covered instead of focusing on the length or width of clothing. Principal Mastrangelo continued that instead of enforcing codes, the focus is on changing attitudes and having more respect for ourselves and others. It is a 3-5 year process that Principal Mastrangelo expressed interest in undertaking.

In response to Ms. Spadafora's question, Superintendent Oteri and Principal Mastrangelo confirmed that the handbooks are available on the website and that they will no longer be sent home with the students. Ms. Spadafora commented that the phone numbers of School Committee members listed on the handbook are incorrect. Ms. Beardsley asked if the decision about eliminating senior privileges is finalized. Principal Mastrangelo responded that the decision was focused on safety and it became a policing issue as well because students who were not seniors or who did not earn the privilege were using it. Superintendent Oteri and Principal Mastrangelo said that they might circle back to this matter in a year to consider whether and how it should be reinstated. Ms. Beardsley also asked whether students who have negative lunch balances can still obtain something from the cafeteria and not left hungry. Principal Mastrangelo said that they will always receive some food. Ms. Beardsley commented that the language surrounding the lunch account debt about "money taken away from infrastructure improvements, purchase of textbooks, or possibly the hiring of a teacher or paraprofessional" needs to be revised.

Superintendent Oteri commented that although senior privileges have been eliminated, tables and chairs have been placed at the courtyard so that students can go there to have lunch. Mr. Iovino echoed Principal Mastrangelo's statement on the dress code as well as eliminating senior privileges due to safety considerations. Mr. Iovino asked if the point on Page 47 about threats to self and others can be separated into two paragraphs so that they can be addressed separately because threat to self and threat to others have different consequences. Superintendent Oteri said he supports Mr. Iovino's comment as there are different protocols for both those situations. Mayor Christenson asked if the handbook reflects some of the recommendations of the most recent Coordinated Review performed by DESE. Principal Mastrangelo confirmed that they did take the recommendations but customized it. In response to Mayor Christenson's question regarding updates from the MHS Start Time Committee, Principal Mastrangelo said that the committee will convene again shortly. Mayor Christenson reminded that any recommendation needs to be done by the middle of the school year so that it can be implemented next school year. The Malden High School Student and Family Handbook 2018-2019 will be brought to the School

Committee for a vote on November 5th after changes are made and the legal team has had a chance to review it.

2. Resolution in Support of Full Funding for Public Schools – Ms. Beardsley

Ms. Beardsley read the draft of the “Resolution in Support of Full Funding for Public Schools”. Superintendent Oteri echoed the public comment statements made earlier in the evening and said that the foundational budget was funded at the time of the 1992 educational reform but for the last 25 years and especially the last decade, the foundational budget has not been funded. Superintendent Oteri continued that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is painfully aware of the resulting gaps and continue to adjust the accountability system in an effort to address the gaps. The gaps get accentuated and made wider because Malden and most of the urban communities are woefully under-funded. Superintendent Oteri said that the reason why student achievement levels at suburban school districts are higher compared to Malden is because Malden has many high demands and needs. Malden is unable to even reach the fundamental funding to address matters such as class size, programming and staffing. Superintendent Oteri urged the School Committee to support the resolution.

Ms. Spadafora said that the student enrollment figure stood at 6,639 at the last School Committee meeting. Ms. Spadafora continued that with the \$17 million which is being under-funded, there will be approximately an extra \$2,500 to spend on each of our students for education.

Ms. Beardsley made the motion to accept the “Resolution in Support of Full Funding for Public Schools”. Ms. Spadafora seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Resolution in Support of Increased Funding for Public Higher Education – Ms. Beardsley

Ms. Beardsley read the draft of the “Resolution in Support of Increased Funding for Public Higher Education”. Ms. Beardsley made the motion to support this resolution. Mr. Iovino seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Personal Privilege

Adjournment

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to adjourn at 7:17 p.m. Mr. Iovino 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