

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, April 8, 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, May 6th, 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

Public Comment

Ms. Deborah Gesualdo, President of the Malden Educators' Association (MEA) thanked Mayor Christenson for accompanying Senator Jason Lewis during his visit to the Malden High School (MHS) last Wednesday. Ms. Gesualdo also thanked Mayor Christenson for his continued strong support for education.

Superintendent's Report

1. District Updates and Highlights

Superintendent Oteri said the MCAS testing is running smoothly and that issues that arose were resolved quickly with the help of Ms. Natalia Brennan, Director of Instructional Technology and other school and city personnel. Superintendent Oteri said that the district is acquiring cultural proficiency training that began with the Harvard RIDES (Reimagining Integration and Diversity for Equitable Schools) program and presentations for administrators and staff from CEO and Founder of Disruptive Equity Education Project (DEEP), Dr. Darnisa Amonte. The school district is also in

talks to bring on the Train-the-Trainer model with regard to this work. Superintendent Oteri said that this strategic top down and grassroots way will help expand the work as we proceed.

Superintendent Oteri added that work with the Barr Foundation is assisting us to identify strengths and challenges in preparing our students for success beyond high school. The Barr Team is currently focusing on the transition between middle school and high school. To complement this important work, Superintendent Oteri said that the district is in talks with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to conduct a grades 6-9 curriculum audit that will examine alignment to frameworks, resources that teachers use, and areas where practice can be improved. Superintendent Oteri emphasized that the audit will focus on curriculum and NOT on teachers' performance. Johns Hopkins University will be conducting this work and will share the results with the district.

Senator Jason Lewis visited MHS on Wednesday, April 3rd. Superintendent Oteri said that the Senator, along with Mayor Christenson and Principal Mastrangelo did a tour of the classrooms and there was a Forum on Education Funding hosted by the MEA held later that day at the MHS Gallery. Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee that Senator Lewis is having another education funding reform round table in Melrose this evening.

Assistant Superintendent Chase and Superintendent Oteri attended the Urban Superintendent Network meeting on Friday, April 5th and along with other urban districts are working with legislators on consensus of need for additional education funding. Superintendent Oteri said that a timeline for the Beebe Principal Search Process will be released shortly and that the window for the job posting has been extended to April 19th to enable more candidates to apply.

"Teacher Signing Day" will be held on May 6th. Superintendent Oteri said that this is an initiative that DESE is using to stimulate and create enthusiasm among students who are seeking to matriculate to college and become educators. The district will be promoting this event much like an "Athletic Recruitment Signing Day". Superintendent Oteri said it will most likely be held at an Elementary School to inspire younger students. Elected officials, DESE Commissioner Riley and Mayor Christenson and School Committee members will be invited. Later in the evening, at the School Committee meeting, the School Committee members will present certificates to students who expressed interest in becoming educators and role models in the community.

Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee about the two diversity recruitment efforts for the month of April which includes the Massachusetts Education Recruiting Consortium (MERC) Recruitment Fair on Thursday, April 18th and the MPS Open House Job Fair on Thursday, April 25th.

Events that have been happening at the schools include the STEM Showcase at the Linden STEAM Academy for all grades on April 4th. Superintendent Oteri added that the Ferryway School held an International Food Festival also on April 4th. On April 5th, Salemwood held their Trivia Night and raised over \$4,000 for the school. Superintendent Oteri thanked Ms. Jane Wright for

spearheading the successful event as well as Ms. Penny Kalman, Mr. Eric Whitney, Ms. Amanda Maffeo, Ms. Sue Whitney and Ms. Sarah Strayer for all their help.

Superintendent Oteri said that in the near future, the district will be hosting a speaker, Mr. Jeff Allison, who is a national presence on addiction awareness. Mr. Allison is a Peabody high school graduate who was a baseball pitcher and the Florida Marlins' first-round draft choice. He was slated to be a star player at major league baseball but he fell prey to addiction. He has been in recovery for a long time and is now doing public speaking. Mr. Allison was once coached by Principal Mastrangelo for basketball at Peabody High School.

For an update on sports, Superintendent Oteri said that the Middle School Outdoor Track and Field, Girls Volleyball and Boys/Girls Flag Football started last week. The Unified Outdoor Track and Field also started last week. They will have four meets scheduled against Methuen, Billerica, Andover and Newton North.

Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee that April is Autism Awareness Month. Students wore blue on April 2nd and there were activities such as students selling puzzle pieces at the Salemwood School. Superintendent Oteri also reminded everyone that next week is the April School Vacation week. Classes will resume on Monday, April 22nd.

In response to Ms. Bordonaro's question, Superintendent Oteri said that it is not known yet how much time the Barr Foundation curriculum audit will take. In response to Ms. Spadafora's question, Superintendent Oteri said that he will be attending the Massachusetts Education Recruiting Consortium (MERC) Recruitment Fair on Thursday, April 18th together with Assistant Superintendent Chase and two other administrators. Superintendent Oteri said that local universities have been contacted and the flyers for the MPS Open House Job Fair have been distributed to them. Postings have also been made on SchoolSpring. Ms. Spadafora asked that the meet dates for the Unified Outdoor Track and Field be posted on the website so that people can attend. Superintendent Oteri said that the dates will be posted and that the Special Olympics will be held on May 9th at the Macdonald Stadium.

In response to Ms. Beardsley's question, Superintendent Oteri said that the "Teacher Signing Day" is to encourage MHS seniors who are graduating this year and anticipating going into the field of education. The students will be called on stage and given certificates. In response to Mayor Christenson's question, Superintendent Oteri said that the preliminary MCAS results will be ready in the summer and the families will be notified in mid-fall. Superintendent Oteri also provided an update on the 10th Grade ELA test question based on the book, *The Underground Railroad*, which won a Pulitzer in 2016. The question asked students to write from the perspective of an openly racist character. Tenth-grade students taking the English Language Arts exam noticed the question and raised their concerns to teachers. After widespread complaints, DESE has since pulled this question from the MCAS and will not score the question on tests that have already been taken.

In response to Mayor Christenson's question, Superintendent Oteri said that the success of the job fairs will depend on many things such as the available vacancies. Superintendent said he feels optimistic with all the effort that is being made to attract more diversified candidates. Superintendent Oteri also confirmed that the Friday before the April vacation is a full school day. In response to Mayor Christenson's question about "Stop the Stigma Day", Superintendent Oteri said that the schools are ready for the event, with ribbons, pictures and selfies. Mayor Christenson commended Mr. Charlie Conefrey, Director of Athletics, Physical Education and Health as well as Mr. Joe Levine, Director of Malden Recreation Department for bringing more sports programs to the middle school level. Mayor Christenson called Mr. Conefrey to the stage to speak about the available programs. Mr. Conefrey said that the middle school students from grades 6, 7 and 8 now have Basketball, Cross Country, Track and Field, Flag Football and Volleyball Programs.

Subcommittee Reports/Discussions

1. **Space and Enrollment Ad-Hoc Subcommittee – Mr. Iovino**
Mr. Iovino said that the student enrollment as of Friday was 6,725. This is an increase of 92 students since the beginning of the school year.
2. **Policy and Procedures Subcommittee – Ms. Bordonaro**
Ms. Bordonaro said that the subcommittee is working on the dedication policy, recess policy as well as the admissions for non-resident employee children to MPS. In response to Mayor Christenson's question, Ms. Bordonaro said that there will be proposed policies ready before the end of the school year.

Motions and Resolutions

1. **Malden Public Schools Calendar 2019-2020 – Ms. Beardsley**
Ms. Beardsley and Superintendent Oteri clarified that upon re-examining the calendar, another Professional Development Early Release Day was needed on June 5th as well as an Early Release Day before the December break. Ms. Beardsley made the motion to accept the revised Malden Public Schools Calendar 2019-2020. Mr. Iovino seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.
2. **Naming, Renaming and Dedication of Existing Facilities Policy - Ms. Bordonaro**
Ms. Bordonaro made a motion to table this policy in order to incorporate more information. Mr. Iovino seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Personal Privilege

Executive Session

Mr. Iovino made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 6:45 p.m. Ms. Spadafora 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 7:27 p.m.

Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the stipend increase of \$600 per year for the Malden School Committee Clerk effective at this meeting. 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 voted YES
Mr. McCarthy voted YES
Ms. Spadafora voted YES
Mayor Christenson voted YES
Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve a 2% increase in salary and 1% merit increase in salary for the Superintendent of the Malden Public Schools retroactive from July 1, 2018 which will bring the annual salary up to \$185,400. Mr. Drummey seconded. A roll call vote was taken.
Ms. Beardsley voted NO
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 carries 7-2.

Adjournment

Mr. Iovino made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 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.



Shirley Dorai, Clerk