

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, February 3, 2020
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, March 2nd, 2020 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
Mr. Weldai	Present
Ms. Luong	Present
Mr. Drummey	Present
Mr. Froio	Present
Mr. Iovino	Present
Mr. Gray	Present
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 January 6th, 2020 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.

As for the minutes of January 13th, 2020 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.

Mr. McCarthy made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 13th, 2020 Executive Session of the School Committee. Ms. Spadafora 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 requested that the feedback from educators, students and families are taken into account when the district prepares the Student Opportunity Act plan for submission to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Ms. Gesualdo said the students need smaller class sizes, high school schedules that do not include studies, world language classes in the K-8 schools, daily access to school libraries with full-time librarians, access to Guidance and School Adjustment Counselors with manageable case loads as well as access to free breakfast and lunch. Ms. Gesualdo invited all to attend the community meeting hosted by the MEA and Senator Jason Lewis on February 26th at Malden High School (MHS).

Ms. Nicole Queen, 23 Mount Vernon Park, Malden

Ms. Queen was glad that there are now two gender neutral bathrooms at the Linden S.T.E.A.M. Academy. Ms. Queen also was glad that training is going to be provided for Linden teachers and faculty on February 7th. Ms. Queen requested that training on equality for the LGBTQ population be provided to teachers and students at every school in order to prevent bullying. Ms. Queen also requested timelines for gender neutral bathrooms per floor at each of the other schools in Malden.

Myles Queen—Linden STEAM Academy Student

Myles mentioned how he feels when he is misgendered.

Superintendent's Report

1. Nature's Classroom Salemwood Field Trip

Superintendent Oteri invited Principal Van Huynh and Ms. Sarah Strayer to the podium to speak about the Nature's Classroom field trip to Charlton, MA from March 24th – 27th. Ms. Sarah Strayer said that this year will be the 17th consecutive year that Salemwood 6th grade students will be going on this field trip upon approval. Students Abigail Lee, Stephanie Wong and James Hyppolite spoke about their experiences at Nature's Classroom. Superintendent Oteri recommended the field trip.

Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the field trip request for Salemwood 6th grade students to attend Nature's Classroom at Charlton, MA for the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Weldai seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee that the Washington DC field trip for the Forestdale 8th graders did not get the response needed from students and parents. In order to make it feasible, 30 students were needed but only 16 students had signed up. So, the trip has been cancelled and the school will be planning other activities for the students.

2. Malden Reads Presentation

Superintendent Oteri invited Ms. Jodie Zalk to provide more details about Malden Reads book selection and activities for this year. Ms. Zalk said that this is the 10th year of Malden Reads. Malden Reads is a community reading program, organized by volunteers, anchored by the Malden Public Library and MATV. Malden Reads received the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read grant to host a community reading program in 2020.

Ms. Zalk said that the 2020 book selection is “Fahrenheit 451” by Ray Bradbury, written in 1953. As part of the Big Read program, Malden Reads is calling the companion books, the Little Read Program. Ms. Zalk explained the impact that Malden Reads has had in the community during the past years and also upcoming events for the years. Malden Reads presented a selection of the 2020 books to the School Committee members.

Ms. Zalk continued that this year, Malden Reads is collaborating with Monkeyhouse, an award winning nonprofit that connects communities through choreography. Ms. Karen Krolak said that they are collaborating with Malden Reads because moving with meaning is really the fundamental definition of choreography. Ms. Anne D’Urso-Rose added that Sam Weller who is the official biographer for Ray Bradbury, and who wrote four books about Ray Bradbury will be coming from Chicago to Malden. Mr. Weller will be visiting a few classes at MHS who are reading Fahrenheit 451. Mr. Weller will also be doing a community event in Malden and be interviewed by Hiawatha Bray of the Boston Globe at the Malden Senior Center.

3. District Updates and Highlights

Superintendent Oteri said that MHS did several things to add social and emotional support for students and staff during the midterm exams. The gym was open after exams until 2:30 pm as students and staff played basketball games, dodgeball and other fun activities. The major hit was the presence of therapy dogs in MHS that helped to make it a more relaxed and comfortable experience for students.

On January 14th, the Boston Celtics and General Electric Mobile STEM lab arrived at the Linden School. The students were entertained by Lucky the Leprechaun and the flight (dunk) team. Superintendent Oteri said that the Celtics sent retired legend and the radio voice of the Celtics, Cedric Maxwell along with rookie forward, Grant Williams. Mr. Williams’ mother is a scientist with NASA and his brother is a cyber-security expert with the government, so Mr. Williams was quite familiar with STEM education. Mr. Williams noted how STEM is integral to the Celtics and sports in general as how the data is analyzed and how technology captures it.

Two Linden educators, Ms. Liane Mofienski Ramos and Ms. Christina Rosenthal, with several students, presented the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to the Malden City Council on January 28th. Superintendent Oteri said that this was a similar presentation to what the same group presented to the School Committee last year.

Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee that the Linden S.T.E.A.M. Academy now has two all-gender option bathrooms, one on the third floor and one on the second floor. The next school that will have all gender bathrooms within the next few weeks is Ferryway.

Superintendent Oteri said that Human Resource Director, Ms. Ashley Pierre has begun to outline a strategic plan to recruit educators, in particular, under-represented educators. Malden Public Schools (MPS) will be participating in a few programs focusing on this matter in the Spring

beginning in March such as recruitment fairs and the Massachusetts Partnership for Diversity in Education (MPDE). Ms. Pierre is setting up informal informational sessions with potential educators to expose them to MPS and the Malden community.

On January 17th, Principal Sepulveda, Principal Garcia, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Chase and Superintendent Oteri attended an Influence 100 meeting. Influence 100 was launched by DESE 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 5 years, and support for school districts to become more culturally responsive and to engage in intentional strategy development and execution around diversifying their educator workforce. MPS has two fellows involved with the Fellowship Program, Principal Sepulveda and Principal Garcia. Superintendent Oteri said that at a future School Committee meeting, Principal Sepulveda and Garcia will provide an update to the School Committee.

Superintendent Oteri met with Department of Public Health Director Webb, Police and Fire as well as other members of the Emergency Management Team regarding the flu and coronavirus. First responders, as they usually do, will be using Universal Precautions in dealing with response calls. MPS will continue to take directions from the Federal Government (CDC – Center for Disease Control and Prevention), State (DPH - Department of Public Health) and City (BOH - Board of Health). Superintendent Oteri added that the steps taken at the schools has been highly praised such as monitoring symptoms, hand washing, sanitizing touch points, keeping students home when sick and remaining home until fever free for 24 hours. City Nurse, Ms. Maria Tamagna and School Nurse, Ms. Patti Tramondozzi, communicate daily on this matter.

Superintendent Oteri said that the SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment) screenings for grades 7 & 9 will begin in March. For grade 7 students, letters and opt out forms were sent home with report cards on January 31st to all K-8 schools. The grade 9 notification of screening has been in the Nurses Monthly Newsletter for January and February. Grade 9 students may get an opt out form in the nurse's office if needed. Letters and opt-out forms are also available on the MPS website under Health Services. A connectEd call will be made prior to the screenings as a reminder for all schools.

Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee that as mentioned in the Public Forum held earlier in the evening, MPS has received an additional \$2 million dollars in the Chapter 70 funding from the state. This money will be used to fund critical needs. Superintendent Oteri added that public input sessions such as the one held earlier this evening and the online survey that will be made available on the website in multiple languages will help gather input from stakeholders.

Superintendent Oteri said that the Kindergarten registration information and packets will be ready for the next meeting.

The English Learner Education (ELE) department, led by Dr. Yvonne Endara will be spearheading the Malden English Learner Advisory Council (MELAC). Dr. Endara will help with the formation of the Council. Superintendent Oteri said that once MELAC is up and running, it will function similar to how the SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council) is organized. Their first meeting will be held on February 11th, with one session at 9:00 am and the second session at 6:00 pm at the Early Learning Center. The meeting notice will be translated into other languages and available online as well as distributed to schools. A ConnectEd call will also be sent in multiple languages.

Superintendent Oteri said that the State Legislature approved Chapter 272 of the Acts of 2018 on October 19th, 2018. The new law requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), in consultation with the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) to "issue guidelines to assist districts in developing screening procedures or protocols for students that demonstrate one or more potential indicators of a neurological learning disability, including, but not limited to, dyslexia."

MPS is responding to the new law passed last year requiring all districts in the Commonwealth to develop a screening process for all K-8 students and an intervention protocol for when students fall below protocol. The district has a working committee of reading specialists, school psychologist, directors and Assistant Superintendents Wood and Chase developing the draft protocol. They have met twice and have reviewed what Malden is currently doing in terms of the screening process and interventions. MPS has tentatively identified the Dibels 8 to be the tool that will be used in the Kindergarten Screening this coming April. Superintendent Oteri said that MPS hopes to have a completed a protocol by June that maps out how teachers can respond to the data presented in the assessment and how this is communicated to parents and students. A presentation will be prepared for the School Committee at a later date.

Superintendent Oteri said that an informational presentation and update on the before and after school program will be held on February 13th at 6 p.m. at the Salemwood School K-4 Cafeteria. A ConnectED will be sent out over the weekend inviting families and notices will be posted on the website and Twitter.

Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee that MPS will be working with the Malden Board of Health on Stop the Stigma Day which will be held on Friday, April 3rd.

MPS and the Malden Police Department are organizing a Parent/Guardian Cyber-Safety Training on February 12th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Salemwood School Auditorium. Superintendent Oteri added that Detective Renee Kelley will be providing this training on that day.

Superintendent Oteri said that since Memorial Day is early this year, May 25th, senior week activities, will begin with the Prom on Friday, May 22nd, continuing with awards and scholarship activities during the week of May 25th. Malden High Graduation will be held on Sunday, May 31st instead of the first Sunday in June. A number of surrounding districts are doing the same to keep consistent with Senior week activities and graduation rehearsal .

Superintendent Oteri concluded his report with a sports update. The Girls and Boys Track teams finished their season undefeated and are Greater Boston League Champions. The Co-Ed Swim Team finish the season undefeated and are Greater Boston League Champions.

Mr. Weldai requested to have Before and After School Programs Director, Ms. Goldrick present at the next meeting. Mr. Weldai and Mayor Christenson requested that the 2020-2021 school calendar to be ready for the next meeting. In response to Mayor Christenson's question, Superintendent Oteri said that the all gender bathrooms would be ready at all schools before the start of the next school year. Mayor Christenson asked for an update at the next meeting about the effort on expanding adult English evening classes by Dr. Endara. Ms. Spadafora requested for the dates of the town hall meetings. Ms. Luong requested that the survey to gather input for the Student Opportunity Act plan be made available in Vietnamese. In response to Mayor Christenson's question, Superintendent Oteri said that the Before and After School Program informational session will provide an update about the program and future plans.

Subcommittee Reports/Discussions

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

Mr. Iovino said that the student enrollment as of last Friday was 6,679 and this is an increase of 144 students since the beginning of the year. Mr. Iovino noted that this is a decrease of 39 students compared to the enrollment numbers from last year. The significant increases are in Pre-K, grades 2 and 6. Grade 7 saw a decrease of 7 students and grade 3 saw a decrease of 11 students since the start of the year. The biggest increase was in the month of January with the enrollment of 53 new students. Mr. Iovino said that this has been the biggest increase in a single month since 2016. Mr. Iovino mentioned that if DESE would change the date of reporting from October 2nd to November 1st, the enrollment count for reimbursement would be more accurate. Mr. Iovino said that he will do a presentation of the numbers at the next meeting.

On January 16th, Mr. Iovino met with Superintendent Oteri, Principal Dolan, Principal Concannon, Business Manager, Ms. Toni Mertz and Assistant Superintendent Wood to talk about a number of options for the Early Learning Center (ELC). Mr. Iovino said that the ELC has enough room for only one more classroom. Mr. Iovino said that even the numbers at the next closest school, Forestdale is increasing. Mr. Iovino said that an update will be provided at the next meeting about solutions. Superintendent Oteri said that he will be meeting with DESE for suggestions.

In response to Mr. Weldai, Mr. Iovino said that the number of classrooms to be moved cannot be determined at the moment because it is not a good idea to move classes in the middle of the

year. Mr. Iovino said that the district is studying this matter to make changes for the next school year. In response to Ms. Spadafora, Mr. Iovino said that capping enrollment is not one of the options that is being reviewed at the moment as there are other options that need to be considered. Superintendent Oteri said that the district is legally obligated to provide services for students with needs. Mayor Christenson said that any such changes if implemented can only be done with a very lengthy advance notice.

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

Ms. Spadafora said that the subcommittee met on January 27th to discuss recess and sexual harassment awareness. Ms. Spadafora said that to further the work on recess by past School Committee member, Ms. Beardsley, there was a discussion on how to increase recess time by making sure that other things such as lining up to go outside did not cut into recess time. Ms. Spadafora continued that on the legislative side, there is a bill on recess mandating at least 20 minutes of unstructured free play that is with the Joint Committee on Education. Ms. Spadafora said that more effort is needed to urge state legislators to pass the bill. Ms. Spadafora mentioned that in the Wellness Policy, recess is only mentioned three times. Of the three times that it is mentioned, there are no details on how recess contributes to the wellness of the students.

On the topic of sexual harassment awareness, Ms. Spadafora said that the subcommittee will be looking at the health curriculum and possibly collaboration with outside agencies such as Zonta as well as professional development through the Title IX Coordinator to ensure compliance.

3. Policy and Procedures Subcommittee – Mr. Weldai

Mr. Weldai said that the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee also met on January 27th. Mr. Weldai said that the subcommittee looked at the research done by Ms. Luong on Sandy Hook Promise. Mr. Weldai said a lot of it is supported by the Office of Attorney General Maura Healey who gave Sandy Hook Promise a significant grant to work in Massachusetts with public schools. Mr. Weldai continued that this is the first step to look at Sandy Hook Promise's **Start with Hello** and **Say Something**. **Start with Hello** is support curriculum and activities primarily for grades K-5 for developing and fostering empathy as well as positive social interactions with peers with an underlying message to identify social isolationism. Mr. Weldai said that this will not replace anything but rather it will be a supplement. Mr. Weldai said that the Superintendent and possibly the Director of Guidance would need to review this matter and provide feedback.

Mr. Weldai said that the **Say Something** app is an anonymous reporting platform that works in conjunction with the school system and the website that allows anonymous reporting by parents, families and students on issues such as bullying. Mr. Weldai said that since **Start with Hello** and **Say Something** is cost free at the moment because it is supported by the grant, the district should explore it to see what a commitment will entail.

Motions and Resolutions

1. Anonymous Donation of \$300 – Mr. Iovino

Mr. Iovino made the motion to accept the anonymous donation of \$300 to be distributed equally among the MHS Band, MHS Choral Arts and MHS Step Team. Ms. Luong seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

2. MPS District Wellness Policy – Ms. Spadafora

Ms. Spadafora said that as she previously stated, she would like the current MPS District Wellness Policy to be reviewed. Mayor Christenson added that all other relevant school personnel should also be included in reviewing the policy. Ms. Spadafora said that this is the reason why the policy should first go to the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee.

Ms. Spadafora made the motion to send this to policy to the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee for review. Mr. Iovino seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Residency/Student Registration Policy – Mr. Weldai

Mr. Weldai said that this policy would be looking at the way students enrolled and how verification of residency is done.

Mr. Weldai made the motion to refer the policy to the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee. Ms. Luong seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Start with Hello (Sandy Hook Promise) – Mr. Weldai

Mr. Weldai said that hopefully the Superintendent could come back to the School Committee in March or May with a report on the Sandy Hook Promise. Ms. Luong said they wanted to know exactly what we are signing up for before endorsing.

Mr. Weldai made the motion to authorize Superintendent to explore **Start with Hello** and provide a report. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Say Something (Sandy Hook Promise) – Mr. Weldai

Superintendent Oteri said that this matter was brought to the district's attention in the fall and that it has been referred to the Emergency Management Team for vetting.

Mr. Weldai made the motion to authorize Superintendent to explore **Say Something** and provide a report. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Educational Equity – Mr. Weldai

Mr. Weldai said that both Educational Equity and Equal Educational Opportunities are policy updates from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC).

Mr. Weldai made the motion to refer both the Educational Equity and Equal Educational Opportunities to the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee. Mr. Drummey seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Equal Educational Opportunities – Mr. Weldai

Same as above.

Personal Privilege

Executive Session

Mr. Iovino made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:48 p.m. Mr. McCarthy seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Weldai voted YES

Ms. Luong voted YES

Mr. Drummey voted YES

Mr. Froio voted YES

Mr. Iovino voted YES

Ms. Gray voted YES

Mr. McCarthy voted YES

Ms. Spadafora voted YES

Mayor Christenson voted YES

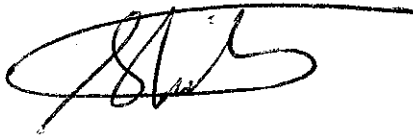
Motion passed unanimously.

The committee reconvened to the Regular Session at 8:20 p.m.

Adjournment

Mr. Drummey made a motion to adjourn at 8:21 p.m. Mr. Froio 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