

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, December 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, January 7, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Malden Senior Center, 7 Washington Street.

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 November 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.

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the November 5th Executive 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) ESL Teacher

Ms. Haralson thanked the School Committee for taking a stand and passing the “Resolution in Support of Full Funding for Public Schools”. Ms. Haralson continued that Malden is being underfunded by \$18 million annually and that these funds can help with hiring more teachers, providing wrap-around services and more. Ms. Haralson urged the School Committee to meet with state representatives at Beacon Hill to remind them about what is at stake with regard to the foundation budget and request them to take the lead in this endeavor. Mayor Christenson commented that Superintendent Oteri will be at Beacon Hill tomorrow representing everything that has been discussed regarding this matter.

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

Ms. Gesualdo informed the School Committee about tomorrow's "Fund Our Future" campaign at the Massachusetts State House which is part of the initiative to pass legislation by May 1st to increase funding for PreK to public higher education by \$1.5 billion a year. Ms. Gesualdo urged the School Committee to continue advocacy for this issue by speaking with elected officials. Mayor Christenson informed the School Committee that the state delegation visited the Mayor's Office recently and this matter was at the top of the agenda. Mayor Christenson said that they were working to have this passed by the end of spring.

Superintendent's Report

1. Nature's Classroom Field Trip for Forestdale

Superintendent Oteri called on Principal Concannon who said that last year was the first time that 6th grade students from Forestdale went on this field trip. Principal Concannon said that the School Committee's approval is being sought again this year so that the current 6th grade students could also participate in this field trip. The location has changed from New Hampshire to Andover, Connecticut because the New Hampshire site is no longer a Nature's Classroom site. Principal Concannon said that the date for the field trip has also been changed to later in the year, May 1st – 3rd, so that it would not be so cold or rainy and that it would encourage more students to participate. Students found it difficult to go during the break because of other commitments such as sports. Forestdale 6th grade teacher, Ms. Pitino, who helped coordinate the trip last year and also this year said that the cost was \$281 per student but a block grant that was received, brought the cost down to \$239. Over \$1,500 has already been raised and other fundraising events have been planned. Last year, \$7,789 was raised for the trip and this helped all students who wanted to participate to go on the trip. The few students who did not attend was not due to financial difficulty. Ms. Pitino explained that pending School Committee approval for the trip, Nature's Classroom representatives will be invited to come to meet parents so that their questions or concerns can be addressed. Unlike last year, the students will not need to bring sleeping bags or bed linens for this year's site. Ms. Pitino added that students will be supervised at all times. The Nature's Classroom staff have all been subject to CORI and are CPR certified. Emergency medical devices will be on hand at the site and there are EMT on staff. A registered nurse can be requested if needed. Two 7th grade students who attended Nature's Classroom last year, Praveen Khanna and Brihanna Montana, spoke about their experiences at Nature's Classroom.

In response to Ms. Bordonaro's question, Ms. Pitino said that they have not finalized transportation yet but the cost last year was \$500 and for as for the sleeping arrangements, there are two dormitories. The students will have two male and two female chaperones. In response to Ms. Beardsley's question, Ms. Pitino responded that last year, the 12 students who did not go on the Nature's Classroom field trip went on a day trip to another place and did other activities on the other days. Superintendent Oteri voiced his support and recommended the Nature's Classroom field trip.

Mr. Drummey made the motion to approve the Nature's Classroom field trip for the Forestdale School for this school year. Mr. Iovino seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Malden Reads

Superintendent Oteri invited Ms. Jodie Zalk of Malden Reads to the podium. Ms. Zalk said that Malden Reads has just started their 9th year of the program and that the main book selection for this year is "The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane". Ms. Zalk said that in addition to promoting literacy, Malden Reads is also reaching out to the Chinese community and involving them in this endeavor. Ms. Anne D'Urso-Rose of Malden Reads explained that Malden's "One City, One Book" program in collaboration with the Malden Public Library and MATV, Malden's Media Center, invites the community of Malden to read the same book and participate in a series of events related to the book's themes. The goal is to encourage reading, promote the library and other city resources and build community. Malden's "One City, One Book" program is one of the most vibrant and expansive in the country according to Ms. D'Urso-Rose. Mr. Stephen Nedell, the K-8 travelling librarian for Malden Public Schools (MPS) provided more information about the companion books for this year. Mayor Christenson, Ms. Spadafora and Superintendent Oteri commended the work done by Malden Reads. Ms. D'Urso-Rose said that the opening celebration for Malden Reads this year will be held on Saturday, January 26th in collaboration with the Chinese Cultural Connection and the Chinese New Year celebration.

3. MHS Start Time Committee Final Report

Superintendent Oteri called on Mr. Conefrey, Director of Athletics, Physical Education and Health and Ms. Gesualdo, President of the MEA who serve as the co-chairs of this committee to present the final report. The committee was comprised of Principal Mastrangelo, Ms. Erin Craven, MHS Guidance Counselor, Ms. Michelle Filer, MHS Teacher, Ms. Judi Lombardi, MHS parent as well as MHS students, Birukti Tsige, Angela Soliz and Felix Li. Mr. Conefrey said that the committee started last school year, 2017-2018 and through the course of the year until now, after several meetings, discussions, and looking at the results of the surveys of stakeholder groups, the committee voted on a recommendation to put forth to Superintendent Oteri and Mayor Christenson regarding the MHS start time. The recommendation of the committee is to keep the current start time at MHS. Some of the determining factors that resulted in a vote of more than 50% of the committee voting to recommend keeping the current start time included student home life and family commitments, student after school jobs, high school sports and participation in extracurricular activities. Mr. Conefrey added that shifting the MHS start time to a later time will have a negative impact on K-8 students' sports programs because fields and other athletic facilities are shared. The youth sports programs would be shifted to a later start time after school, negatively impacting younger student athletes. Ms. Gesualdo echoed Mr. Conefrey and emphasized that shifting to a later start time will have a negative impact on student life.

In response to Mayor Christenson, Ms. Gesualdo said that 6 members of the committee voted to keep the start time, 1 voted to change to a later start time and 2 members did not respond to the electronic call to vote (one student and one teacher). Ms. Beardsley asked about flex schedules and Ms. Gesualdo responded that it would be subject to collective bargaining. In response to Mayor Christenson, Mr. Conefrey said that the start time would have changed if an overwhelming majority supported it. Superintendent Oteri said unlike suburban communities, many students in urban settings have to work to support their families. Mayor Christenson asked to place this report on file.

4. District Updates and Highlights

Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee that Assistant Superintendent Donah's last day was on Friday as she left to take a job closer to home. In the interim, former Malden Public Schools (MPS) Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Maura Johnson and former Somerville Special Education Director, Ms. Debbie Connell will assist in the Student Services Department while interviews are conducted to fill the vacancy. The Malden Education Expo 2018 took place at MHS on November 6th during the professional development day with almost 80 presenters including students and community members. Superintendent Oteri said that the next professional development day will be on February 15th.

Books that are reflective of our multicultural population are being purchased for the school libraries. Assistant Superintendent Chase along with Principals, Directors, the Literacy Team and with recommendations from consulting groups have selected many titles for the libraries. Superintendent Oteri said that this is an important and overdue step in the process of making Malden more equitable and inclusive. The list of books will be published soon. An analysis on Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) redistribution is being done to make it more equitable because currently most of the students requiring SEI are placed at the Salemwood School. Superintendent Oteri said that guidance is being sought from consultant groups as well as the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in the redistribution of SEI students. Superintendent Oteri emphasized that this process is a colossal task as it impacts the budget, collective bargaining agreements, contracts, hiring, training, logistics and how students are assigned.

Superintendent Oteri said that a staffing analysis of the administrative team is being done with the assistance of some educational groups because the Central Office is currently incredibly lean. He added that there is a need to augment areas of curriculum delivery and support as well as social-emotional services in a responsible way to support the growth of the school district. MPS will be reverting to a previous format for mid-year and final exams beginning this year. Superintendent Oteri explained that the move comes following an admin council and director meeting where topics of equity and access as related to exams were discussed. As a result of that meeting and prior practice, middle school exams will be conducted as follows:

- There will be middle school exams. This is an important mechanism in generating data that will inform instruction.
- Teachers will use the data from the test as the basis for discussion during upcoming professional development sessions.
- Midyear / Final Exam grades will not appear on report cards or be calculated in students' yearly average, but will be used for informational purposes as teachers discuss student growth and progress with parents and students themselves as well as with directors.
- The window for exams will open on January 2nd and will remain open through January 22nd. Principals will work with staff to create a schedule that works for the building.

The events that have taken place at schools recently include the "As You Like It" by William Shakespeare play at MHS on November 29th, 30th and December 1st; MHS Choral Arts State House performance on December 6th; Linden's "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon" on December 7th; as well as the Forestdale's Winter Concert and Ferryway's "Gingerbread Nation Competition" on December 14th. Superintendent Oteri also informed the School Committee that MPS was selected by DESE for their television and billboard advertisement. Superintendent Oteri thanked Beebe teachers, Ms. Dai-Hua Shen, Mr. Alan Biscan, and Ms. Colleen Clifford; parents, Ms. Staci Rubin and Mr. Jamie Wilson; as well as students, Maritza Ramos-Perez, Jessica Rufo, and Jordany Douyon for the working with DESE to create a commercial celebrating the amazing teaching staff at the Beebe School and within the entire Malden Public Schools and the community of Malden. A special shout-out was given to Principal O'Brien and Assistant Principal Kilbride for coordinating this effort. The advertisement can be viewed on the MPS website.

On December 6th, Superintendent Oteri said a donation of 400 books was received from Stoneham Bank for some of the elementary students. Superintendent Oteri thanked Mr. Edward Doherty, CEO of Stoneham Bank and Mr. Michael DeMarco who came to MHS to deliver the books. Superintendent Oteri also thanked All-Tech Electric and Mr. John Spadafora for the new message board in front of MHS. The Middlesex Partnerships for Youth and the Assistant District Attorney were invited by Ms. Barker of Beebe School to begin a discussion on standing up for each other. This is a follow up with our Student Aspirations Team under Mr. Hindle to begin the Beebe Bulldog Kindness initiative. Superintendent Oteri informed the the School Committee that MPS is participating in the Harvard RIDES program. RIDES stands for Reimagining Integration and Diversity for Equitable Schools. MPS sent seven MPS personnel to the two day seminar at Harvard on November 8th and 9th. Superintendent Oteri said that the administration and staff are committed to making MPS a more inclusive and equitable place to go along with our diversity. MPS will work with Dr. Darnisa Amonte, the consultant who will be coaching MPS staff in this area. Superintendent Oteri said that the school community will be updated on the progress of this initiative.

On November 9th, School Committee members Ms. Beardsley and Ms. Spadafora attended the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) Conference. On November 11th, there was a celebration at Devir Park honoring our veterans and dedicating the WW1 memorial on the 100th anniversary of the armistice. The MHS Band and students were on hand providing outstanding performances. Superintendent Oteri continued that on November 15th, the Consul General of Italy, Ms. Federica Sereni and Ms. Maria Gioconda Motta from C.A.S.I.T., the cultural arm of the Italian Consulate paid a visit to MPS. MPS is re-establishing the partnership with C.A.S.I.T. as they are eager to help with providing books, field trip, professional development as well as the Italian language program at MHS. Superintendent Oteri was one of the speakers for the MPY Supporting Immigrant Students Conference at Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School in Danvers on November 16th.

Superintendent Oteri announced that on November 19th, 179 new American citizens, from about 50 countries took their Oath of Citizenry and swore allegiance to the United States. The event was hosted by the City of Malden and MPS in the Jenkins Auditorium at MHS. Superintendent Oteri thanked Stop & Shop Supermarket at 99 Charles Street in Malden for providing a generous donation of 12 full course Thanksgiving turkey dinners to families in need whose children attend MPS. Stop & Shop is also planning on providing a similar donation of meals for the upcoming holiday season. The holiday parade was held on November 24th and there was a great showing by the schools. The float contest was won by the Forestdale School. Superintendent Oteri invited all to watch the December edition of MATV's show, "Superintendent Salutes" because of the special guests on the show, MHS seniors Birukti Tsige, Michelle Chan and Pedro Carneiro Passos who all received scholarships.

Malden High School's first-ever Unified Basketball celebrated their Inaugural Season with coaches and parents at an awards banquet on November 27th. Unified Sports joins people with and without disabilities on the same team. Superintendent Oteri said that there will be a unified track team as well in the spring and he thanked Assistant Superintendent Donah and the Director of Athletics, Physical Education and Health, Mr. Conefrey who worked hard on making this possible. Superintendent Oteri will be speaking tomorrow at the "Fund our Future" campaign at the State House along with MHS senior, Birukti Tsige. Superintendent Oteri said that this will attract more attention for the need to review the foundational budget for schools. Superintendent Oteri also announced that on Tuesday, January 8th, the Jenkins Auditorium at MHS will be one of three host sites in Massachusetts for a public forum/town hall meeting, on school funding and the foundational budget formula. The other host sites are New Bedford and Fitchburg. Superintendent Oteri said that all elected officials and families in Malden as well as other north shore communities are invited to attend. On February 6th, a community forum will be held at the Salemwood School on vaping and the panel of experts will include a public health official and a medical professional. Superintendent Oteri said that the vaping issue will also be highlighted during the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) at the next School Committee meeting. Superintendent Oteri concluded his report with the reminder that on Friday, December 21st, dismissal time for all schools will be at 11:00 am. The winter vacation will be from December 24th to January 1st.

In response to Ms. Leon, Superintendent Oteri said that there will be no after-school programs during the winter break. In response to Mayor Christenson and Ms. Beardsley, Superintendent Oteri clarified that there will be uniformity across the district for midyear and final exams for the grades 6-8 in all subjects. The results will not appear on report cards or be calculated in students' yearly average but will be used for instruction and professional development purposes.

Subcommittee Reports/Discussions

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

Mr. Iovino commented that the student enrollment as of Friday was 6,711. This is an increase of 78 students since the start of the school year but it is 23 fewer students compared to last year at the same time.

Motions and Resolutions

1. Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan – Ms. Bordonaro

Superintendent Oteri thanked Ms. Beardsley and Ms. Spadafora for the initial work done on this topic at the Social, Emotional and Physical Well-Being Ad-Hoc Subcommittee. Ms. Bordonaro called on Mr. Conefrey, Director of Athletics, Physical Education and Health to provide more details. Mr. Conefrey said that the plan is a comprehensive approach to address bullying and cyberbullying. He added that the school district is committed to working with students, staff, families, law enforcement agencies and community to prevent issues of violence. Throughout the school year, input from stakeholders at various meetings was gathered for this plan. Mr. Conefrey briefly explained the curriculum cited and the topics covered in the plan.

In response to Mr. Froio, Superintendent Oteri said that this plan will also apply to all Malden Public Schools including the Linden STEAM Academy and that it will be posted on the MPS website. In response to Ms. Spadafora, Superintendent Oteri added that restorative practices can be added to resources. Ms. Beardsley asked if it would be possible to ensure that parents and families had access to this information in a more understandable format. Mr. Conefrey responded that this could be done. Superintendent Oteri commented that students are taught about this topic in easily understandable ways with age appropriate instruction. In response to Mr. Iovino's question, Mr. Conefrey said that open circles can also be used on a case-by-case basis. In response to Mayor Christenson's question, Mr. Conefrey responded that the plan will be reviewed and adopted on an annual basis and that student-led programs are vital.

Ms. Bordonaro made a motion to approve the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan December 2018-2019 with the addition of restorative practices. Ms. Spadafora seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Superintendent Evaluation for the 2017-2018 School Year – Mr. Iovino

Mr. Iovino said that this item will be tabled to the next meeting.

Personal Privilege

Executive Session

Mr. Iovino made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:36 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 voted YES

Mr. McCarthy voted YES
Ms. Spadafora voted YES
Mayor Christenson voted YES
Motion passed unanimously.

The committee reconvened to the Regular Session at 8:16 p.m.

Mr. Iovino made the motion to offer a 3% raise and longevity to Principal Sepulveda, Principal Concannon and Principal Dolan retroactive to July 1, 2018 as well as to approve the new contract for Ms. Van Huynh. Mr. Drummey 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 voted NO
Mr. McCarthy voted YES
Ms. Spadafora voted YES
Mayor Christenson voted YES
Motion passed 8-1.

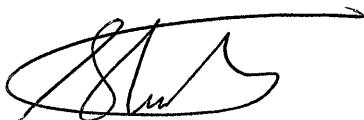
Mr. Iovino made the motion to authorize Superintendent Oteri to grant between 1½ – 3% salary increases at his discretion to the non-union employees. Ms. Leon seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Beardsley voted YES
Ms. Bordonaro voted YES
Mr. Drummey voted YES
Mr. Froio voted YES
Mr. Iovino voted YES
Ms. Leon voted YES
Mr. McCarthy voted NO
Ms. Spadafora voted YES
Mayor Christenson voted YES
Motion passed 8-1.

Adjournment

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. Mr. Froio 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