

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, April 1, 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, April 8th, 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 February 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 February 4th Executive Session of the School Committee. Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Bordonaro seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Ms. Stacy Rubin & Dr. Elizabeth Paulsen Tonogbanua, Beebe School Council Parent Members
On behalf of the Beebe School Council parent members, Ms. Rubin said that parents including multilingual guardians and parents of color should be part of the interview and hiring process for the Beebe School Principal position. Teachers should also be included in the interview process. Ms. Rubin continued that a parent-teacher team should be established this spring so that they can provide guidance and support to the current principal as well as the new principal. Ms. Rubin said that clarity around the hiring process is needed.

Dr. Elizabeth Paulsen Tonogbanua, Beebe School Council Parent Member

Dr. Tonogbanua who has a child at the Early Learning Center (ELC) and another at the Beebe School asked that the District formally work with families who have children both at the ELC and K-8 schools as they have not been engaged in decision making processes. Dr. Tonogbanua said that more than just a few families are impacted by the morning start time at the ELC and tuition increase. Dr. Tonogbanua wanted to know how the parking matter will be addressed because more families will be descending at the ELC at the same time to drop off children. Dr. Tonogbanua said that it might seem like only a few families are complaining about these changes but many families have not come forward because they feel disenfranchised and have a language barrier. Dr. Tonogbanua added that the drop-off time changes could contribute to chronic tardiness.

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

Ms. Gesualdo thanked City Councillor Steve Winslow, School Committee members Jennifer Spadafora and Tara Beardsley as well as Superintendent Oteri and parents for attending the March 22nd Public Hearing on School Funding Legislation held by the Joint Committee on Education at the State House in Boston. Ms. Gesualdo said that the event was very well attended and everyone agreed that the funding formula has to be overhauled and that public schools need more funding. Ms. Gesualdo said that the disparity in funding between school systems is astonishing. Ms. Gesualdo urged educators and students to continue the active advocacy for change, increased funding and equitable access to the schools the students deserve. On April 3rd, at 4:00 pm in the MHS Gallery, the MEA is sponsoring an in-district meeting with Senator Lewis, who is the Senate Chair on the Joint Committee of Education.

Superintendent's Report

1. Norwich University, Vermont MHS Field Trip

Superintendent Oteri called Principal Mastrangelo to the podium to speak about the Norwich University field trip to Vermont. Principal Mastrangelo said that Norwich University will be providing transportation and lunch for 35 students. The trip will be chaperoned by three members of the Guidance Department. Principal Mastrangelo said that the focus is on the STEM scholarship opportunities. Superintendent Oteri recommended the trip. In response to Ms. Beardsley's question, Principal Mastrangelo said that there are a few former MHS students are currently enrolled at the Norwich University. Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the field trip. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

2. 8th Grade Field Trips

Superintendent Oteri said that end of the school year field trips to Canobie Lake Park is being arranged for 8th graders. Superintendent Oteri continued that these field trips are an extension of the curriculum, school learning experience and are tied to the social emotional learning curriculum as it fosters a sense of belonging, team and community building. However, when the topic of field trips comes up, there are always questions about tying the trip to student behavior. Superintendent Oteri said that we are an inclusive learning community and sensitive to all students needs while supporting the teachers who work with the students on a daily basis and are responsible for the students both in the classroom and on field trips. Superintendent Oteri has reached out to legal counsel for guidance on field trips in regards to suspension and access to education. Once more information is received, Superintendent Oteri will meet with administrators and teachers to gather feedback and brainstorm how to best address the needs of the students while staying in compliance with the law. Superintendent Oteri emphasized that

field trips should not be denied as they are part of the curriculum and students with accommodations should have those accommodations on the field trips.

3. District Updates and Highlights

Superintendent Oteri introduced Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Student Services, Mr. Michael Wood who was serving as Director of Student Services/Interim Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment for Leicester Public Schools before joining us. Prior to that, Mr. Wood was a Superintendent of Schools in Massachusetts and Maine, as well as a Director of Special Education, a PK-8 Principal, an Assistant Principal and Teacher in Maine. He was also 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.

Superintendent Oteri also introduced Mr. Rafael Garcia, the new Principal of the Linden STEAM Academy. Mr. Garcia was formerly served as the Brunelli House Principal at the Malden High School. Prior to that, he was with the Lawrence Public Schools for 20 years in various capacities including Assistant Principal, School Director, Curriculum Coach and Science Director.

Through a grant that Assistant Superintendent Chase applied and received, Malden Public Schools (MPS) sent five members of the administrative team to a Massachusetts Learning Excursion in San Diego, California from February 6th to 8th. The members of the team that went on this trip were Ms. Liz Smith - Spec. Ed. MHS Program Manager, Dr. Yvonne Endara – Director of ELE, Dr. Doug Dias – Director of STEM, Mr. Sean Walsh – Director of Humanities and Ms. Natalia Brennan - Instructional Technology. The team members spoke about the information they learned from the trip and exposure to best practices. They said that they will be looking for ways to incorporate what they learned in MPS. In response to Mayor Christenson’s question, Assistant Superintendent Chase said that some of the ideas can be incorporated in the professional learning taking place in the summer. Superintendent Oteri said that this opportunity came about through the Barr Foundation grant. The Barr Foundation has been collecting and analyzing data in order to provide some insight on the transition of MPS students from middle school to high school and beyond. This will assist the district to be more inclusive and help students who have difficulties with transition.

Superintendent Oteri said that the District Improvement Plan will be updated over the next few months with the assistance of Consultant, Dr. Lori Likis. The plan will incorporate some initiatives that were adopted in the last two years such as equity and inclusiveness at all levels.

The Beebe School Principal position vacancy has been posted. Superintendent Oteri said that screening and interview committees will be formed. Superintendent Oteri said that parents, faculty members and students will be given opportunities to be on the interview committee. Assistance from Human Resource Consultant, Ms. Monica Visco has been enlisted. Superintendent Oteri said that a timeline of the activities including focus group sessions with regards to the hiring process will be on the website soon.

Superintendent Oteri said that the start time changes at the ELC for this year and next year came about because of concerns raised by the MEA about equity, time and professional development. Superintendent Oteri continued that the ELC tuition rates will increase in the fall. Superintendent

Oteri added that Malden is one of the few communities offering full-day PreK classes. The tuition had not been raised in the last five years. The operating cost of the ELC is a little over five million a year. The income from tuition is about \$900,000.

In connection with diversity recruitment efforts, Superintendent Oteri attended the 2019 Nemnet Diversity Career Fairs for Educators in Boston on March 2nd. Superintendent Oteri said that there were only a few certified candidates at the fair as it was targeted more towards private schools that do not require certified applicants. Superintendent Oteri was at UMass Boston with Commissioner Riley on March 26th at a forum on diversity in education. Superintendent Oteri will be at the Massachusetts Education Recruiting Consortium (MERC) Recruitment Fair at Boston University on Thursday, April 18th with three other educators and administrators. MPS Open House Job Fair will be held on Thursday, April 25th at MHS. Superintendent Oteri is hopeful for a good turnout as a number of education institutions have been contacted about the Open House.

Superintendent Oteri said that on March 8th and 9th, the Class of 2019 hosted the 79th Annual Junior Varieties at MHS. This is among the longest running junior varieties event hosted by a public school. On March 11th, all MHS USII classes had the opportunity to attend the WWII Museum in Natick in March. This opportunity came through the Mayor's office, and the museum paid for the entire cost of the buses as well as reducing admission costs by half for students. Mr. Israel Arbiter, Mayor Christenson and Superintendent had the opportunity to join the students on this trip. On March 19th, Malden High School organized a Civics Day. Freshmen students showcased their civics projects to elected officials, administrators and community leaders as a part of the partnership with Generation Citizen. On March 26th, New England Patriots Player, Adam Butler read to Kindergarten students at the Ferryway School. Superintendent Oteri said that Mr. Butler spent a lot of time with the kids and staff, making sure everyone was comfortable. This was made possible by the effort of the Ferryway Kindergarten teachers who wrote to, hosted, and celebrated reading and learning with Patriots player Adam Butler and cheerleader Andrea. Linden STEAM Academy's 3rd Grade class organized a Culture Museum on Friday, March 29th with strong parent participation and students dressed in traditional clothing as well as food samples from around the world.

Superintendent Oteri said that SBIRT which is "Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment", an evidence-based practice used to identify, reduce, and prevent problematic use, abuse, and dependence on alcohol and illicit drugs, was given to Grade 7 and Grade 9 students this year and was completed in March. Superintendent Oteri provided an update on MCAS. MHS has completed their MCAS. A letter is being sent home to all Grades 3-8 families today regarding their upcoming MCAS.

Superintendent Oteri announced a few student achievements in sports. Sophomore Yohanni Costa is Malden's First Female STATE CHAMP in Wrestling Division 1 at 145lbs and First Girls Division 1 state champion in Massachusetts history. Yohanni was selected at Girls Wrestling All Scholastic in both the Boston Herald and Boston Globe. Senior Kevin Ochoa is the Division 1 State Champion in the 100 meter butterfly. Kevin is one of 3 state champions in Malden High School Athletics History. Kevin is entertaining several division one scholarship offers including UMASS Amherst. Kevin was also selected as Boys Swimming All-Scholastic in both the Boston Herald and the Boston Globe. Senior Shataeya Smith placed 4th in the Girls Shot Put at the Division 1 State Indoor Track and Field Championships. Shataeya is entertaining several division 1 athletic

scholarships including University of Tennessee, Belmont University, Merrimack College and UMASS Lowell.

In response to Ms. Beardsley's question, Superintendent Oteri said that the School Council and PTO were informed about the start time changes. In response to Mayor Christenson's question, Superintendent Oteri responded that a timeline is being developed and will be uploaded to the website shortly. Superintendent Oteri said that it is hoped that a suitable candidate will be hired by the end of the school year. In response to Mr. Iovino's question, Superintendent Oteri said that the principal vacancy advertisement will be held open for awhile longer in order to enable more candidates to apply. In response to Ms. Beardsley's question, Superintendent Oteri said that there is a need to cultivate leadership internally and perhaps even have a leadership academy. Mr. Iovino requested Superintendent Oteri to prepare a report on the leadership academy including costs that will impact the budget. In response to Mayor Christenson's question, Superintendent Oteri said that the District Improvement Plan should be ready in the fall for the School Committee to review. In response to Ms. Beardsley's question about the possibility of having a crossing guard at the ELC, Superintendent Oteri said that the schools are working with public facilities, parking department, police, fire as well as the city engineer. In response to Mayor Christenson's question, Superintendent Oteri said that work is being done on a 3-5 year plan on the tuition increase at the ELC and that it will be available in the fall. In response to Mayor Christenson's request for an update on the Honeywell initiative, Superintendent Oteri said that Honeywell had replaced bulbs at 4 schools and are working on the 5th school. In response to Ms. Spadafora's question, Superintendent Oteri said that he reached out to a few local universities in an effort to hire more diversified teaching and administrative staff.

Mayor Christenson said that the Metro Mayors have also been working with legislators on education funding. Mayor Christenson requested the School Committee members and other stakeholders to follow-up with legislators on the education funding so that there will be something concrete to build upon for next year's budget.

Subcommittee Reports/Discussions

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

Mr. Iovino said that the student enrollment as of Friday was 6,727. This is an increase of 94 students since the beginning of the school year. Last year at this time, there were 38 fewer students enrolled.

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

Ms. Beardsley said that a survey has been prepared by the subcommittee regarding increased recess. Ms. Beardsley made the motion to approve the survey to be given to parents, staff and students. Ms. Spadafora seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Beardsley said that the results of the survey should be available in May.

3. Academics Subcommittee – Ms. Beardsley

Ms. Beardsley said that the MHS Program of Studies and the 2019-2020 calendar were reviewed and adopted at the recent meeting. Ms. Beardsley added that the Accelerated and Enriched

Academic Program (AEAP) program at the Linden STEAM Academy was also discussed. It is going to be reviewed by a task force at the school.

Motions and Resolutions

1. Resolution in Support of the Promise Act – Ms. Beardsley

Ms. Beardsley read the Promise Act. Ms. Beardsley made the motion to accept the “Resolution in Support of the Promise Act”. Mr. Iovino seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Malden Public Schools Calendar 2019-2020 – Ms. Beardsley

Ms. Beardsley said that there were two options that were presented for the 2019-2020 calendar. The Academics Subcommittee voted on Option 2 which had a Professional Development Day in March as opposed to Option 1 which had a Professional Development Day before the February vacation. Superintendent Oteri added that next year’s calendar also has the religious and cultural holidays listed on the back, similar to this year. This has helped enhance cultural sensitivity. Ms. Beardsley made the motion to approve Option 2 of the Malden Public Schools Calendar 2019-2020. Ms. Bordonaro seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

3. MHS Program of Studies 2019-2020 – Mr. Froio

Mr. Froio invited Principal Mastrangelo to speak about the changes. Principal Mastrangelo said that a curriculum committee was formed earlier this year to assist with the program of studies. Principal Mastrangelo added that the main changes were in the area of English Learner Education. In response to Mayor Christenson’s question, Principal Mastrangelo responded that the data from the Barr Foundation will be used for planning for upcoming years but it will not impact next year’s Program of Studies. Superintendent Oteri commented that the Program of Studies will be prepared a little earlier next year so that it can provide some input for the budget process. Mr. Froio made a motion to approve the MHS Program of Studies. Mr. Iovino seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

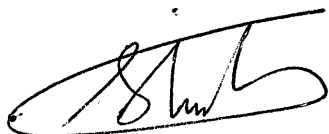
Mr. Iovino said that the Executive Session will be postponed to April 8th in order to take into consideration the information from the Budget Subcommittee meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

Personal Privilege

Adjournment

Mr. Iovino made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 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.



Shirley Dorai, Clerk