

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, May 6, 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, June 3rd, 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:

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| 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 April 1st Regular Session, April 8th Regular Session and April 8th Executive Session of the School Committee.

Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the April 1st Regular Session of the minutes. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Spadafora made the motion to approve the April 8th Regular Session of the minutes. Ms. Leon seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the April 8th Executive Session of the minutes. Ms. Bordonaro seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Dr. Elizabeth Paulsen Tonogbanua, 31 Grace Street

Dr. Tonogbanua stated that she is following-up on a meeting request that she sent to the Superintendent and Mayor Christenson.

Mekka Smith and Susan Lawrence, 6 Grace Street and 176 Glenwood Street, Malden CORE members
Ms. Smith said that MaldenCORE is a community organizing for racial equity and it is a volunteer led group in the city of Malden dedicated to undoing racism in our public schools and community. Ms.

Smith and Ms. Lawrence want to work with the district on three areas where meaningful change can be made collectively to ensure students and staff feel more included in the school system. The first area is on-going anti-racism training for all educators in the district. The second area is to have a clear process that staff members can follow if they want to report an instance of bias that falls along the lines of diversity, equity or inclusion. The third area is hiring of staff that is culturally and ethnically representative of the student body. Ms. Smith invited everyone to attend the MaldenCORE meetings held on the last Wednesday of each month from 6:45 to 8:15 pm at the Malden Senior Center. Ms. Lawrence extended an invitation to the 2nd Annual Malden Juneteenth Freedom Celebration on June 19th at the Malden Senior Center.

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

Ms. Gesualdo thanked all public school teachers in Malden for their commitment to the students in the community. Ms. Gesualdo informed the School Committee that on May 16th, the Fund our Future rally will be held at the Boston Common. This rally is in support of the PROMISE Act so that public schools can be fully funded. Ms. Gesualdo added that MEA, Revere Teachers Association, Winthrop Teachers Association and Chelsea Teacher Union are working with the district leadership on the planning of the November 5th Professional Development Day. Ms. Gesualdo and the President of the Revere Teachers Association will be working with the National Education Association, Human and Civil Rights Department and Center for Social Justice to bring a cadre of trainers to lead workshops on November 5th that center around racial and social justice, equity, cultural competency and other topics. Ms. Gesualdo said that there is a need for continued work in the areas of equity, inclusivity and cultural competency.

Ms. Nekita Lamour, 645 Cross Street

Ms. Lamour said that there is a high level of illiteracy in her community. Ms. Lamour requested help to support her as an immigrant educator so that she can help this community.

Ms. Penny Kalman, 194 Bainbridge Street, Malden and 6th Grade Teacher at Salemwood School

Ms. Kalman requested an update on the efforts to spread the SEI student population among the city schools as Salemwood School received 29 more students in April.

Superintendent's Report

1. Newport Mansions, Rhode Island Field Trip

Superintendent Oteri said that 11th Grade MHS students are planning a trip to the Newport Mansions, Rhode Island on May 23rd. Principal Mastrangelo said that the trip aligns with the Great Gatsby novel that the students are studying in class. Mr. McCarthy made the motion to approve this field trip. Mr. Froio seconded and it was so VOTED.

2. 8th Grade Canobie Lake Park Field Trips

Superintendent Oteri sought approval from the School Committee for the 8th grade students from the K-8 schools to go on a celebratory trip to Canobie Lake Park, New Hampshire. Ferryway and Forestdale will be going on June 7th, Beebe and Linden will be going on June 11th, and Salemwood will be going on June 12th. Mr. Drummey made a motion to approve these trips. Ms. Leon seconded and it was so VOTED.

2. District Updates and Highlights

Superintendent Oteri said that the MHS Robotics team was crowned as New England Regional Champions recently at UMASS Lowell. There were 21 schools that competed. During this event, there were several rounds and Malden was the only school to not lose a single competition during any round. They have now qualified to compete at the Nationals in Oklahoma. Superintendent Oteri congratulated the members of the team, as well as faculty advisers, Chris Bazzinotti and Brian Morrison. The students on the team were Felix Li, Daniel Augustin, Manuela Sanchez, Michele Nie, Angela Tejada-Soliz, Jacky Luong, Kevin Nguyen, Sean Tran, Thomas Tran, Valery Delva and Ajithaan Sathiyendra.

Superintendent Oteri provided an update on the Beebe School Principal search. On April 29th, the HR Consultant met with a group of 7th and 8th grade students, as well as a small group of staff and parents to get their input on the profile of the next Beebe Principal. There were common themes across all groups. Cooperative, strong, honest, communicative, approachable, were qualities sought by all. These also came through in a survey that was posted on the district website.

Out of the 24 applicants for the position, 9 met the qualifications and profile set by the school district. Eight of the nine were interviewed because one of them had taken a position elsewhere. On May 3rd, a committee of 12 comprised of two staff/parents, one parent, two administrators, two sixth grade students and four staff members from Beebe School and the HR consultant interviewed all 8 candidates.

Of the 8, 3 candidates were moved forward to meet with the Administrative Leadership team. The team will determine finalists who will then revisit the Beebe School at staff, parent and student forums, a tour of the school and meet with a representative group of the district leadership team. The goal is to have a final successful candidate identified by the end of May.

Superintendent Oteri said that the Boston Celtics and General Electric STEM Lab will be visiting Beebe School again next year for an exciting 3-week program. They will be visiting from February 24th to March 13th, 2020. They will also connect with the Ferryway, Linden and Salemwood schools.

Superintendent Oteri provided an update on equity, diversity, inclusion and access initiatives. On November 5th, a common Professional Development Day will be held in collaboration with the 5 District Partnership composed of Everett, Winthrop, Revere, Chelsea and Malden. One of the main themes of the Professional Development Day is increasing the cultural proficiency and competency for all staff along the themes of equity and inclusion. There will be national speakers at the Professional Development Day. Malden is one of the host sites.

Superintendent Oteri said that the district has been working with the Barr Foundation on the transition of students from 8th grade to 9th grade and student outcomes after graduation from high school. The Barr Foundation is helping to uncover achievement gaps which underscore the need for equity and access. The reports that are being analyzed are very in-depth and highlight

gaps and concerns that have existed in MPS for many years. Superintendent Oteri emphasized that these reports are NOT to shame or blame anyone. The reports will be used to drive and plan programming, delivery of curriculum as well as provide services and supports for students. Superintendent Oteri said that we are putting ourselves in a position to receive additional services from the Barr Foundation. Superintendent Oteri added that the Barr Foundation like our data and the story it tells as well as ways we can improve the schools to positively impact our students and raise their level of achievement. Updates on the progress of this work will be provided periodically. Superintendent Oteri thanked Assistant Superintendent Chase, Principal Mastrangelo and the MHS team for working on this initiative.

A team from MPS attended a 3-day Harvard RIDES (Reimagining Integration and Diversity for Equitable Schools) seminar last week. Superintendent Oteri said that the district will continue to work with Dr. Darnisa Amante and the Harvard RIDES team. Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee that MPS is applying for a fellowship for next year who will work to implement a plan and assist the district. Further updates will be provided at the next meeting.

Superintendent Oteri said that the effort to hire more staff from diverse backgrounds is on-going. On April 18th, MPS took part in the Massachusetts Education Recruiting Consortium (MERC) Recruitment Fair at Boston University. On April 25th, MPS held an Open House Job Fair.

Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee that MPS received a Teacher Diversification Grant of \$12,000 from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Half the amount needs to be spent this school year. The grant targets student recruitment to pursue a career in education. A part of this is related to the Teacher Signing Day initiated by DESE this year. Superintendent Oteri said that this helps to tap into the diverse MPS student body and hopefully guide some students of color into the field of education.

Superintendent highlighted the Blue and Gold Gallery Opening on April 11th. Superintendent Oteri thanked Mr. John Preotle who sponsors the Blue and Gold Gallery Opening as well as provides the venue.

Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee that the Pope John XXIII School in Everett is closing and that they had approached Malden about accepting some international students on an I-20 Visa. Superintendent said that MPS is not set up for this via the Department of State and Homeland Security. These students would pay tuition, slightly above the per pupil expenditure. Superintendent Oteri suggested that if the School Committee is interested in pursuing this matter, it could be assigned to a subcommittee for further review.

Superintendent Oteri thanked all the teachers in the district in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week. Superintendent Oteri went on to name some of the events taking place at the schools during the month of May. The Special Olympics will be held on Thursday, May 9th at 9:00 am at the Macdonald Stadium. Memorial Day is on Monday, May 27th and the schools are closed on that day. Senior Scholarship Night is on Tuesday, May 28th. National Honor Society is on Wednesday, May 29th and MHS Graduation is on Sunday, June 2nd at 2:00 pm at the Macdonald Stadium.

In response to Ms. Beardsley's question, Superintendent Oteri said that the funds from the Teacher Diversification grant cannot be given to students as scholarships because the grant has specified that it should be used for training and professional development. Ms. Beardsley asked about Harvard fellowship's role. Superintendent Oteri responded that the role will be to support the Harvard RIDES initiative. In response to Ms. Spadafora question, Superintendent Oteri said that the Professional Development Day is in the planning stages but the topic of equity and inclusiveness will be a recurring theme. Mayor Christenson said that the MHS Robotics team will need some support to get to Oklahoma for the national level tournament and that the city will work with MHS in this regard. In response to Mayor Christenson's question, Superintendent Oteri said that the ADL training has been done extensively at MHS and that an update can be provided after the end of the school year. Mayor Christenson asked if Barr Foundation will be awarding another grant. Superintendent Oteri said that even if no additional funding is forthcoming from them, the schools can use the extensive data collected through this initiative. In response to Mayor Christenson's question about the Teacher Diversification Grant, Assistant Superintendent Chase that the funds will be used for stipends for MHS teachers to look at the diverse student population and come up with some plans on how to implement a diversification program to encourage these diverse body of students to pursue a career in education. Half of the funds will be used this year and the other half will be spent during the summer.

Mr. Iovino made a motion to refer the matter of international students to the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED.

Subcommittee Reports/Discussions

1. **Space and Enrollment Ad-Hoc Subcommittee – Mr. Iovino**
Mr. Iovino said that the student enrollment as of Friday was 6,729. This is an increase of 96 students since the beginning of the school year. There are 36 fewer students this year compared to last year at the same time. Mr. Iovino said that he would like to meet with Superintendent Oteri and the Principal of the Salemwood School to discuss the issue of inequity.
2. **Policy and Procedures Subcommittee – Ms. Bordonaro**
Ms. Bordonaro thanked the subcommittee members for their effort and said that the subcommittee has been working on the dedications policy as well as the recess policy.
3. **Social, Emotional and Physical Well-Being Ad-Hoc Subcommittee – Ms. Beardsley**
Ms. Beardsley said that the recess survey has received 1,600 responses and it will be kept open for one more month. Ms. Beardsley continued that once the data is collected, a task force will be established to develop a presentation for the School Committee on the recommendations for recess time.
4. **Budget Subcommittee – Mr. Froio and Ms. Bordonaro**
Ms. Bordonaro thanked Superintendent Oteri and Business Manager, Ms. Toni Mertz. Mr. Froio asked Superintendent Oteri to provide an update on the budget. Superintendent Oteri said that the proposed budget increased by 3.5% compared to last year and that it is level serviced with no layoffs. Mayor Christenson thanked City Controller, Mr. Chuck Ranaghan and Mr. Ron Hogan who worked with Ms. Mertz on the budget.

Motions and Resolutions

1. Naming, Renaming and Dedication of Existing Facilities Policy - Ms. Bordonaro

Since there was an amendment and need for further clarification, Mayor Christenson suggested that the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee review the policy again before bringing it to the School Committee to vote. Mr. Froio made a motion to table this policy. Ms. Spadafora seconded and it was so VOTED.

2. DESE School Choice Vote – Mr. Iovino

Mr. Iovino explained that this is a matter brought forward by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for a vote every year to determine if MPS would want to open enrollment to students in other school districts. Mr. Iovino said that he would urge the School Committee to vote no on this motion considering the high enrollment numbers in Malden.

Mr. Iovino made a motion to vote no in terms of MPS being a School Choice school district. Ms. Bordonaro seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Beardsley voted NO

Ms. Bordonaro voted NO

Mr. Drummey voted NO

Mr. Froio voted NO

Mr. Iovino voted NO

Ms. Leon voted NO

Mr. McCarthy voted NO

Ms. Spadafora voted NO

Mayor Christenson voted NO

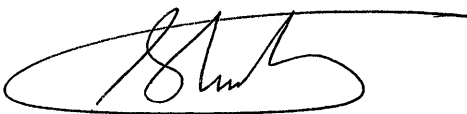
The motion to vote NO passed unanimously.

Personal Privilege

Adjournment

Ms. Bordonaro made a motion to adjourn at 7:28 p.m. Mr. Iovino 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