

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, September 9, 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, October 7, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Malden Senior Center, 7 Washington Street, Malden.

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	Absent
Mr. Froio	Present
Mr. Iovino	Present
Ms. Leon	Absent
Mr. McCarthy	Present
Ms. Spadafora	Present
Superintendent Oteri	Present
Student Representative Chouiki	Present
Clerk	Present

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the July 1st Regular and Executive Session of the School Committee. Mr. McCarthy made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Iovino seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the minutes for the July 23rd Special Meeting of the School Committee. Mr. Froio seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Bordonaro made the motion to approve the minutes for the August 5th Special Meeting of the School Committee. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Ms. Deborah Gesualdo, President of the Malden Education Association (MEA) and the East Region Director of the National Council of Urban Education Associations

Ms. Gesualdo spoke in support of the *Safe School Zones Resolution* and *Access to Education, Student Privacy, and Immigration Enforcement Policy* that she had submitted to the School Committee. Ms. Gesualdo urged the School Committee to stand united against hate and bias. Ms. Gesualdo continued

that each and every one of Malden Public Schools (MPS) students should be able to come to school and have the opportunity to learn without the fear and subsequent distress that results from the possibility of harsh immigration enforcement in our schools. Ms. Gesualdo highlighted that across the United States, many school districts are making their campuses Safe Zones for immigrant students. Among the school districts that have done so are San Francisco Unified School District in California, Portland School District in Oregon, Tacoma Public Schools in Washington, Houston Independent School District in Texas, Pueblo City Schools in Colorado, Miami-Dade Schools in Florida, Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools in Massachusetts, Beverly Public Schools in Massachusetts, Somerville Public Schools in Massachusetts and many others. Ms. Gesualdo urged the School Committee to pass both the resolution and district policy which were written by the National Education Association's Education Justice Department.

Mr. Evan Mclear, 173 West Street, Malden

Mr. Mclear requested the School Committee to approve a 4:15 pm pick-up time from the after-school program as the earliest pick-up time at the moment is 5:00 pm. Mr. Mclear said that parents were only informed of these changes on the first day of after-school. Mr. Mclear also said that this imposes hardship on some families as some students attend the jump start program at 7:15 am and are in school until 5:00 pm, which is almost 10 hours a day.

Dr. Elizabeth Paulsen Tonogbanua, 31 Grace Street, Malden

Dr. Tonogbanua said that as a teacher in a nearby school system she is very aware that students worry that they will be detained by immigration authorities while at school. She continued that when enforcement activities are pursued on school property in any way, it is harmful and traumatic disruption to the learning environment of all students. Dr. Tonogbanua said that putting measures into place to prevent harsh immigration enforcement from occurring on school grounds ensures all students access to their public education in a place free from worry and distress.

Ms. Jessica Gold Boots, Malden High School (MHS) ESL Teacher

Ms. Gold Boots voiced her support for the *Safe School Zones Resolution and Access to Education, Student Privacy, and Immigration Enforcement Policy*. Ms. Gold Boots said that Malden is a city of immigrants and many of MPS students are immigrants. Ms. Gold Boots mentioned there are parents who are afraid to attend their children's activities in schools for fear of immigration authorities entering the building. Ms. Gold Boots urged the School Committee to keep all MPS students safe.

Ms. Rachael Running, 51 Bellvale Street, Malden

Ms. Running said that she is in full support of the *Safe School Zones Resolution and Access to Education, Student Privacy, and Immigration Enforcement Policy*. Ms. Running said that students need to feel safe and educators need to be provided support to help create a nurturing environment for all students. Ms. Running stated that all students have the right to public education and all students have a right to protection.

Ms. Barbara Woodward, 5 Elsie Street, Malden

Ms. Woodward requested the School Committee for a 4:15 pm pick-up time from the after-school program. Ms. Woodward said that the emails received in the summer did not indicate any changes for the after-school pick-up times.

Mr. Danyal Najmi, 15 Harding Ave, Malden

Mr. Najmi said he supported the safe schools resolution and that he is a candidate for the Ward 5, City Council position. Mr. Najmi said that we can show by actions as well as words that we support each other in this community by coming together in order to promote this resolution.

Ms. Shirley Woodward, 500 Broadway #2165, Malden

Ms. Woodward urged the School Committee to adopt the *Safe School Zones Resolution*. Ms. Woodward who works as an immigration attorney said that the district must have a plan in place should a child's parent be detained and unable to care for them. Ms. Woodward continued that protection of student data and privacy is also essential to keeping students safe.

Mr. Keith Bernard, 58 Almont Street, Malden

Mr. Bernard who is running for the Ward 7 School Committee position asked the School Committee to support and pass the *Safe School Zones Resolution*. Mr. Bernard said that as a community, we need to protect and support all our students regardless of residency status. Mr. Bernard mentioned that schools need to ensure that protection is in place because the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) could be revoked at any time.

Ms. Jackie Ecker, 58 Lanark Road, Malden

Ms. Ecker highlighted the matter that undocumented parents who need aid do not request aid for fear of being deported. Ms. Ecker continued that 1 out of 9 children in eastern Massachusetts do not know where their next meal will be coming from, and their parents are undocumented, the parents might be afraid to fill out the school lunch forms to request free or reduced lunches. Ms. Ecker said that these parents need to be notified that any information that they share on these school forms will not be shared with any other authority. They also need to be informed that MPS will never deny lunch to any student. Ms. Ecker said that the information should be translated in many languages as needed and distributed to immigrant families.

Ms. Anna Geoffroy, 38 Avon Street #2, Malden

Ms. Geoffroy voiced her support for the *Safe School Zones Resolution*. Ms. Geoffroy said that every single student in our community is affected when our immigrant families aren't safe.

Mr. Adam Weldai, 97 Hill Street, Malden

Mr. Weldai said that he supports for the *Safe School Zones Resolution* and hoped that the School Committee will unanimously adopt it. Mr. Weldai added that once the resolution is adopted, he hoped the district would do the work that is required to support the resolution and bring it to fruition.

Ms. Kerri Scott and Mr. Matthew Bach, 163 Glenwood Street, Malden

Ms. Scott and Mr. Bach stated their support for the *Safe School Zones Resolution* and *Access to Education, Student Privacy, and Immigration Enforcement Policy*. Mr. Bach urged the School Committee to adopt both the resolution and policy in its entirety.

Mr. Jason Asciola, 5th Grade Math Teacher at Salemwood School

Mr. Asciola said that in addition to the focus on racial and social justice as well as the revision of Chapter 70 funding, attention should also be given to the number of students and class sizes at Salemwood School. If more students went to their neighborhood schools, Salemwood School will not have as many students. Mr. Asciola said that he understood that this is a long process but hoped that something would be done by the end of the year.

Mr. Stephen Winslow, 83 Jacob Street, Malden and City Councillor At Large
City Councillor At Large Winslow said that students need to feel safe and comfortable in order to be able to learn. He also thanked everyone who attended the meeting to support the *Safe School Zones Resolution and Access to Education, Student Privacy, and Immigration Enforcement Policy*. City Councillor At Large Winslow added that he is willing to provide any help needed from the City Council side on this matter.

Audrey Robert Ramirez, 160 Glenwood Street, Malden

Ms. Ramirez who is an immigration attorney requested the School Committee to adopt the *Safe School Zones Resolution and Access to Education, Student Privacy, and Immigration Enforcement Policy*. She said that this is an expression of power in numbers rather than redundancy. Ms. Ramirez added that the resolution and policy will show how we embrace diversity not only in theory but also application.

Ms. Fern Remedi-Brown, 21 Ivy Road, Malden

Ms. Remedi-Brown asked the School Committee to adopt the *Safe School Zones Resolution and Access to Education, Student Privacy, and Immigration Enforcement Policy*. Ms. Remedi-Brown said that she has heard from teachers about parents being deported and that it is a regular event. Ms. Remedi-Brown stated that Malden might be able to afford more protection if it became a sanctuary city. Ms. Remedi-Brown also asked if there are any plans to help reunite Malden families who are held in detention. Ms. Remedi-Brown brought up the issue that immigrant families may not want to report any types of problems or crimes to the police for fear that the police might be checking their immigration status.

Superintendent's Report

1) Recognition of Students for Paper Straw Initiative:

Mayor Christenson said the 4th grade students from the Forestdale School approached him in June 2019 with the paper straw initiative. A few 8th grade students from Beebe School had also previously voiced the need for the paper straw initiative. The Forestdale and Beebe schools will pilot the program to replace the plastic straws with paper straws for the 2019-2020 school year. Both Mayor Christenson and Superintendent Oteri said that the program will most likely be expanded to all schools during the following year. The students were called to the podium to speak about the initiative and were awarded certificates of recognition. The students from Forestdale are Sarah Miller, Liana Neville, Ava DiCiccio, Maya Pedraza, Naomi Yohannes and Corynne McNulty. The students from Beebe are Ryan Li, Michelle Dang, Allison Yu, Joanne Tang, Christine Wang, Jodi Tay, Shelagh Lilijander and Xhenisa Zajmi.

2) Gun BuyBack Program:

Superintendent Oteri said that as part of their Generation Citizen Project last year, a group of Malden High School (MHS) 10th graders are working with the Malden Police and the Middlesex Sheriff's Office to run a gun buyback program on Saturday, October 5th, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the parking lot of the Cambridge Health Alliance building at Canal Street. The students have been working all summer with both law enforcement agencies to plan the event and will be coordinating publicizing the event over the next few weeks. The event is designed to be one that promotes safe cities through ensuring safe homes by encouraging those who have guns that they want to get rid of have the chance to do so. Joining the students on October 5th will be Chief Molis of the Malden PD, Det. Renee Kelley of the Malden PD, Sgt. Chris Foley, Armorer of

the Middlesex Sheriff, and Kevin Maccioli, Chief Information Officer for the Sheriff's Dept. MHS Principal Mastrangelo and Humanities Director, Mr. Greg Hurley informed the School Committee how the students are starting initiatives and making an impact. Keshaly Philome, Tamara Philius, Alexi Dao, Bethany Marcel and Nedgie Louissaint from MHS came up to the podium and spoke about gun violence as well as their desire and efforts to make Malden a safer place. The program will offer gift cards to those surrendering their guns as well as gun locks for those who wish to keep their guns safely at home. Mayor Christenson commended Chief Molis of the Malden PD for his assistance.

3) District Updates and Highlights:

Superintendent Oteri said that Diversity, Equity and Inclusion will be a regular part of his report from now on as it is an important commitment to the students, staff and school community. As of Friday, Superintendent Oteri said that 84 new educators have been hired and that 19 or 23% of them are persons of color. Superintendent Oteri said that this shows the administrative team's commitment to building a more inclusive and welcoming school environment.

MPS was awarded a Teacher Diversification Grant from DESE and included in this will be training from The New Teacher Project (TNTP) for the administrative team and all new faculty on identifying bias and the various ways it manifests in our work. Superintendent Oteri said that going forward this grant is aimed at helping Malden increase the diversity of the educational force.

Superintendent Oteri announced that MPS is in Year 2 of the Harvard RIDES program (Reimagining Integration of Diverse and Equitable School) program and its vision is to have all students "feel included, appreciate their own and other cultures, understand racism and work to dismantle it." The program is focused on evaluating our own history, identifying areas of concern and establishing our own identity. This work will continue for the 2019-2020 school year at the school building level since each school has its own unique community and needs.

Dr. Darnisa Amante will be providing training on October 3rd and 4th for a cohort at the building level with selected staff to serve as trainers and create building-based task forces which will provide a deeper understanding of the MPS school community. Superintendent Oteri said that this will also enable us to pilot a tool for deeper learning of our cultural proficiency. Superintendent Oteri said that MPS also received the Influence 100 grant from DESE which promotes the work of people of color in higher administration of education.

Superintendent Oteri continued that MPS was also invited by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to be a part of the DESE Diversity Network. The Network dates an topics include four sessions for Principals and Administrators; Session 1 - Grow Your Own / Partnership Pipeline (October); Session 2 - Recruiting a Diverse Workforce (December); Session 3 - Targeted & Bias-Free Hiring Practices (February) and Session 4 - Action Planning & Resource Allocation (May).

Superintendent Oteri announced that the 5 District Partnership Professional Development Day will be held on November 5th. The 5 DP which is comprised of Everett, Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop and Malden will be hosting a collaborative Professional Development. The theme for the day will be Equity. Workshop topics tentatively include Equity and Excellence (keynote speaker, Dr. Erica Battle), Examining Implicit Bias and Assumptions about Race, Courageous Conversations; Social-Emotional Learning: Removing Barriers for each and every student to succeed, and Turning up the Volume on Agency, Equity and Accountability. Superintendent Oteri added that sometime in November, Dr. Darnisa Amante will be holding a Town Hall meeting for staff, students, parents, guardians and community members.

Visioning sessions for the district with Dr. Lori Likis is being planned. Superintendent Oteri said that as we develop mission and vision statements, input will be sought from staff, students, and school community to commit to a more welcoming and equitable school community. Superintendent Oteri continued that MPS is in Year 2 of the Anti-Defamation League's "World of Difference" program at Malden High School. MPS is also on Year 2 of the Barr Foundation. This grant helps address achievement gaps, transition from 8th to 9th grade and ways to ensure student success by identifying early warning signs.

Superintendent Oteri said that many programs were organized for staff and students over the summer. Among the highlights is that MPS has been accepted to participate in the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) Academy through DESE. In addition, the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Academy is being rolled out. PBIS is an intensive Professional Development designed to help school teams implement tiered systems of instruction and support.

Some of the curriculum work that was completed this summer includes the completion of Grade 8 Civics curriculum to introduce new civics in order to meet new Social Studies Standards this year, including partnership with Primary Source's Democracy Lab as our resource. Grade 6 and 7 curriculum work was started to restructure the course to meet new Social Studies Standards. High School History and Social Studies courses were restructured in order to meet new Social Studies Standards. Superintendent Oteri continued that new rubrics were created to measure student writing in social studies to meet new literacy in social studies standards.

The English Language Arts (ELA) summer work included the revision of scope and sequence documents for grades 6-12, as well as revisioning of common rubrics and common assessments to be utilized to track student growth in multiple types of writing and speaking in grades 6-12. Superintendent Oteri continued that the integration of summative portfolio assessment for grades 6-8, and incorporation of texts from diverse writers to have the content students learn better reflect the student population was also done in the summer.

Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee that the fall sports are underway with the boys soccer team defeating Boston International 2-0 in their home opener. Girls Volleyball also

won their home opener 3-0 vs. Saugus. Middle School Baseball, Softball, and Cross Country teams have begun practicing and will begin Greater Boston League play mid-September. Superintendent Oteri said that the Greater Boston League is comprised of Malden, Medford, Somerville, Everett and Revere and they are looking to expand.

Superintendent Oteri announced a new development in sports at MPS which is the baseline concussion testing pilot program. Superintendent Oteri thanked Mr. Charlie Conefrey, Director of Athletics, Physical Education/Health as well as MHS Athletic Trainer Jen Sturtevant for their effort and commitment to the program. The baseline concussion testing for student/athletes is performed and monitored by MHS Athletic Trainer Jen Sturtevant. The Sway APP Mass Baseline Testing make it easy to test an entire team in a matter of minutes and easily manage those athletes from year to year. MHS Athletics is one of ten schools across Massachusetts selected to participate in this FREE pilot program to baseline concussion test student athletes. In the last 3 weeks alone, over 200 MHS students have taken the test. Normally, it takes 3 hours for a team to take a test but with this app, it only takes 20 minutes. This free pilot program will run for the whole year, all 3 seasons. At the conclusion of the pilot program, it is hoped that this new app with a quicker testing time will be available for use for free or an affordable fee.

MPS and the Chinese Cultural Connection (CCC) are sponsoring a Parent Information Fair on Saturday, September 21st from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Salemwood School. Superintendent Oteri said that this is an opportunity for families to be connected with providers and agencies in the Malden community. Superintendent Oteri added that another Parent Information Fair will be planned for May so that families can be informed of summer activities and opportunities.

For incoming Kindergarteners, 272 Kindergarten Screenings were done over the summer at the Parent Information Center (PIC). Superintendent Oteri said that follow-up will be done to assess whether this new way of doing the screenings has helped. This will then lead to formulating a plan for next year.

Superintendent Oteri said that a number of physical improvements were done at the schools. At the Salemwood School, walls and classrooms were painted, and the bathrooms were redone with new floors and stalls. The parking lots at both Salemwood and Ferryway were paved. Superintendent Oteri said that new water fountains were installed at Salemwood and MHS through a grant from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) via the Malden Redevelopment Authority (MRA) as a Community Block Development Grant (CBDG). The air conditioning unit at the Beebe gymnasium was also replaced.

Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee about the partnership with the Malden Police and Sargent JP Kelly on Project Safe Watch which will help keep a closer watch on students including those who might have certain special needs to ensure their safety. Participation in this project is completely voluntary. Superintendent said that Detective Renee Kelley will be partnering with MPS on organizing community parents forums on sexting

Superintendent Oteri said the K-8 Student Handbook has been reviewed by the attorneys and is now ready to be reviewed by the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee.

Superintendent Oteri introduced a few new administrators at MPS; Ms. Stacey Scott, Assistant Principal at Linden STEAM Academy; Ms. Julie Maguire-Jones, Assistant Principal at Linden STEAM Academy; Ms. Jane Wright, Assistant Principal at Salemwood School; Mr. Jean Ewald Charles, Assistant Principal at Salemwood School; Ms. Marta Cabral, Holland House Principal; Mr. Jason Payeur, Jenkins House Principal; and Ms. Heather Northrop, Brunelli House Principal.

In response to Mr. McCarthy's question, Superintendent Oteri said that he believes the Sheriff's Office will be responsible for disposing the guns from the buyback program. In response to Ms. Spadafora's question, Superintendent Oteri answered that the Honeywell project is still on-going. Mayor Christenson added that most of the interior of the buildings have been done and now, the focus is on the exterior such as the parking lots. Superintendent Oteri answered Ms. Spadafora's question about water fountains stating that the grant that was received was only for MHS and Salemwood and that the district is on the lookout for other grants so that the water fountains in the other schools can be upgraded too. In response to Ms. Spadafora's question about the Teacher Diversification Grant, Superintendent Oteri said that the monetary amount was small and used for professional development but the real outcome was to help with networking and awareness.

In response to Ms. Beardsley's question, Superintendent Oteri elaborated on the many partnerships and initiatives that have been started to retain and support staff of color as well as to change the culture. Ms. Beardsley said that quantifiable goals are needed to tie in with the vision statement in relation to equity. In response to Mr. Iovino's question, Superintendent Oteri said that the façade at the Brunelli building is being repaired and that the railings have already been repaired. In response to Mayor Christenson's question, Superintendent Oteri said that all the student handbooks are reviewed annually in order to be up-to-date with current and new laws. In response to Mayor Christenson's question if the 10 new teachers allocated in the budget have been hired, Superintendent Oteri said that they have but that there has been a lot of movement with staff and it is not only in this district but others as well. Mayor Christenson asked if many of these additional teachers will be assigned to the Salemwood School to help with the large student population. Superintendent Oteri responded that the Salemwood School is getting some of the new teachers and that he is working with the Director of English Language Education and Title III, Dr. Endara to help re-balance the student population as well. In response to Ms. Bordonaro's question, Superintendent Oteri said that some seniors at MHS do internships at the K-8 schools but that he is going to explore if dual enrollments with local colleges can be done.

Ms. Bordonaro made the motion to send the K-8 handbook to the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee for review. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Subcommittee Reports/Discussions

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

Mr. Iovino said that the student enrollment as of Friday was 6,535. Mr. Iovino said that we are starting the year 152 students fewer than when we ended in June. Superintendent Oteri also commented that new classrooms were added in certain schools at the Kindergarten level. Mayor Christenson requested the Superintendent to provide more data about the fluctuation at the next meeting.

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

Ms. Beardsley said that a meeting was held to review the data collected from the recess survey. Ms. Beardsley added that the subcommittee is working on a presentation and next steps for the October School Committee meeting.

Motions and Resolutions

1. Safe School Zones Resolution – Mayor Christenson

Mayor Christenson thanked Ms. Deborah Gesualdo, President of the MEA, Ms. Maria Luise from the Mayor's Office and Chief Molis of the Malden PD for working on as well as supporting the resolution and policy. In response to Ms. Beardsley's question, Mayor Christenson and Superintendent Oteri said that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has not come to Malden. Superintendent Oteri said that he wholeheartedly supports the resolution and that students need to feel safe in school. Superintendent Oteri added that it is especially needed in a diverse gateway city, a city of immigrants.

Ms. Spadafora made the motion to accept the Safe School Zones Resolution. Mr. Iovino seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Beardsley voted YES

Ms. Bordonaro voted YES

Mr. Drummey ABSENT

Mr. Froio voted YES

Mr. Iovino voted YES

Ms. Leon ABSENT

Mr. McCarthy voted YES

Ms. Spadafora voted YES

Mayor Christenson voted YES

Motion passed with 7 votes in favor and 2 absent.

2. Access to Education, Student Privacy, and Immigration Enforcement Policy – Mayor Christenson

Mr. Iovino made the motion to send this policy to be reviewed by the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee. Mr. McCarthy seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Beardsley voted YES

Ms. Bordonaro voted YES

Mr. Drummey ABSENT

Mr. Froio voted YES

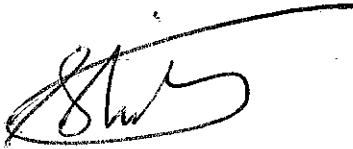
Mr. Iovino voted YES
Ms. Leon ABSENT
Mr. McCarthy voted YES
Ms. Spadafora voted YES
Mayor Christenson voted YES
Motion passed with 7 votes in favor and 2 absent.

Personal Privilege

Adjournment

Mr. Iovino made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Ms. Spadafora 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