

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION  
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Monday, January 7, 2019  
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, February 4, 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 December 17<sup>th</sup> 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 December 17<sup>th</sup> Executive Session of the School Committee. Ms. Spadafora made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Drummey seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment**

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

**Superintendent's Report**

**1. Nature's Classroom Field Trip for Salemwood**

Superintendent Oteri called on Principal Van Huynh, Ms. Sarah Strayer, and Ms. Jane Wright to the podium to provide further details. Ms. Strayer, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher said that this year is the 14<sup>th</sup> year that Salemwood 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will be attending Nature's Classroom. The students will

be going to Charlton, MA from March 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. Basma Ourich and Sabrina Qranfal, current 7<sup>th</sup> grade Salemwood students who went to Nature’s Classroom at Charlton, MA last year shared their experience.

Superintendent Oteri recommended the Nature’s Classroom field trip. In response to Ms. Bordonaro’s question, Ms. Wright said that the fundraising has begun and that they are also awaiting a grant that was given in past years that helped decrease the cost by almost \$100 for each student. In response to Ms. Beardsley’s question, Ms. Wright said that almost 80% of the students went to Nature’s Classroom last year. In response to Ms. Spadafora, Ms. Wright said that the students would still attend Nature’s Classroom regardless of the weather. As for the eligibility to attend Nature’s Classroom which includes 90% attendance in school, Ms. Wright responded that students with excused absences would not be penalized. In response to Mr. McCarthy’s question, Ms. Wright said that the student to chaperone rate is 12:1.

Mr. Drummey made the motion to approve the Nature’s Classroom field trip for the Salemwood School for this school year. Ms. Bordonaro seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

## **2. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Presentation**

Superintendent Oteri invited Dr. Karen Finnegan from the Institute of Community Health for the YRBS presentation. Superintendent Oteri said that the survey was given to students last spring. Dr. Finnegan provided details and results of the YRBS taken by students in Grades 7-8 as well as Grades 9-12 through a powerpoint presentation.

Superintendent Oteri said some of the information from the survey can drive programming, in looking for ways to best support students. Superintendent Oteri continued that one of the rising trends as shown by the survey is vaping and it is a concern. Superintendent Oteri mentioned that on the following day, there will be a forum at Malden High School (MHS) with Senator Jason Lewis and Ms. Maureen Buzby, Melrose Board of Health & Regional Tobacco Prevention Program Coordinator regarding vaping.

In response to Ms. Beardsley, Dr. Finnegan responded that the decision to not offer the survey to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students was made by the school district. As for the question regarding stress levels, Dr. Finnegan said that the rise mimics national levels. Ms. Beardsley commented that the benchmark of 3 hours of screen time used in the survey seemed excessive. Dr. Finnegan said that the detailed report will have more nuanced information that includes narrower screen time categories.

Mayor Christenson asked if more comparisons with other urban districts and the state can be done with future surveys. Dr. Finnegan replied that they can certainly look into it. In response to Mayor Christenson’s question about the participation rate being lower than previous years, Dr. Finnegan responded that it is not surprising because many students and families feel uncomfortable about taking the survey. Superintendent Oteri said that there was an increase of families opting out last year due to religious, cultural reasons as well as because the questions were very probing and the families did not want to introduce it to their children. Mr. Conefrey, Director of Athletics, Physical Education/Health added that around 400 seniors at MHS were not able to take the survey because they were out doing internships. In response to Ms. Spadafora’s question, Superintendent Oteri said that the presentation will be posted on the website. Student

Representative Stumpf asked whether the increased stress levels reported was related to sexual harassment. Dr. Finnegan responded that additional analysis can be done to determine the relationship between stress and sexual harassment as well as bullying. In conclusion, Dr. Finnegan said that Malden is a robust and healthy community, and that the data from the survey is a means to help strengthen this status. In response to Mayor Christenson about suggestions to handle the increase in vaping, Dr. Finnegan said that the data shows that students are under the impression that e-cigarettes are less dangerous than cigarettes. She added that the lack of recognition of the danger is an important factor.

Superintendent Oteri said that for the 2020 YRBS, some of the data points that will be considered is the legalization of marijuana, increase of e-cigarette advertisements and heightened awareness of the sexual harassment movement recently on the news media. Superintendent Oteri added that a decade ago, the focus of the survey was steroid abuse among boys. The survey is a barometer of our students health. Superintendent Oteri said that the survey helps highlight issues in urban school districts and allows the district to respond to the issues.

Mayor Christenson said that several years ago, the School Committee took the lead to establish a school-based health center at MHS. Mayor Christenson continued that within the next few days, the request for proposals to select a provider who will manage this center will be issued and published. The Mayor's Office will then work with the Superintendent to begin construction so that the center can be ready by the start of the next school year.

### **3. District Updates and Highlights**

Superintendent Oteri said that the school based health center is a critical component that will provide many of the wrap-around services for students. Superintendent Oteri went on to thank the custodial crew who worked hard to clean the buildings during the short work week of the winter break so that staff and students could return to nice clean buildings.

The process of hiring an Assistant Superintendent for Student Services is at the vetting stage and Superintendent Oteri said a decision will be made shortly. In the interim, former Malden Assistant Superintendent Ms. Maura Johnson and former Somerville Special Education Director Ms. Debbie Connell have been helping out in the Student Services Department. Superintendent Oteri announced that Mr. Sean Walsh who is one of the MHS English teachers has been selected to fill in the vacancy of Interim Humanities Director for the rest of this year. Superintendent Oteri also introduced Ms. Tramondozzi who was appointed as the Director of Nursing in the summer.

Through the Barr Foundation grant that the District received, led by Dr. Chase, Malden Public Schools (MPS) is able to send five members of the administrative team to a Massachusetts Learning Excursion in San Diego, California from February 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>. The team will be visiting High Tech High School to observe and engage with students, teachers, and school leaders at each school so they can learn from work that has already been done.

Superintendent Oteri said that preliminary work is on-going for the redistribution of the Sheltered English Immersion classes which is currently primarily housed at the Salemwood School. When

Superintendent Oteri approached the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for assistance, they made referrals to two consulting groups and the Massachusetts Association of Bilingual Education. A meeting is being arranged with the Massachusetts Association of Bilingual Education. Superintendent Oteri said that this is a colossal task as it impacts the budget, the Collective Bargaining Agreements and contracts, how students are assigned and the logistics of daily school. An analysis needs to be done and then stakeholders such as the union, staff, families and the larger school community need to be engaged to see how the redistribution can be done to make Malden more equitable for all students.

On December 18<sup>th</sup>, Superintendent Oteri and former Student Representative Tsige were two of the seven speakers at the Fund Our Future Campaign kick-off event sponsored by the Massachusetts Teachers Association which took place at the Massachusetts State House. On the same topic of funding for public schools, Superintendent Oteri announced that on Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, from 6 to 8 pm in the Jenkins Auditorium at MHS, Malden will be one of three sites hosting the Project Equity forum. Project Equity is sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents. There will be a presentation and panel discussion comprised of school superintendents, municipal leaders and finance directors regarding the funding formula for schools. The forum will be moderated by the Superintendent of Brockton Public Schools. Superintendent Oteri invited all to attend.

The middle schools exams are underway and are scheduled to be completed by January 22<sup>nd</sup>. As explained in the previous meeting, these exams are an important mechanism in generating data that will inform instruction and provide the basis for discussion during upcoming professional development sessions. The mid-year exam grades will not appear on report cards or be calculated in students' yearly average.

Superintendent Oteri said that all six of the bargaining units will be renewing their contracts this year and negotiations will commence soon. Updates will be provided in the upcoming months. As for school sports, Superintendent Oteri said that the MPS Boys Basketball hosted and won the Tornado Holiday Classic Basketball Tournament by defeating both Revere High School in the first game and Snowden International High School in the Championship game.

Just before the winter break, the local Stop & Shop Supermarket located at 99 Charles Street in Malden provided a generous donation of meals and toys to families in need whose children attend the Malden Public Schools. Superintendent Oteri thanked them for their commitment and generosity. Superintendent Oteri also thanked Ms. Kristy Magras, Homeless Liaison Coordinator who played an important role in making this happen.

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, a community forum on vaping will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the MHS Gallery. Senator Jason Lewis and Maureen Buzby, Melrose Board of Health & Regional Tobacco Prevention Program Coordinator, a noted expert in the field of tobacco and vaping abuse will be speaking at the forum. Superintendent Oteri said that Senator Lewis has been at the forefront of legislation

that has raised the legal age to purchase vaping materials from 18 to 21. Superintendent Oteri also announced that the City of Malden Live Event will be held on Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the MHS Gallery.

On January 15<sup>th</sup>, the Boston Celtics Mobile STEM Lab will be at the Beebe School. Superintendent Oteri announced that in February, the Boston Celtics STEM Lab will be at the Forestdale School. Lucky the Leprechaun will be present along with some members of the team. Both schools are two of the nine schools in the state that the lab will be visiting.

Superintendent Oteri said that the Golden Tornados Fundraiser will be held at the Kowloon Restaurant on Route 1 in Saugus on January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. All proceeds from the night will go to the student-athletes of MHS. The \$45 cost of the tickets includes a full Chinese food buffet hour and evening of comedy by several comedians. This is an important fundraiser for MHS as it helps provide a substantial amount of scholarship funds to the students.

Mayor Christenson commented that Governor Baker along with Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito will be submitting a bill around the Foundation Budget along with the budget proposal at the end of the month. Mayor Christenson said that it is very encouraging that this move is starting in January instead of May and June.

### **Subcommittee Reports/Discussions**

Mr. Iovino commented that the student enrollment as of Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup> was 6,690. This is 52 fewer students than last year around the same time.

### **Motions and Resolutions**

#### **1. Donation of \$75 from Lueders Environmental Inc. – Mr. Froio**

Mr. Froio read the letter from Lueders Environmental Inc. that accompanied the \$75 donation as follows:

*In appreciation of all of the clients we are privileged to service in Malden, we would like to make this donation to the Malden School Department. Lueders Environmental is a Lawn, Tree & Shrub care company specializing in science based environmentally sound approaches and attentive customer service. Contributing to your school department is a way we can give back to the Malden community for considering us the company of choice. I always hope that in supporting education, other companies will join us. Please use these funds in any way you deem appropriate.*

*Sincerely,  
Michael Lueders, President*

Mr. Froio made a motion to approve the donation. Mr. Iovino seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

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

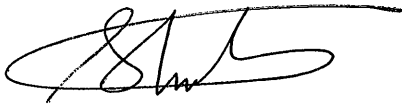
Mr. Iovino said that the superintendent's evaluation is mandated by DESE as part of the education reform law of 1993. There are four standards in which the Superintendent is evaluated; instructional leadership; management and operations; family and community engagement; and professional culture. The evaluation is based on a rating system of exemplary, proficient, needing improvement and unsatisfactory. Mr. Iovino said that the Superintendent Evaluation Ad-Hoc Subcommittee composed of Ms. Leon, Ms. Bordonaro, Mr. Drummey and himself met a few times as well as worked on this matter individually. Mr. Iovino explained that the Superintendent had to provide a list of his goals and objectives based upon the four standards, and the subcommittee had to compare that against the indicators within each standard. Mr. Iovino said that the subcommittee members unanimously provided Superintendent Oteri a proficient rating for the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Iovino said that the documentation for the evaluation will be posted on the website. Mr. Iovino made the motion to accept the evaluation. Mr. Froio seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

**Personal Privilege**

**Adjournment**

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



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Shirley Dorai, Clerk