

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING  
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Monday, June 3, 2019  
Malden Senior Center, 7 Washington Street

Mr. Froio called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Froio 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	Absent
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
Clerk	Present

**Budget Public Hearing**

Mr. Froio thanked Mayor Christenson, Superintendent Oteri and Business Manager, Toni Mertz for their assistance with the budget and for adding positions in the schools. Superintendent Oteri said \$74 million has been budgeted for the schools for the 2019-2020 year. Superintendent Oteri continued that the school district is constantly assessing needs and priorities. The budget process begins in January with the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendents, Business Manager, Principals and Directors identifying the needs and wants in terms of staffing and other areas.

Superintendent Oteri said that through the advocacy by the Mayor's Office, state delegation, and community members, there is a very likely possibility that more funding will be available to schools. Based on this expectation, the new budget includes 2 additional Malden High School (MHS) science teachers, 1 additional MHS math teacher, 1 middle school health teacher, 3 SEI teachers at Salemwood, 1 Integrated 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher at Ferryway, 1 middle school teacher at Ferryway, 1 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher at Beebe, Director of Guidance, 1 additional Assistant Principal at Salemwood and Leadership Academy.

In response to Ms. Spadafora's question, Superintendent Oteri said that the additional 1<sup>st</sup> Grade classroom at Beebe requires an additional 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher to be hired. There are currently six Kindergarten classrooms at Beebe. Ms. Spadafora noted that the absence of the Human Resource (HR) Director position in the budget would affect the efforts for hiring diverse staff for the district. Superintendent Oteri responded to Mr. Iovino's question saying that the HR Director position will be included in the 2020-2021 budget.

Ms. Beardsley inquired about the positions for co-taught classrooms. Superintendent Oteri said that Assistant Superintendent Michael Wood is continuously analyzing classroom needs and that as of right now, the budget has been set but going forward changes will be made where necessary. Mr. Iovino asked if decisions on co-teaching is building based. Superintendent Oteri responded that many factors are involved in the decision-making process while keeping an eye on avoiding inequities.

In response to Ms. Beardsley's question, Superintendent Oteri said that the 3 additional MHS science and math teachers will help reduce class sizes. The focus will be on hiring qualified and diverse staff. In response to Ms. Spadafora's question, Business Manager, Toni Mertz said that the 2 Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) positions at Beebe have been eliminated and replaced with an additional nurse. She added that this is necessary because Nursing Director, Patricia Tramondozzi, was having difficulties in filling the CMA positions.

Ms. Mertz also said that the changes in the number of custodians at Beebe was due to the outsourcing of custodians for the night shift. Superintendent Oteri added that the number of custodians remains the same but that they were just reallocated among the schools. In response to Mr. Froio's question, Ms. Mertz said that the increase of staff in Linden is due to the special education positions. In response to Ms. Beardsley's question, Superintendent Oteri said that regardless of the outcome on the additional funding from the state level, the school budget will not be decreased.

In response to Mr. Iovino's question, Ms. Mertz said that the summer school costs are not in the budget as it is covered by a grant. In response to Ms. Beardsley's question, Ms. Mertz said that the athletics department does not have to raise funds as the budget is able to provide for what was requested by the Athletics Director. Superintendent Oteri added that unlike some other districts, Malden Public Schools (MPS) does not have activity fees because athletics is a universal language and helps to engage students. Superintendent Oteri thanked the Mayor and the School Committee for supporting the athletic program at MPS. In response to Mr. McCarthy's question, Ms. Mertz clarified that the 19 hour support positions at the schools are based on needs in order to support large classroom sizes. In response to Ms. Bordonaro, Ms. Mertz said that the Salemwood therapist position has been re-classified as BCBA. In response to Ms. Spadafora's question, Superintendent Oteri said that the Communications Specialist/Building Monitor position increased from 1 to 2 because there is a need in MHS for the students to connect with adults who are not necessarily teachers. These positions help to prevent escalation and diffuse situations before they become disciplinary.

In response to Ms. Spadafora's question about copier costs, Ms. Mertz said that the increase is due to having a color copier at the Early Learning Center because the students are more engaged with color prints that correspond to their adaptive equipment.

Mr. Froio asked the audience to come forward if they had any questions regarding the proposed budget.

Ms. Bonnie Littlejohn, 127 Emerald Street, Malden

In response to Ms. Littlejohn's question about the increase in the team chair position at Beebe, Ms. Mertz said it was due to the PACE program housed at the school. Ms. Littlejohn also mentioned that just 2 part-time 504 coordinators positions for the entire district is insufficient. In response to Ms. Littlejohn's question, Superintendent Oteri responded that the elementary support staff and paraprofessionals are allocated to schools based on the need and programs housed in each school. Superintendent Oteri also clarified for Ms. Littlejohn that the difference in coaches' compensation is based on the length of the season, number of students as well as collective bargaining agreements.

Mr. Drummey made a made the motion to accept the 2019-2020 Malden Public Schools budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Iovino. 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 YES

Ms. Spadafora YES

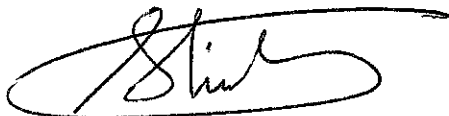
Mayor Christenson ABSENT

Motion passed with 8 votes in favor and 1 absent.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Iovino made a motion to adjourn at 5:39 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