

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 10, 2020
Malden Senior Center, 7 Washington Street

Mayor Christenson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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. Drummey	Present
Mr. Froio	Present
Mr. Gray	Absent
Mr. Iovino	Present
Ms. Luong	Present
Mr. McCarthy	Present
Ms. Spadafora	Present
Mr. Weldai	Present
Superintendent Oteri	Present
Student Representative Chouiki	Absent
Clerk	Present

Deliberation on Student Opportunity Act Plan

Mayor Christenson said that the the goals and rationale for the plan was provided by the Superintendent earlier in the day. Mr. Weldai expressed appreciation that the plan was clear about the priority and rationale which will help the budget process.

Superintendent Oteri said that the overview of the plan will be uploaded to the website the next day. Superintendent Oteri continued that reducing class sizes through additional hiring has been a long time focus of the School Committee and a priority as the school system recoups and rebuilds from budget cuts from previous years. Superintendent Oteri said that the administration will work with the Parent Information Center (PIC) and principals to identify areas where class size exceeds the recommended guidelines and will use some of the funds from the Student Opportunity Act to hire teachers to address the matter.

Superintendent Oteri said that the administration is looking at augmenting areas that can help support students' social emotional and physical health. Strategic examination of current staffing and critical needs in this area will be undertaken. Superintendent Oteri continued that professional development is an area of concern because of the small amount of funds allocated to this line item in the budget. As staff need more training in areas such as social emotional, curriculum and teaching practices, this is a priority. Focus is also on college and career readiness as this is an area that DESE has highlighted.

Superintendent Oteri said that curriculum and materials will also need to be reviewed. Superintendent Oteri continued that together with Assistant Superintendent Chase, they are looking to expand the Naviance platform which is used widely for counseling so that it can be used to track students' progress. Superintendent Oteri said that these priorities are in line with the survey results as well as the priorities identified by the administration team.

Mayor Christenson said the survey is back online and so that more input can be sought. In response to Ms. Spadafora, Superintendent Oteri said that the main items outlined will most likely not change even with more survey responses but that if it does change, it will most likely be just a shift in the major priorities already identified. Ms. Spadafora said that when more survey results are received and show a shift in priorities, going forward in the next few years, attention can be focused on those areas.

Mr. Weldai made the motion to approve the Student Opportunity Act Plan. Mr. Iovino seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey voted YES

Mr. Froio voted YES

Mr. Gray ABSENT

Mr. Iovino voted YES

Ms. Luong voted YES

Mr. McCarthy voted YES

Ms. Spadafora voted YES

Mr. Weldai voted YES

Mayor Christenson voted YES

Motion passed with 8 votes in favor and 1 absent.

Adjournment

Mr. Iovino made a motion to adjourn at 6:11p.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