

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, July 1, 2019
Malden Senior Center, 7 Washington Street**

Mayor Christenson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Christenson said that the School Committee will recess until the beginning of school subject to the call of the Chair in case a need arises.

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	Absent
Mr. Drummey	Absent
Mr. Froio	Present
Mr. Iovino	Present
Ms. Leon	Present
Mr. McCarthy	Present
Ms. Spadafora	Present
Superintendent Oteri	Present
Clerk	Present

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the June 3rd 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

Ms. Jackie Ecker, 58 Lanark Road, Malden

Ms. Ecker said that there was a group called FACE (Family and Community Engagement) Task Force when Dr. Grandson was the MPS Superintendent and this group made up of parents and representatives from MPS met regularly to work on issues related to the schools. Ms. Ecker said that if such a task force existed now, it could have helped with matters such as the impact of changes in the after-school programming. Ms. Ecker suggested that a group similar to the task force be established again.

Ms. Bonnie Littlejohn, 127 Emerald Street, Malden

Ms. Bonnie stated that she appreciated the communication from Superintendent Oteri that parents have been receiving for the past two years ever since he took on the role of Superintendent of the Malden Public Schools (MPS).

Superintendent's Report

District Updates and Highlights

Superintendent Oteri provided some details pursuant to the public meeting that was held on June 26th regarding changes to the after-school programs. Superintendent Oteri said that if at least 68 students across the district enroll for after-school programs from the 7th and 8th grades, the schools can run this program for \$10 a day for 4 days a week from Monday – Thursday until 6:00 pm. Based on this number, the program will not affect the budget. The program will be offered in Salemwood, Linden, Beebe and Forestdale. Mayor Christenson added that another public meeting to discuss the after-school programs will be held on Monday, July 15th.

In response to Ms. Beardsley's question as to why this proposal was not provided before cutting the program, Superintendent Oteri said that the schools were not expecting parents to be willing to pay more for the continuance of the program. Ms. Spadafora requested that all ConnectEd calls and emails going out from the schools should be in as many languages as required so that the community is made aware of important matters such as the after-school programming. Superintendent Oteri said that the schools have already started doing this and will continue to do so. Mayor Christenson thanked Ms. Maria Luise, Ms. Toni Mertz and the Superintendent's Office for their effort on this matter.

Superintendent Oteri said that the district had applied for the Influence 100 Grant through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). DESE is launching the Influence 100 initiative to increase the racial and ethnic diversity of superintendents in Massachusetts, create more culturally responsive districts and leaders across the state, and promote better outcomes for students. Influence 100 includes a fellowship program for qualified educators who desire to move into the Superintendent role in the next five years and support for school districts to become more culturally responsive and diversify their educator workforce. Last week, School Committee member Jennifer Spadafora sat in on a teleconference with Assistant Superintendent Chase, Superintendent Oteri and Dr. Cheryl Camacho from DESE. DESE will formally announce if Malden will be in the program by July 5th but DESE gave very strong assurances that Malden will likely be selected. Superintendent Oteri was excited to work with DESE on this initiative which complements the district's commitment to equity and inclusion. Superintendent Oteri also said that DESE is hoping the School Committee will be involved with taking a stance on goals and guidelines on diversity within the district. That is one of the reasons why they requested that a School Committee member be present during the teleconference.

Sharewood Project of Tufts University School of Medicine (TUSM) is organizing School Physical Days at St. Paul's Parish at 26 Washington St, Malden, MA 02148 and new patients will be accepted from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 20th, August 10th and September 7th. Superintendent Oteri said that these events are hosted and coordinated by the students of TUSM where all K-12 students can receive a complete evaluation and physical exam from a licensed physician for the purposes of participating in school. All services are free of charge as a service to the community and documentation of the physical for each student will be provided. Additionally, if at any point they reach capacity, all families will be invited to return the following Tuesday afternoon at 6:00 p.m. to the same location to complete the

school physical. Superintendent Oteri said that this information will be disseminated at the Parent Information Center, district website and sent through ConnectEd.

Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee that he was recently contacted by the Needham Public Schools Superintendent Dan Gutekanst who works with Boston College Lynch School doctoral candidates. Superintendent Gutekanst also works closely with DESE and DESE strongly recommended Malden Public Schools as the place where these candidates should study, specifically because of the diversity and inclusive practices. After a lot of discussion with DESE and in conducting their own personal research, they expressed their interest to study MPS for a short period of time in the fall. They believe that MPS has some promising practices going on to support special education students, students with trauma, ELL and refugee students. These doctoral students would be interning and only gathering data. In their dissertation and reports, MPS will not be mentioned by name and only positive aspects will be included.

Professional development activities were organized in the district under the theme “Malden University” from June 17th – 27th. Superintendent Oteri said that the opportunities provided included Writing with Colors, Google training, Technology training, Project-based learning from the Buck Institute (Project Slice), literacy training, Footsteps2Brilliance, Boston Writing Program and social-emotional training. The training on culturally responsive educators will be rescheduled to the fall with Dr. Darnisa Amante through the Harvard RIDES (Reimagining Integration and Diversity for Equitable Schools) program as there was no solid representation of staff due to scheduling issues. Dr. Amante also felt that doing the training at the beginning of the school year will have a more positive impact than what was originally scheduled.

Through the Barr Foundation grant, MPS sent 9 educators and administrators to Colorado from July 25th to July 29th. They were trained on Redesigning of a High School through project-based learning, engagement and relevance. Superintendent Oteri said that they will be providing a report in the fall.

Kindergarten screening for the 2019-2020 school year, spearheaded by Assistant Superintendent Chase, will have Kindergarten teachers working with PIC Manager, Ms. Joan Federico to do as much Kindergarten screening as possible in the summer before the school year begins. While Kindergarten orientation and screening will still take place during the first days of the school calendar, Superintendent Oteri said that the interested families can schedule the 30-minute screening earlier before the start of school. This will help the teachers and administrators plan for more balanced classes and avoid transitions once the school year has begun.

Superintendent Oteri said that each year, in order to apply for the Extended Learning Time (ELT) Grant through the state, a vote of the faculty in Ferryway and the Salemwood, is required. On June 14th, the two schools’ respective faculties voted on whether to participate in the program. The Ferryway faculty voted to continue to participate in the ELT program. The Salemwood School voted to not participate. At the inception of the program, in 2006-07, the faculty was compensated at a rate of 18% above their base salary. However, due to level funding of this grant over the years by the State, a deficit was created

which the School Department has had to fund. The School Committee has always held the position that the ELT Grant had to be self-sustaining and not come out of the operating budget which would ultimately affect other schools. For the last several years, the rate has been negotiated at 16% with the Malden Education Association (MEA). Even at the 16% rate, the School Department was funding a deficit of over \$80,000. This year, in order to accommodate raises and additional staffing, a 15% salary compensation was negotiated by MEA and the School Department, which was put to a vote of the members. Even at this rate, the deficit would be over \$100,000. Superintendent Oteri said that this will be a great change for the Salemwood community and other options will be assessed to help students and families. Superintendent Oteri continued that as we move forward, the schools will be in communication so that everyone is updated. A public meeting on Wednesday, June 26th to address questions from the parents regarding the cessation of Salemwood's ELT program as well as the changes in the after-school programming.

School Works is a consulting group that has been enlisted to do an analysis of the school district's administrative structure to provide recommendations. Superintendent Oteri said that they will begin with meetings and interviews with the administration team to understand job roles and responsibilities. This work hopefully will be completed this fall. As for the District Improvement Plan, consultant Dr. Lori Likis, will continue to work with the school district and will engage all stakeholders beginning late August.

Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee that the custodial fee for the rental rates of the schools will increase from \$40/hour to \$45/hour beginning July 1st because of contractual obligations.

Superintendent Oteri announced the new appointments in the administration team starting with Principal Ray Garcia, who will be the permanent principal at the Linden STEAM Academy LSA). Mr. Garcia has been the interim since March and has done a tremendous job in stabilizing the school and is ready to bring the LSA to the next level. Mr. Greg Hurley will replace Mr. Sean Walsh as the Director of Humanities. Superintendent Oteri thanked Mr. Walsh and wished him all the best. Mr. Hurley has been with MPS since 2005 and has been the lead in many projects within the Humanities realm. Ms. Erin Craven will be the new Director of Guidance for MPS. Ms. Craven who has been with MPS since 2006, is a veteran counselor at MHS and has served the school in a variety of leadership positions. Ms. Craven has been involved, most recently, with the Barr Foundation and in the past, has overseen the 8th-9th grade transition program. Lastly, Superintendent Oteri officially welcomed Dr. Kari-Ann Murphy as the new Principal of the Beebe School and expressed his gratitude to Principal Barbara O'Brien who served the last two years at Beebe.

Superintendent Oteri said that all the K-8 and ELC schools have had their moving-on ceremonies and that the last day of school was on Friday, July 14th. Superintendent Oteri also spoke about the Juneteenth celebration that was held on June 19th at the Malden Senior Center. This celebration will be included in the list of celebrations and observances on the MPS calendar. Superintendent Oteri provided a brief update on summer activities. The summer programs organized by MPS will be housed at the Ferryway and Forestdale schools. The Summer Eats program has been available at the parks

throughout the city since June 8th. So, children who are not attending summer school are welcome to head to the parks to get lunch. The MHS Robotics Team will be flying to Oklahoma on Saturday, July 6th and will be returning on Friday, July 12th. They were able to raise enough fund through the Go Fund Me page thanks to generous donors.

In response to Ms. Beardsley, Superintendent Oteri said that the Influence 100 Grant does not provide specific measurable goals for equity and inclusion but the School Committee is strongly encouraged to work toward these goals. In response to another question from Ms. Beardsley, Superintendent Oteri said that the data collected by the doctoral students will highlight what is being done well in the district and which areas might need more attention. Ms. Beardsley stated that the school district should work toward getting the Kindergarten students to start school the same time as all the other grades. Ms. Spadafora requested Superintendent Oteri to find out if the Sharewood project provided vaccinations to students. In response to Ms. Spadafora's question as to whether the IEPs for students at the Salemwood School will be amended, Superintendent Oteri said that guidance from DESE is being sought. Superintendent Oteri added that there were 18 schools offering ELT but now there are only 10. The school attorneys are also being consulted to ensure that the school is within compliance with regards to the IEPs. In response to Ms. Beardsley's question, Superintendent Oteri said that the school will work with the Salemwood families on the time change. The breakfast program allows students to come in earlier during the morning and the after-school program as well as programs run by the Malden Recreation Department should also be of assistance.

Mayor Christenson thanked MHS Principal Mastrangelo for providing updates on Twitter about the work with the Barr Foundation. In response to Mayor Christenson's question about Honeywell's progress in the schools, Superintendent Oteri said that they are continuing to work to replace the lighting at the schools during the summer. Mayor Christenson also asked about updates on the summer projects at the schools. Superintendent Oteri said that the stairs and façade in front of the Jenkins auditorium, the Salemwood bathrooms as well as the parking lots at Salemwood and Ferryway are being repaired. Superintendent Oteri added that focus will be on curriculum and programming during the Superintendent's conference the following week which will be attended by Superintendent Oteri and the Assistant Superintendents, which will help guide strategic planning for the district. In response to Mr. Iovino's question, Mayor Christenson said that the railings between the Brunelli building going toward the Jenkins building will be repaired as well. Mayor Christenson said that the water fountains at Salemwood and MHS will be repaired in the next few weeks. In response to Ms. Spadafora's question, Mayor Christenson said that he will also find out the status of the work on the Beebe playground.

Subcommittee Reports/Discussions

1. Policy and Procedures Subcommittee – Mr. Iovino

Mr. Iovino said that he was asked to present the subcommittee report by Ms. Bordonaro, Chair of the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee, who was not able to be present at the meeting.

Mr. Iovino said that the naming of the Television and Media Studio at MHS after Ms. Marguerite Gonsalves received unanimous consent at the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee meeting held on June 11th. Mr. McCarthy voiced his support.

Motions and Resolutions

1. Vote on Unit A - Teachers Contract – Mr. Iovino

Mr. Iovino said that after several meetings, the teachers voted on June 11th on the Unit A three year 2019-2022 contract. Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee that the Unit A contract stipulates a 2% salary increase for the 2019-2020 year, 2% for 2020-2021 and a 2% on the first day of the 2021-2022 school year as well as a 1% on the 91st day of the 2021-2022 school year. Superintendent Oteri said that the new contract also took into account the ELC hours so that it is in compliance, updating of the online grading system within 10 school days, evaluation, extending the leave of absence to non-birth parents so that they could use accrued sick time for up to 6 weeks, deletion of the agency fee as well as forming a joint labor management committee to address matters such as caseload. Superintendent Oteri thanked everyone who worked on the contract. Mayor Christenson also thanked Ms. Maria Luise, Mr. Ron Hogan and Mr. Chuck Ranaghan who helped with the budget and contract.

Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the 2019-2022 Unit A contract. Mr. Froio seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Beardsley voted YES

Ms. Bordonaro ABSENT

Mr. Drummey ABSENT

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 with 7 votes in favor and 2 absent.

2. Vote on Whether to Enroll Pope John International Students – Mr. Iovino

Mr. Iovino said that the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee met and voted to not enroll the Pope John International students. Mr. Iovino added that Superintendent Oteri had explained the complex steps and measures that had to be taken in order to obtain student visas, financial cost as well as the lengthy timeline. Ms. Spadafora added that the vote of the subcommittee was in line with the stance of the School Committee on the matter of school choice. In response to Ms. Beardsley, Superintendent Oteri said that despite the fees paid by these students to MPS, the subcommittee decided that it would increase class sizes.

Mr. Iovino made the motion to vote no on enrolling Pope John International Students at MPS.

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

Ms. Beardsley voted NO

Ms. Bordonaro ABSENT

Mr. Drummey ABSENT

Mr. Froio voted NO

Mr. Iovino voted NO

Ms. Leon voted NO
Mr. McCarthy voted NO
Ms. Spadafora voted NO
Mayor Christenson voted NO
Motion passed with 7 NO votes and 2 absent.

3. Decision on Employee's Child Attending Malden Public Schools – Mr. Iovino

Mr. Iovino said that this motion will be tabled as requested by the Chair of the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee, Ms. Bordonaro. The Policy and Procedures Subcommittee will convene another meeting to look into this matter further as well as to work on a policy.

Ms. Spadafora informed the School Committee that at the recent Policy and Procedures Subcommittee meeting, there was a unanimous vote not to enroll Ms. Kelly's child. Ms. Beardsley stated that she is unaware of any history of the School Committee denying any request for enrollment of an employee's child and that a vote should be taken at this meeting. Discussion then ensued and Mayor Christenson proposed that a vote be first taken on whether to table the decision. Mayor Christenson continued that if that vote fails, then the School Committee will vote on the decision.

Mr. Iovino made the motion to table the matter of the employee's child attending MPS. Ms. Leon seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Beardsley voted NO
Ms. Bordonaro ABSENT
Mr. Drummey ABSENT
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 with 6 votes in favor, 1 against and 2 absent.

4. The Marguerite Gonsalves Television and Media Studio at MHS – Mr. Iovino

Mr. Valente said that if approved, the dedication will take place in September. Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the naming and dedication of the Marguerite Gonsalves Television and Media Studio at MHS. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Linden STEAM Academy Governing Board - Mr. Froio

Mr. Froio said that this matter is about the Linden STEAM Academy Governing Board dissolving in order to establish a School Council. Mr. Froio requested Superintendent Oteri to provide more details. Superintendent Oteri said that at the last School Committee meeting, he had informed the School Committee of the resignation of the faculty from the Linden STEAM Academy Governing Board. In their resignation letter, the faculty collectively recommended reinstating a School Council in lieu of an advisory board of trustees, implement instructional learning teams, form ad-hoc working groups that would foster innovative practices and ensure that the collective bargaining agreement between the MEA and the Malden School Committee is adhered. Superintendent Oteri said that after consulting with attorneys and DESE, a referral

was made for a mediation program at Harvard. Superintendent Oteri has had preliminary talks with representatives of the mediation program but was later informed that they are unable to do the mediation because the situation did not meet their criteria. On the same day that Superintendent Oteri received this news, he received a letter from the parent/guardian representatives of the board stating the following for the consideration of the Malden School Committee:

1. We support the teachers' recommendation to instate a School Council in lieu of the Linden STEAM Academy Governing Board. This recommendation was outlined in the teacher and Malden Education Association board member's resignation letter, dated May 17th, 2019.
2. It is our recommendation that we transition the current Governing Board (complete with parent and teacher representatives currently serving, as well as those elected for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years) to a School Council model. This would allow development of a teacher led Instructional Learning Team and parent and teacher-led working groups as well as parity of representation among teacher and parent/guardian members.
3. We hope that any resigned teachers will consider joining the School Council, as we value their knowledge, commitment to their students, and hard work, and believe the school will greatly benefit from their service on the council.
4. We feel strongly that the school's innovation status should be preserved though this transition. Stakeholder feedback received to date shows that the school community is strongly in favor of Linden remaining an innovation school.

Superintendent Oteri said that pursuant to this, he had sent out a statement that Linden will not lose its innovation status and that a school site council will be established in lieu of the governing board. Superintendent Oteri recommended that the School Committee adopt this request.

Ms. Beardsley expressed disappointment about how this whole matter took place and that there were no minutes provided to parents. Superintendent Oteri said that the minutes will be available shortly. In response to Ms. Spadafora's question, Superintendent Oteri said that he will check with DESE if Linden requires an improvement plan or an innovation plan going forward. In response to Ms. Beardsley's question, Superintendent Oteri said the School Council will address parent parity. In response to Mayor Christenson's question, Superintendent Oteri said that both the MEA and parents are willing to go forward on establishing the School Council, and that Ms. Gesualdo will help coordinate the effort. Mayor Christenson and Superintendent Oteri thanked the parents and teachers at Linden for their assistance in resolving the matter.

Mr. Froio made the motion to dissolve the Linden STEAM Academy Governing Board and establish a School Council. Mr. McCarthy seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Beardsley voted YES

Ms. Bordonaro ABSENT

Mr. Drummey ABSENT

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 with 7 votes in favor and 2 absent.

6. Adoption of Paper Straws – Mayor Christenson

Mayor Christenson said that on the last day of school, June 14th, he received a letter from six 4th grade students at Forestdale School, who strongly supported the use of paper straws instead of plastic straws because plastic straws has a negative impact on the environment and animals. Mayor Christenson said that in consultation with the Food Service Director, Mr. Omar Hernandez and Principal Concannon, plastic straws at Beebe and Forestdale will be replaced with paper straws. Mayor Christenson added that this will be piloted at these two schools first before expanding to the other schools. One of the reasons Beebe was also chosen to pilot this initiative is because students from there too voiced suggestions to use paper straws instead of plastic. Mayor Christenson said that Mr. Hernandez will be able to do this at the two schools without a price increase. Mayor Christenson hoped that there will be a mock signing of this proposal with the students in September. Both Ms. Beardsley and Mr. Iovino voiced their support. In response to Ms. Spadafora's question, Mayor Christenson said that if this initiative was adopted by all 7 schools, the cost increase will be about \$8,000 - \$10,000 increase which Mr. Hernandez said he would be able to absorb without having to increase the cost of lunch for the students.

Ms. Beardsley made the motion to adopt the pilot program of replacing plastic straws with paper straws at Forestdale and Beebe. 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 7:37 p.m. Ms. Spadafora seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Beardsley voted YES

Ms. Bordonaro ABSENT

Mr. Drummey ABSENT

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 with 7 votes in favor and 2 absent.

The committee reconvened to the Regular Session at 8:09 p.m.

Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the 2% raise for the cafeteria workers effective September 1, 2017. Mr. McCarthy seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

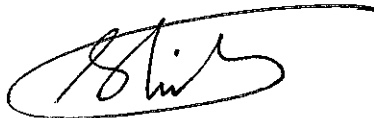
Ms. Beardsley voted YES

Ms. Bordonaro ABSENT
Mr. Drummey ABSENT
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 with 7 votes in favor and 2 absent.

Adjournment

Mr. Iovino made a motion to adjourn at 8:14 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shirley", written over a horizontal line.

Shirley Dorai, Clerk