

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION  
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Monday, October 7, 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, November 18, 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. Another moment of silence was observed for Ms. Madeline Lund. Superintendent Oteri said that Ms. Madeline Lund, 29 years old, from Beverly was one of two women killed in a car crash in Winthrop this weekend. Ms. Lund was a special education math educator at Malden High School (MHS) during 2017-2018.

**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 Chouiki	Absent
Clerk	Present

**Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the September 9<sup>th</sup> Regular 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.

**Public Comment**

Ms. Erin Crooks, 46 Willard Street, Malden

Ms. Crooks spoke about the importance of unstructured free time for students during the school day. Ms. Crooks said that there have been reports that this time has been taken away from students. Ms. Crooks requested the School Committee to re-confirm their commitment to the May 7, 2018 recess resolution and enforce it.

Ms. Penny Kalman, 194 Bainbridge Street, Malden and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher at Salemwood School  
Ms. Kalman commented that eliminating plastic straws at Beebe and Forestdale Schools while supporting the artificial plastic turf field at the Salemwood School is like taking two steps forward and ten steps back.

Mr. Kevin Deveno, 525 Highland Ave, Malden

Mr. Deveno said that the doubling in price for the after-school program has been catastrophic for his family. Mr. Deveno asked why the after-school program cannot be independently funded by the city when the city has seen unprecedented growth in new properties in Malden. Mr. Deveno said that it is unacceptable to have to pay \$1,000 a month for two children to attend the after-school program, or \$700 for one child to attend the before school and after-school programs.

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 said that on September 4<sup>th</sup>, she was at the State House in Boston testifying in favor of Senate Bill 330 and House Bill 426, in front of the Joint Committee on Education which is co-chaired by Senator Jason Lewis and Representative Alice Peisch. Ms. Gesualdo said the bills are worded so that recess will be counted as time on learning and will ensure that public school students in Massachusetts receive at least 20 minutes of recess daily. Ms. Gesualdo encouraged all to contact legislators to have these bills passed.

Ms. Eden Garhart-Smith, 16 Corey Road, Malden

Ms. Garhart-Smith commented that recess is still being taken away from students for various reasons including behavior issues. Ms. Garhart-Smith said that this practice needs to stop.

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### **Salemwood Climate Club**

Ms. Sarah Strayer and Ms. Kathleen Sullivan, educators from the Salemwood School along with Jacob Hurd (Grade 6), Kayla Charles (Grade 5) and Cam'ron Crawford (Grade 5) spoke about the club's mission. The students spoke about many things in connection with the local environment such as the negative impact of the artificial turf field planned for Salemwood School as well as taking initiatives to further the goals of recycling and re-using plastic products. Mayor Christenson invited the club to the Mayor's Office to facilitate further discussions.

#### **1) Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Presentation**

Principal Mastrangelo said that the students were very involved with this project that started last year with Ms. Taryn Belowsky, MHS Guidance Counselor and Mr. Greg Hurley, MHS educator who took the lead. This year, Ms. Taryn Belowsky will be working with Mr. Tom Snarsky, MHS educator on the ADL program as Mr. Hurley is now the Humanities Director. Mr. Hurley said that the program which is now in Phase 2, addresses cultural competency and bias awareness. MHS students Ayman Boudrari, Talles Passos and Ava Pizziferri who were among the peer leaders for this program spoke about how they were trained and went on to apply their training by facilitating bias awareness work with all 9<sup>th</sup> graders during their advisory period. Ms. Spadafora commended the work that the staff and students are doing. When questioned by Mayor Christenson, the students said that the results so far has exceeded their expectations and that they have experienced many wonderful experiences and bonding with fellow students. Superintendent Oteri said that this program is student driven vehicle and thanked the teachers, administrative team as well as the students.

**2) Middlesex Partnerships for Youth (MPY) - Public Service Announcement Award Winners**

Superintendent Oteri announced that there were five MPY Public Service Announcement Award winners from MHS, graduates Fernando Pedro, Marcus Simon and Max Batista as well as current students Omar Pineda and Fred Weiss. Mr. Jim Valente, MHS educator said that there were 64 entrants for this contest and Malden had two entries in the top three. One group of MHS students worked on the “no texting and driving” announcement and the other worked on “depression”. In response to Ms. Beardsley’s question, Mr. Valente said that he would share the link of the announcements with the School Committee. Mr. McCarthy commended the students and Mr. Valente. Mayor Christenson also commended the students.

**3) District Updates and Highlights**

Over the past two school years, Title 1 has teamed up with Pisa Pizza to support summer reading by offering a coupon for a free large cheese pizza for every child in the Malden Public Schools (MPS) who did their summer reading. From kindergarten to eighth grade, all students who returned their completed reading log to their classroom teacher received a coupon to be used for eat in or pick up of a large cheese pizza. In total Pisa Pizza has given over 4,000 coupons to our students. Superintendent Oteri called on Literacy and Title I Director, Ms. Janice Raymond to recognize Mr. Joe Crowley, the owner of Pisa Pizza, for his generosity to our MPS families, Title 1, and for his wonderful, unselfish acts of kindness throughout our community. Mr. Crowley said he is very proud of Malden and is happy to be part of it. The School Committee presented a Certificate of Recognition to Mr. Crowley.

On Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, MHS students and Malden Police Department (MPD) worked with the Middlesex Sheriff's office on the gun buyback program and had 60 guns turned in. Superintendent Oteri thanked Humanities Director, Mr. Greg Hurley and MHS students Ketshaly Philome, Tamara Philius, Alexi Dao, Pierrelaine Louis and Bethany Marcel for this student initiated program.

Superintendent Oteri said that on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Darnisa Amante trained a cohort of 14 in cultural proficiency who represented each building. The two day training was highly engaging and productive. Dr. Amante and MPS will host a Town Hall Meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup> at MHS Jenkins Auditorium, 6-8 p.m. This meeting will be open to all students, families and stakeholders and will focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in MPS and the role of race. Superintendent Oteri said that he will be hosting additional town hall meetings on Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at Forestdale, Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at MHS and Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at Ferryway.

Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee that a lot of time and resources have been allocated for Professional Development (PD) this year focusing on Equity, especially in the upcoming PD Day on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Superintendent Oteri added that the district is fully committed to this goal and has been involved with the Reimagining Integration and Diversity for Equitable Schools program as well as Restorative Practices.

MPS is applying for the next phase of the Teacher Diversification Grant, with a “grow your own model”, looking for an extension and capitalizing on professional development and training for the next stage. Superintendent Oteri added that MPS is a recipient of the Influence 100 Grant and that Ferryway Principal Mr. Abdel Sepulveda and Linden Principal Mr. Rafael Garcia are among the participants. MPS has also been invited by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to participate in the Diversity Network Pilot Program on October 17<sup>th</sup> at the DCU Center in Worcester.

Superintendent Oteri commented that a full report and analysis of the 2019 MCAS results will be provided at the November 18<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting. The results are still being analyzed at the district and school based level. Superintendent Oteri continued to talk about the district plan, which will serve as our official roadmap for improvement in MPS over the next several years. It is of critical importance to Malden students, families, and staff. It will define our shared vision for the future of the school district, the overarching goals and programs that will help us achieve that vision, and the outcomes that will help us measure our success in achieving that vision. To create the plan, Superintendent Oteri is gathering a group of invested and committed stakeholders who will serve as members of the MPS Planning Team. This team will be representative of the district as a whole and will include students, family members, teachers, school and district leaders, school committee members, and community partners. The Planning Team, working collaboratively with the MPS Administrative Team, will meet 4 times over the course of the fall and winter to create a multi-year improvement plan and it will be led by Dr. Lori Likis, MPS consultant who will facilitate the retreat sessions with the team. Superintendent Oteri said that DESE’s recommended planning process, Planning for Success, will be used to create the district plan.

MPS began the application process in August after consulting with Senator Lewis for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). Superintendent Oteri said that if approved, this will provide a free lunch to every student in Malden, regardless of income status. MPS currently provides free breakfast in all the buildings. The earliest this program will begin is August of next year. Superintendent Oteri continued that Food Service Manager, Mr. Omar Hernandez can provide more information at the upcoming School Committee meeting. Through Whistons, Mr. Omar Hernandez submits monthly reimbursement claims to DESE as required. DESE will pool all of MPS reimbursement claims to give MPS a higher percentage for the free and paid rate for the following school year in terms of reimbursement. Mr. Kevin Dawson of DESE oversees School Nutrition and the CEP program. Whistons and MPS business office are working on the analysis of the CEP program. Parents and guardians should still turn in their lunch forms for this year. Superintendent Oteri cautioned that if MPS implements the CEP program, MPS will not be able to capture data regarding the economically disadvantaged students as there will be no lunch forms. This is a potential problem going forward. The State can help track these students through the provision of direct certification such as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), MassHealth or food assistance but this does not track undocumented students who are among the economically disadvantaged. Superintendent Oteri

said that the School Committee will have to make a decision in the spring whether to accept the CEP program after fully understanding the implications going forward.

Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee that MPS is starting an after-school program for English Learners (ELs), funded by the Title III grant. This program will focus on supporting ELs who need additional provisions to meet academic demands. ELs often must do twice the work of monolingual students to meet the demands of simultaneously learning subject matter and academic English. The goal of the English Learner After-School Program is to support ELs to excel academically while reinforcing the use of spoken English. We will serve English learners at all grade levels and English proficiency levels. Presently, the Salemwood program will run Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Other schools will run the program Tuesdays and Thursdays. Sessions per day are one hour to a maximum of two hours. The point person is the English Language Education (ELE) Director, Dr. Yvonne Endara.

Superintendent Oteri said that the total number of English Learners in the district has decreased in the last three years. However, the EL population in Salemwood after an initial decrease has begun to once again increase. Presently, there are 50 more ELs in Salemwood, which is a 12% increase, compared to October last year. The data also shows that Salemwood has 40% of the total number of ELs in the district. Additionally, over half of them, or 54% of the ELs in Salemwood, are at the "Foundational" level or what Malden refers to as SEI 1 (Sheltered English Immersion). This means that SEI 1 students need intensive English Language Development (ELD) instruction to prepare them for the academic demands of the mainstream classroom. Therefore, the English proficiency level of the student will drive time on instruction and by extension affect the number of educators needed to provide sheltered instruction. Superintendent Oteri added that the goal is to address the inequity of SEI students in the district which began last year with the hiring of additional staff for SEI classes. However, now there is an increase in the SEI 1 students which is much higher than the previous year. Superintendent Oteri added that the process is very challenging and MPS will be enlisting the assistance from DESE and groups like the Massachusetts Association of Bilingual Education (MABE) to assist us. The creation, many years ago, of the Salemwood as the "Designated SEI School" was a cost effective and efficient way keep services to one building. However, it has caused inequities across the district and within Salemwood as the native English speaking students decreases while the EL population, in particular, SEI 1 increases. Superintendent Oteri said that one of the problems in addressing this matter is the unpredictability of the families that are moving into Malden. Superintendent Oteri added that at a future meeting, Dr. Endara can do a presentation on this matter.

In response to the Mayor's request at the last School Committee meeting, on September 9<sup>th</sup>, for some data on total student enrollment, Superintendent Oteri provided the following table:

Date	Enrollment	Difference	Comment
6/21/16	6,817		Trend for the last 4 years shows a small but steady decline year-to-year in the enrollment numbers for PreK-12. Further analysis will be needed for in-depth look at factors influencing this trend.
9/23/16	6,741	-76	
6/23/17	6,760		
8/31/17	6,645	-115	
6/15/18	6,771		
9/7/18	6,633	-138	
6/14/19	6,687		
9/6/19	6,535	-152	

Superintendent Oteri said that over the last 4 years, there has been a decrease in student enrollment of 282 students.

MPS is having an extremely difficult time attracting substitute teachers in the district. Superintendent Oteri said that a major factor of this is the very low pay of \$70/day for a teacher with a Bachelor's degree and \$55/day for a teacher without a degree. This is a safety issue. Superintendent Oteri requested the School Committee to refer this matter to the Budget Subcommittee to consider the impact on the budget and then bring it to the whole committee.

The past practice in Malden has been to provide transportation for Malden-to-Malden for homeless families. This is a historic decision rooted in the time when homeless were housed mostly in the hotels on Route 99 and it was difficult to expect students to cross a highway.

Currently this is the state advisory on Homeless transportation:

*School districts must adopt policies and practices to ensure that transportation is provided, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison), to*

*and from the school of origin. Furthermore: if the homeless student continues to live in the area served by the district in which the school of origin is located, that district must provide or arrange transportation if needed; In addition, districts must provide transportation services to homeless students that meet Massachusetts state law and are comparable to those received by other students.*

Superintendent Oteri requested the School Committee to refer this to the budget and policy subcommittees for further consideration. Superintendent Oteri added that our current School Committee policy needs to be updated to reflect the current state and federal requirements. Superintendent Oteri recommended to continue through the year to provide the transportation but examine it for the upcoming school year.

MPS is investigating a new application called the Say Something App funded by the Sandy Hook foundation, exploring costs, training, interface, technical requirements, etc. This app allows people to report safety issues such as bullying or weapons and so on. The report goes to a national call center and then passed down to the local authorities to investigate. Superintendent Oteri will update the School Committee with findings. MPS will continue using the CrisisGo app, which will be the application used in crisis situations. The MPD has recently received training on the CrisisGo app. Principal Peter Dolan, who is also the MPS Safety Officer, is currently reviewing and researching different districts' reviews.

Superintendent Oteri said that 237 students at MHS will be receiving a letter regarding the MCAS Retest. Last spring, DESE voided one of the essay prompts on the English Language Arts MCAS after the test was administered. DESE conducted an independent study of all students' performances on the 10<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts (ELA) MCAS to determine how the voided essay prompt affected student scores. Since the scores on all of the MCAS exams (ELA, Math, & Science) are used to determine both graduation requirements and eligibility for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship and the Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery, DESE has identified students who are eligible to retake it in November 2019, because they believe the presence of the essay question impaired the students' ability to qualify for a John and Abigail Adams Scholarship. The Adams Scholarship requires students to rank within the top 25 percent of all MCAS exams taken at their school in their sophomore year. Students have always been able to retake the 10th grade MCAS test if they do not pass it on the first try. The differences this year are that students who met the graduation test requirement would be allowed to take the retest, and the results of the retest would be considered in qualification for an Adams scholarship. Students who meet this criteria will be given the opportunity to retake the ELA MCAS during the November retest period. The MCAS will be administered on November 6, 7, and 8. It is the older version of the MCAS (called "legacy") not the Next Generation MCAS administered last spring. Students must take all sections of the November ELA retest (Composition and Reading Comprehension sessions 1, 2, and 3). Whichever score is higher (last March or this November) will be the score of record. The deadline to register is 3:00 p.m. on October 9, 2019 so that we can meet the deadline for ordering tests. The contact person for this at MHS is Ms. Erin Craven, Director of School Guidance, Testing, and Academic Support.

In response to a question raised at the previous School Committee meeting, Superintendent Oteri provided an update on the physical improvements to the school

buildings. At MHS, the Jenkins Auditorium steps were rechaulked, cracks and fissures were repaired and replaced. New railings and bushings were installed. The facade was repaired and the lettering was cleaned. The limestone was treated to withstand more years of exposure to the weather and elements.

Among the upcoming events that Superintendent Oteri highlighted was the Early Release day on Friday October 11<sup>th</sup> where all schools dismissed at 12:30 p.m. for teacher professional development. On Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, the Malden Kiwanis Club is hosting a luncheon before the Malden-Everett football game at Anthony's. This is for the senior players, coaches and cheerleaders. MPS Band Teachers, Mr. George Weithman and Ms. Erin O'Brien Mazza along with students are organizing a Malden Instrument Drive on November 16<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. outside the MHS auditorium entrance on Salem Street. They are accepting donations of all band instruments. The purpose of this drive is to create an inventory of band instruments that can reduce the burden of families needing to rent or purchase their own to participate in band at the middle school levels. Each instrument donated at the drive will be cleaned, assessed for play-ability, and given to a student to use in band for the school year. Any monetary donations received will be brought forward to the School Committee for approval. Upon approval, the money will be used to purchase more instruments for students to borrow. Lastly, Superintendent Oteri reminded everyone that towards the end of the calendar year, there are many cultural and religious observances, as indicated on the second page of the district calendar. MPS administrators and teachers are cognizant of this and will work with students and families around these dates.

Mr. Iovino explained that although there is a small steady decline in the enrollment figures in Malden, there is a bubble of larger enrollment in grades 5-8 in the school district. In response to Mr. Iovino's question, Superintendent Oteri responded that there was a myth circulating previously that partaking in the CEP program might adversely affect the Title I reimbursement and e-rate. E-rate is a federal program that provides technology discounts for schools and libraries. Rural districts and districts with higher poverty receive greater discounts. Superintendent Oteri said that the real concern is with how low-income students will be calculated in the Chapter 70 funding formula as there will be no lunch forms that provide this data. MPS is over the 60% benchmark for the free and reduced lunch. Superintendent Oteri mentioned that undocumented students are not counted in any state or federal programs for economically disadvantaged population. Fewer lunch forms are being returned over the years and that some do not fill out the forms due to fear of their undocumented status. Superintendent Oteri said that all these factors need to be considered when making a decision about the CEP program.

In response to Ms. Beardsley's question, Superintendent Oteri said that the cohort trained by Dr. Amante came from different schools but the majority were from the high school. They will use the training they received to positively impact the school culture. Ms. Beardsley thanked Superintendent Oteri for addressing the remuneration rates for substitute teachers as it is a safety issue. In response to Ms. Spadafora, Superintendent Oteri said that the after-school program for English Learners (ELs), will be fully funded by the Title III grant. With regards to the MCAS retest, Superintendent Oteri responded to Ms. Spadafora stating that although the letter



that was sent out was not translated into any other languages since it was not required by DESE, the MHS guidance staff have reached out individually to the students. Superintendent Oteri added that the ConnectEd calls that were sent out were in 5 different languages.

In response to Mayor Christenson's question, Superintendent Oteri replied that some other districts did not adopt the CEP program because the reduction of their Chapter 70 funding would be too much for them to absorb. Superintendent Oteri responded to Mayor Christenson's next question by stating that the Title III after-school program for English Learners (ELs) will be for grades K-8 and the students will be selected for the program by their teachers based on their needs. The Title III grant is only for this year but Superintendent Oteri said that the district will try to apply for the grant for future years if the program is successful this year. As for the proposed increase for the substitute teacher's remuneration, Superintendent Oteri informed Mayor Christenson that it will be funded with the budget without requiring additional funding. In response to Mayor Christenson's question, Superintendent Oteri said that the district is at the beginning stages of looking at the SEI inequities at the Salemwood School. The district is trying to build capacity at the neighborhood schools so that in future, students can receive SEI services at these schools. In the meantime, more educators and resources are allocated for the Salemwood School to cope with the SEI population. In response to Ms. Spadafora's question, Superintendent Oteri said that interviews for the Human Resource Director position has been done and that three candidates will be forwarded for the next round of interviews.

### **Subcommittee Reports/Discussions**

- 1. Space and Enrollment Ad-Hoc Subcommittee – Mr. Iovino**  
Mr. Iovino said that the student enrollment as of Friday was 6,583. Although this is an increase of 48 students since the beginning of the year, it is still a slow decline compared to previous years.
- 2. Social, Emotional and Physical Well-Being Ad-Hoc Subcommittee – Ms. Beardsley**  
Ms. Beardsley said that this matter will be tabled for the next meeting.
- 3. Policy and Procedures Subcommittee – Ms. Bordonaro**  
Ms. Bordonaro said that the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee did vote on the K-8 Handbook but that there is a modification to it. Once modified, it will be brought to the School Committee. The Subcommittee is still working on the Policy for School Admission of Non-Resident Employees' Children. Ms. Bordonaro said that the Access to Education, Student Privacy, and Immigration Enforcement Policy will be tabled for the next meeting.

### **Motions and Resolutions**

Ms. Beardsley made a motion to refer the Substitute Teacher Pay Rate to the Budget Subcommittee and the Homeless Transportation to the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee as well as the Budget Subcommittee. Mr. Iovino seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

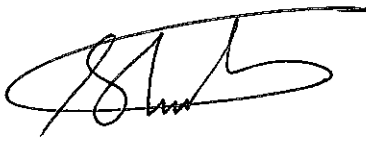
**Personal Privilege**

**Adjournment**

Mayor Christenson concluded the meeting in honor of Senator Jason Lewis for his work on the Student Opportunity Act.

Mr. Iovino made a motion to adjourn at 7:34 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 Dorai', written over a horizontal line.

Shirley Dorai, Clerk