

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, February 4, 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, March 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	Absent
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 January 7th 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

Leonard Page – Linden STEAM Academy Student

Leonard said that the recess given is only a small amount of time and that most of the kids play tag. Leonard added that indoor recess is chaotic and confining.

Brennan O’Shaughnessy – Ferryway Student

Brennan said that students who have extended day should have an extended recess too. Brennan requested for more outdoor recess.

Ryan Beardsley – Linden STEAM Academy Student

Ryan requested for more recess time and more outdoor recess. Ryan mentioned that students should be allowed to go outside even when it is cold because they have jackets and other proper clothing.

Atticus Smith – Linden STEAM Academy Student

Atticus said that 15 minutes for recess is not enough and that there is nothing to play with during this time.

Ms. Jenelle Devits – 3 Sheridan Street, Malden

Ms. Devits said that the Salemwood School has equipment for older students to play with during indoor recess. Ms. Devits said that these items should be available for all students in all the schools to play with during recess.

Ms. Cary Lalonde – 23 Winter Avenue, Malden

Ms. Lalonde who has 2 children in the Forestdale School said that 15 minutes of recess is insufficient because time is lost in getting to and from the recess area. Ms. Lalonde said that students need at least 30 minutes of recess and things to play with during recess such as balls. Ms. Lalonde also spoke about the need to improve the quality of the cafeteria food.

Ms. Kari Percival – 4 Seaview Ave, Malden

Ms. Percival, who is a parent of two children highlighted an article titled “The Crucial Role of Recess in School” in the January 2013 Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Ms. Percival stated that the article mentioned that if recess is held before lunch, students build a better appetite and there is less food wasted. According to Ms. Percival, the article also stated that schools around the world that have high academic achievement, provide the students with 10 to 15 minutes break every hour. Ms. Percival said that the attention span of students are limited and recess helps students stay focused.

Ms. Heidi Schmidt – 32 Concord Street, Malden

Ms. Schmidt said that recess allows for social and emotional development as well as working through conflict. Ms. Schmidt said that the timing and duration of recess as well as providing students with things to play with during recess is important. Ms. Schmidt said that if the school informs the parents about what is needed, they can help.

Ms. Kenya Avant – 500 Broadway, Malden

Ms. Avant who has children in the school system said that although she bought supplies for the students to play with during recess, it was returned to her by the school because the students were not allowed to play with it. Ms. Avant also inquired about allowing parents who are on the Governing Board at the Linden STEAM Academy to meet at the school after school hours. Ms. Avant requested for transparency around the gifted and talented program in areas such as the selection process. Ms. Avant said that there is a lack of communication, diversity and equity in the gifted and talented program. Ms. Avant also added that students are selected for the program at the Kindergarten stage which is too early for many children. Ms. Avant requested that the School Committee to set up a subcommittee made up of parents, community members and educators to look into this matter and decide by May of this year whether to continue the program next year.

Ms. Marilyn Andrews – 83 Cleveland Street, Malden

Ms. Andrews, a parent, said foundations, connections and social skills are built during times together such as recess. Ms. Andrews continued that students need down time and students with mental health issues need even more recess time. Recess time also helps with self-esteem and anxiety issues.

Ms. Karen Colon-Hayes – 105 Wyoming Ave, Malden

Ms. Colon-Hayes, who is a parent of 3 former and current students of Malden Public Schools (MPS), said recess is a crucial part of the school day. Ms. Colon-Hayes advocated for more recess time saying that the health, social skills and well-being of children improve by increasing opportunities for physical activity and safe, healthy unstructured play. Ms. Colon-Hayes added that recess time is getting sacrificed because of all the other obligations that schools and educators need to do. Recess time is also still being taken away or cut short as a means of punishment. Ms. Colon-Hayes offered help from Malden's Promise for free trainings that help develop and engage students in critical thinking and problem solving with adults.

Mr. Jeff Taylor – 57 Mount Vernon Street, Malden

Mr. Taylor, a parent, suggested having more than one recess time or offering an extended recess time in order to help children digest the information they receive in class. Mr. Taylor also commented that the schools need to provide receptacles to dispose feminine hygiene products in the girls restrooms in the K-8 schools.

Ms. Amy Freidman – 8 Marvin Street, Malden

Ms. Friedman, a parent of 2 children at the Beebe School thanked Superintendent Oteri for his help and responsiveness with various matters. Ms. Friedman expressed her concern that the libraries at the K-8 schools are not open all the time. Ms. Friedman encouraged parents to volunteer at the school libraries so that they can be open for the use of the students.

Ms. Jackie Ecker - 58 Lanark Road, Malden

Ms. Ecker, a parent with a child at the Forestdale School said that students need more than 15 minutes of recess a day. Ms. Ecker said that that recess helps reduce anxiety and ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) amongst students.

Ms. Eden Garhart-Smith – 16 Corey Road, Malden

Ms. Garhart-Smith, a parent, requested for more recess time and added that the after-school program should be given access to the fields for the students to be able to go out to play. Ms. Garhart-Smith agreed with the earlier speaker, Ms. Avant, that the gifted and talented program should not begin at a very young age. Ms. Garhart-Smith said that she would also like the program to be evaluated this year.

Superintendent's Report

1. Nature's Classroom Field Trip for Ferryway

Superintendent Oteri called on Principal Sepulveda and his team to the podium to provide more details. Principal Sepulveda said that the 6th Grade students at the Ferryway School are looking forward to go to Nature's Classroom at Camp Cody in Freedom, New Hampshire from April 29th to May 3rd. Principal Sepulveda said that fundraising has already begun and that teachers are prepared to chaperone the trip. Roberto De Leon, a 7th grade student from Ferryway who attended Nature's Classroom last year said that they got the opportunity to be outside everyday and be active. Superintendent Oteri recommended the trip as the students gain a lot from these trips. In response to Ms. Spadafora's question, the School Committee was informed that just like last year, there will only be one other school from Milton, New Hampshire at the camp during the time that the Ferryway students will be attending the camp. The students from both schools stay in separate quarters but will be together for classes and in the cafeteria.

Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the Nature's Classroom field trip for the Ferryway School for the 2019 school year. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Malden High School (MHS) Band Senior Trip to New York

Superintendent Oteri invited Mr. Mastrangelo and Ms. Erin O'Brien-Mazza to provide more information about the trip. Ms. O'Brien-Mazza said that earlier in the year, the band officers approached her with a request for a day trip to New York City to see a few sights as well as to watch The Lion King Broadway show. The students are already learning the score and the music in class. The students said they wanted to do a trip together because they had been playing together since 4th grade in every city parade regardless of the weather and even on days when there was no school. Ms. O'Brien-Mazza said the students not only performed in the rain and snow but had to repeatedly fix their equipment because of the damage caused by the weather. They have been constantly asked to play in other ceremonies in the schools such as graduation and the 8th grade moving-up ceremony. They do this willingly as part of their service to the community. Ms. O'Brien-Mazza said that only nine high school seniors will be going on this trip to New York on May 1st, leaving at 5:00 a.m. and returning at 11:00 p.m. using public transportation. The costs will be covered by the fundraising that will be done. Ms. O'Brien-Mazza continued that since these students have been with her since 9th grade, she is familiar with their medical records and has obtained permission from their parents. Superintendent Oteri recommended the trip because it is tied to the curriculum and that the school has the most up-to-date medical records for the students on the trip. Mr. McCarthy asked about the number of chaperones. Ms. Erin O'Brien-Mazza said the policy states that there must be at least one chaperone for every ten students and that since there are only nine students who are going on the trip, she is the only chaperone. Principal Mastrangelo added that since all the students are seniors, they are mostly 18 years old. Mr. McCarthy made a request to include another chaperone, if possible.

Ms. Bordonaro made the motion to approve the MHS Band Senior Trip to New York. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Lowe's STEM Grant to Linden STEAM Academy

Superintendent Oteri invited Principal Ruggere as well as STEM teachers, Mr. Christopher Mooney and Ms. Laura Degelmann from the Linden STEAM Academy to the podium to speak about the a \$60,000 grant from the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation that they recently received. The grant will increase the STEM experiences for the students as the grant will be used to fund the creation of a STEM Center at the Linden STEAM Academy, which will include a state of the art MakerSpace facility and a robotics lab.

Principal Ruggere said that over the summer, Mr. Christopher Mooney and Ms. Laura Degelmann approached him for approval to apply for the grant. Principal Ruggere said that they worked very hard, competing with many other applicants and eventually won the grant. Principal Ruggere said that the space identified for the MakerSpace was formerly a technology room and they will begin getting the space ready over the summer.

Ms. Degelmann said that the application for the grant came from a program that Mr. Mooney and Ms. Degelmann worked on with Tufts University called Remaking STEM. They worked with fellow staff members across Malden as well as middle school and high school students. They spent a

week with them at the MakerSpace at the Malden High School (MHS) and were very inspired with the way they interacted in the space. Ms. Degelmann said that Ms. Ashley Freeman, the Engineering teacher at MHS encouraged them to look for grants since they expressed interest in creating a Makerspace at the Linden STEAM Academy. Ms. Degelmann said they found a grant offered by Lowe's, a Fortune 500 home improvement company that has a 50 year legacy of supporting the communities it serves through programs that focus on K-12 public education and community improvement projects. Since 2007, Lowe's and the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation together have contributed nearly \$250 million to these efforts and for more than two decades, Lowe's heroes volunteers have donated their time to make our communities better places to live. Ms. Degelmann said that with the large toolbox grant that they offered, it gave them the opportunity to think big when it came to creating a STEM Center at the Linden STEAM Academy.

Mr. Mooney said that three classrooms will be renovated. The data room which was the former technology center will be converted into a MakerSpace with equipment such as 3-D printers and CNC machines. Mr. Mooney's classroom will be converted into a robotics lab and Ms. Degelmann's classroom will be converted into a MakerSpace classroom and a utility space. Mr. Mooney said that this is a community effort as many parents and students have already asked how they can be involved and what they can do to help. Mr. Mooney said that the check ceremony will be held at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow. In response to Mr. Froio questions, Mr. Mooney said that the MakerSpace will be primarily for the middle school grades but that it will be available for the rest of the school as well and that it will be used throughout the school day. Ms. Beardsley thanked both the teachers and said that the teachers have been running a free robotics club after-school. In response to Mayor Christenson's questions, Ms. Degelmann responded that the grant requires no match and that it is a lump sum amount that needs to be spent in two years but they are planning to spend the money in getting the space ready by the start of the next school year.

Mr. Froio made the motion to accept the grant and proceed with the work at the Linden STEAM Academy. Ms. Spadafora seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

4. District Updates and Highlights

Superintendent Oteri said that MHS Senior Angela Tejada-Soliz was not only nominated by Congresswoman Katherine Clark for West Point, but also received an invitation from the Congresswoman to tomorrow night's State of the Union address. Superintendent Oteri invited Principal Mastrangelo and Angela to the podium. Angela expressed her gratitude and excitement. Mayor Christenson presented a citation to Angela on behalf of the City of Malden that reads:

On this day, the City of Malden congratulates Angela Tejada-Soliz for being invited by Congresswoman Catherine Clark to be her guest at the 2019 State of the Union address in Washington D.C. As one of Malden High School's finest students, Angela leads by example with her academic achievements, strong leadership skills and her ability to make a difference. From Captain of this year's successful Girls Soccer Team, an Active Member of the Malden Youth Civics Council to President of both the Malden High School Red Cross Club and Robotic Club, she approaches all that she does with great enthusiasm and determination. Again, we congratulate her on this honor from Congresswoman Clark and thank her for making Malden proud.

Superintendent Oteri said that 17 MHS students had 25 pieces of art accepted into the Scholastic Art Awards Competition. The students received 4 Gold Keys, 9 Silver Key awards and 12 Honorable Mention awards. The students who received the 4 Gold Key awards are automatically entered into the national competition: Suiyenah Chen; Kathleen Hoang; Huyen Nguyen & Samantha Tang. Gold Key winners will have their work exhibited which is tentatively scheduled for March at Tufts University after a ceremony acknowledging the Gold and Silver Key recipients. The students who received the 9 Silver Keys are Aiwei Huang who received 2 Silver Keys, Rasmee Ky, Sammy Lee, Mayahuel Morse, Michelle Nie, Jason Ong, Kevin Sathapornchaisit & Thomas Tran. The Honorable Mentions were received by Camneilie Aristil, Paolina Fomari who received 4 mentions, Jay Hui, Sammy Lee who received 3 mentions, Renata Tomaz, Thomas Tran & Eva Tu. Superintendent Oteri said that the MHS students had more pieces accepted than the surrounding districts combined as Melrose had 8, Medford had 2, Everett had 9 and Mystic Valley had 2. Superintendent Oteri commended and thanked the MHS Art Department and MHS Art teachers, Ms. Mary Ann Seager, Ms. Julie Mullane and Mr. Joseph Luongo.

Superintendent Oteri announced that the MHS Swim team placed 3rd out of 13 in the NEC League meet. The boys' team placed 2nd just behind Marblehead. There were several first place finishes from senior Kevin Ochoa and super sophomore David Lombardi. The MHS Indoor Track placed 6th overall out of 16 in the league championship. Senior Shateya Smith finished 1st in the women's shot put breaking the MHS record with a throw of 37 feet. Junior Omar Asousy finished 1st in the boys one mile and Junior Yousef Lahkiky finished 1st in the 1000 meters. MHS Gymnastics was honored with the league Sportsmanship Award. MHS Wrestling: Sophomore Ved Gray was selected as a league All-Star. Sophomore Female Wrestler, Yohanni Tostes-Costa posted a record of 6-2 and will compete in this year's first MIAA All Girl's Wrestling State Tournament. Boys Middle school basketball team is undefeated at 12-0.

Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee that the Golden Tornado Club Comedy Night Fundraiser was a huge success with over 130 guests which raised \$4,800 for future scholarships awarded to Malden High School student/athletes.

Superintendent Oteri announced that Mr. Michael Wood will be joining Malden Public Schools on February 15th as Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Student Services. He is currently Director of Student Services and Interim Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment for Leicester Public Schools. Previously, he was a Superintendent of Schools in Massachusetts and Maine, as well as a Director of Special Education, a PreK-8 Principal, an Assistant Principal and Teacher in Maine. He earned his CAGS in Special Education at Boston University and his Master's in Education Leadership from the University of Southern Maine. He was a member of the Foundation Budget Review Commission that is spearheading the effort, along with school and civic leaders to address the inequity in funding for economically disadvantaged students and students with special needs. He has experience building programs and services for students with special needs to be fully included in the school and the broader school community which will be a great asset to the school district.

Through a grant that the District received, led by Assistant Superintendent Chase, Superintendent Oteri said that Malden Public Schools is sending five members of the administrative team to a Massachusetts Learning Excursion in San Diego, California this Wednesday, February 6th to 8th. The team will be visiting High Tech High where they will observe and engage with students, teachers, and school leaders at the school. Superintendent Oteri said that the experience they gain will help with student engagement and other areas such as project based learning.

On January 8th, the Project Equity Forum was held in the Jenkins Auditorium at MHS. Superintendent Oteri said that Malden was one of three sites hosting this event. Project Equity is sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents. The panel was composed of Superintendents, Mayors and Business Managers. There were over 350 people in attendance and the forum was on cable and YouTube.

Superintendent Oteri said that the City of Malden recently partnered with Honeywell for energy management services. As part of their work with Malden, they will changing over 31,000 lights to LED lights throughout the city in the next 14 months. Honeywell has started replacing the lights at the Forestdale School and they will be going to the other schools soon after. Superintendent Oteri represented the schools at the City of Malden Live event which was held on January 17th.

The DESE advertisement participants from Beebe, Principal O'Brien, Assistant Principal Kilbride and Superintendent Oteri were honored to be invited to lunch with DESE Commissioner Riley on January 29th. The students and teachers who participated in the advertisement are:

1. Grade 8 - Maritza Ramos-Perez (Basketball Player)
2. Grade 7 - Jessica Rufo (Dancer)
3. Grade 6 - Jordany Douyon ("Student" in classroom)
4. Dai-Hua Shen - (Lead teacher at head of class)
5. Alan Biscan - (Teacher)
6. Colleen Clifford (Teacher)
7. Michelle Corbett (Teacher)

Superintendent Oteri said the "aMAzing Educators" advertisement captures the spirit of educators and celebrates the work they do.

The first 5 District Partnership Education Camp was held at MHS on February 2nd. Superintendent Oteri said thanked Assistant Superintendent Chase and Instructional Technology Director, Ms. Natalia Brennan for coordinating this event. Salemwood ELL Teacher, Ms. Christina Terranova and STEM Director, Dr. Doug Dias presented and received rave reviews about their sessions.

Chinese Cultural Connection and Malden Reads Lunar New Year Celebration was held on January 26th at the MHS. There were lion dances and performances, calligraphy demonstrations, workshops celebrating Chinese culture as well as food in the cafeteria. The Malden Reads book selection for this year is "The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane" by Lisa See. Mayor Christenson and Superintendent Oteri were in attendance.

On October 1st last year, the Malden School Committee passed the Resolution in Support of Full Funding for Public Schools and the Resolution in Support of Increased Funding for Public Higher Education. Superintendent Oteri said that it was encouraging to note that State Rep. Steve Ultrino and State Rep. Paul Brodeur signed on as co-sponsors for the PROMISE Act and the CHERISH Act. The PROMISE Act, if passed will implement the recommendations of the FBRC and fully fund public education K-12. The CHERISH Act, if passed, will fully fund public higher education in the Commonwealth. Senator Jason Lewis has signed on as a co-sponsor of both the PROMISE Act and the CHERISH Act.

On January 15th, the Beebe students had the amazing opportunity to experience the mobile STEM lab as well as meet Boston Celtics star Al Horford and retired Boston Celtics player, Dana Barros, who came to visit as part of a GE-sponsored initiative promoting STEM education. Superintendent Oteri said that both Al Horford and Dana Barros are incredible role models for the students. The GE Foundation and the Boston Celtics created the Brilliant Career Play (BCP) mobile STEM lab to help increase STEM experiences and education for Massachusetts middle school students. BCP is equipped with STEM resources, career planning, and essential skills training to help inspire students. Dr. David Barash, Chief Medical Officer of the GE Foundation was also present at the January 15th visit. The mobile lab was at Beebe for two weeks and is now at Forestdale for another two weeks.

Superintendent Oteri said that the Linden STEM Showcase was held on January 17th and the Linden Winter Choral Concerts were held on January 15th, 16th and 17th. Superintendent Oteri thanked the Medford Malden Elks who will be presenting dictionaries to all 3rd graders at MPS tomorrow. A community forum will be held at the Salemwood School tomorrow by Parent Academy which is one of the Title I programs. A community forum on vaping will also be tomorrow at the Salemwood School. Superintendent Oteri said that parent teacher conferences will be held this week and announcements will be made through ConnectEd calls and on twitter.

In response to Mayor Christenson's question, Superintendent Oteri confirmed that the Barr Foundation will be covering all expenses for the trip to San Diego. When Mayor Christenson asked if the winning art pieces will be shown at the Blue and Gold gallery, Superintendent Oteri said that once the art pieces are released from Tufts University, they will be displayed at the gallery.

Subcommittee Reports/Discussions

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

Mr. Iovino commented that the student enrollment as of Friday was 6,718. This is an increase of 85 students since the beginning of the school year. Last year at this time, there were 37 more students enrolled.

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

Ms. Beardsley said that the Social, Emotional and Physical Well-Being Ad-Hoc Subcommittee met twice since the January 7th School Committee meeting. At one of the meetings, around 20 parents came to discuss the possibility to increase recess time. The subcommittee is preparing a survey to be sent out to parents. Ms. Beardsley also said that the subcommittee discussed the topic of Mindfulness training for schools. Mindfulness can help with reducing stress and anxiety. Ms. Beardsley said that if this is something that the district is interested in pursuing, the subcommittee will look into getting funding for it. Ms. Beardsley informed the School Committee that the subcommittee also looked into a free program offered by Boston Against Bullies, which can be offered in Malden.

Ms. Bordonaro asked when the survey results will be ready. Ms. Beardsley answered that it will take a few weeks for the survey to be administered and responses to be analyzed. The focus of the survey will be whether recess should be more than 30 minutes in the extended day schools and 15 minutes at the other schools. In response to Ms. Bordonaro’s question regarding the concerns of parents regarding recess, Ms. Spadafora said the concerns were whether there was playing equipment for the students and whether indoor or outdoor recess was available. Superintendent Oteri said that the matter of recess needs to be addressed but Learning Time and Bargaining Unit contracts need to be also taken into account.

Motions and Resolutions

Personal Privilege

Executive Session

Mr. Iovino made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. Mr. Froio 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 8-0, with 1 absentee.

The committee reconvened to the Regular Session at 8:18 p.m.

Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the 3-year contract from February 15, 2019 to June 30, 2022 for Mr. Michael Wood for the position of Assistant Superintendent, Student Services and Special Education.

Ms. Bordonaro seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Beardsley voted YES

Ms. Bordonaro voted YES

Mr. Drummey voted YES

Mr. Froio voted YES

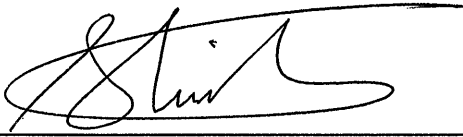
Mr. Iovino voted YES

Ms. Leon ABSENT
Mr. McCarthy voted YES
Ms. Spadafora voted YES
Mayor Christenson voted YES
Motion passed 8-0, with 1 absentee.

Adjournment

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