

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, March 2, 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, April 6th, 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 February 3rd, 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 February 3rd, 2020 Executive Session of the School Committee. Mr. Iovino seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Ms. Amy Freidman – 8 Marvin Street, Malden

Ms. Friedman, a parent of 2 children at the Malden Public Schools, asked for a traffic study at the Beebe School because of safety concerns. Ms. Friedman also commented that there is not enough handicapped parking as well as issues with the handicapped loading and unloading zone. Ms. Friedman requested that the school district work together to resolve these issues in order to avoid lawsuits. Ms.

Friedman said that there was no monitor on the school bus for her son. Ms. Friedman continued that video surveillance on busses need to be maintained for 30 days.

Ms. Susan Whitney, Salemwood Paraprofessional

Ms. Whitney who has been a paraprofessional at MPS for 24 years said that paraprofessionals are an intricate part of public education and play an important role in students lives but that they are paid at or below the poverty level. While their roles and expectations in the classroom have increased because of the changing needs of students, their salaries have not been increased accordingly. Many take on additional jobs to make ends meet. Ms. Whitney continued that they voted down the 3% salary increase because that is only an additional \$20 per week before taxes of the maximum paraprofessional salary. Ms. Whitney requested that the paraprofessional base salary be increased to a livable wage with increases at each step. Ms. Whitney invited the School Committee members to visit classrooms unannounced to observe the work of paraprofessionals.

Ms. Susan Nylén, 10 Clayton Street, Salemwood Paraprofessional

Ms. Nylén said that she is in solidarity with MPS Paraprofessionals who are seeking a better contract and compensation. Having worked for 16 years at MPS, Ms. Nylén said she loves her job. Ms. Nylén said that paraprofessional salaries are capped at 10 years. Ms. Nylén continued that paraprofessionals are described as not highly qualified, even those who have worked for 20 years. Ms. Nylén also invited the School Committee members to visit classrooms unannounced to observe the work of paraprofessionals. Ms. Nylén added that routinely paraprofessionals give up their contractually guaranteed rights because of their concern for the safety and well-being of their students.

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 through the Student Opportunity Act (SOA), the annual state funding for public schools in Massachusetts will increase by \$1.5 billion. Ms. Gesualdo added that this will mean between \$20-25 million more in funding for Malden Public Schools (MPS) over the next 7 years. Ms. Gesualdo hoped that the feedback from all stakeholders will be taken into account when the district submits the SOA plan to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Ms. Gesualdo continued that SOA is a major victory for public school communities as well as racial and economic justice. Immigrant communities and communities of color have been left behind for too long. All should work together to create the schools that students deserve. Ms. Gesualdo acknowledged the educators as well as the education support professionals. Ms. Gesualdo looks forward to bargaining a fair contract that brings economic justice for paraprofessionals who are a vital part of the school community.

Superintendent's Report

- 1. 2020 Massachusetts Partnerships for Youth, Inc. (MPY) "RESPECTfully" Poster Project**
Superintendent Oteri congratulated Ly Nguyen, 5th grade student from Ferryway School who won the 2020 MPY Poster Project. The theme was "RESPECTfully" and there were 34 entries at the middle school level. Ly Nguyen's advisor and art teacher is Ms. Joan Ortu. Superintendent Oteri invited Ms. Margie Daniels, Executive Director and Mr. Tony Pierantozzi, President of MPY to present the award to Ly Nguyen. Ms. Margie Daniels said that MPY is a small non-profit organization dedicated to prevention and intervention in matters of health and safety for youth.

Ms. Daniels added that “RESPECTfully” has to do with healthy relations characterized by respect, honesty and open communication, and it is Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito’s initiative in partnership with the Executive Office of Health and Human Services and the Massachusetts state legislature.

2. Freedom, New Hampshire Nature’s Classroom Ferryway Field Trip

Superintendent Oteri invited Principal Sepulveda and Grade 8 Science teacher, Ms. Cheryl McDonough to provide more details about the field trip. Principal Sepulveda said that in early 2000s, Ferryway School used to send their students to the Nature’s Classroom field trip but that since then, there has been a long hiatus. Principal Sepulveda added that since the last two years, Ferryway School has again started to send students on this field trip. Ms. McDonough, who has been a chaperone for the recent field trips said with scholarship money, the fee for the field trip is not an issue even for the students who cannot afford it. Ms. McDonough explained the schedule and activities for the days at Nature’s Classroom for students and staff that will take place during the first week of May.

Superintendent Oteri recommended the field trip. In response to Ms. Spadafora’s question regarding why the trip is a full week instead of 3 or 4 days, Principal Sepulveda said that more enrichment is available with the full week. As for the price difference, Principal Sepulveda said that last year, it was \$250 per student and this year, it is \$260 per student inclusive of transportation. In response to Mr. Gray’s question on health and safety, Principal Sepulveda said that there is a full-time registered nurse at the camp site 24 hours/day and there are also hospitals within a short distance of the camp. With regards to the developing situation of COVID-19, Principal Sepulveda said that they will look to the Superintendent Oteri and Mayor Christenson for decisions on postponing or cancelling the trip if need be. Superintendent Oteri added that they are monitoring the situation and adhering to guidelines through close communication with the city and state departments as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Mr. Drummey made the motion to approve the field trip request for Ferryway 6th grade students to attend Nature’s Classroom at Freedom, NH for the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Weldai seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Student Opportunity Act Plan Presentation

Superintendent Oteri presented the Student Opportunity Act Plan. The Student Opportunity Act will increase Chapter 70 funding from FY 2020 to FY 2021 by \$2,164,407. The increase will help maintain the current level of service, ensure there are no layoffs and target critical needs. Survey responses showed that the community as a whole would like the funds used for social services to support students’ social emotional and physical health; hiring more teachers to allow smaller class sizes; increase professional development; developing additional pathways to strengthen college and career readiness; purchasing additional curriculum materials; increase opportunity for common planning time for teachers; support diversification of educator and

administrator workforce; hire instructional coaches; expand early childhood programs; hire additional administrators to support teaching and learning for staff and students; and expand learning time in the form of school day or school year. Superintendent Oteri said that the district plan needs to be submitted in a long form template to DESE by April 1st.

Mr. Weldai commented that the presentation should have been included in the packet. Mr. Weldai said that the presentation did not clarify the plan. Superintendent Oteri clarified that the \$2.1 million is not a substantial amount and will be used towards carrying over expenses from the incoming year, maintain the current level of service as well as target some critical needs. Superintendent Oteri continued that the critical needs identified include hiring additional staff, hiring social emotional staff, and purchasing curriculum. Mr. Weldai said that he was not comfortable voting on the plan as it seems vague. In response to Mr. McCarthy, Superintendent Oteri said that the state will be providing the funds annually and that the critical needs identified was social emotional services as well as hiring additional teachers. Mr. McCarthy added that he would have also liked to have this information prior to the meeting.

Ms. Spadafora said that the information should have been provided before the meeting. In response to Ms. Spadafora, Superintendent Oteri said that some other districts did not get as many respondents as Malden. Superintendent Oteri added that in addition to the town hall meeting, written forms were made available at each school, a ConnectEd call was made to inform that the survey was available in five languages on social media as well as the school website.

Mr. Iovino asked whether the total amount that will be received is \$2.1 million or \$4.3 million. Mayor Christenson added that the total amount is \$4.3 million when added with funds from the city. In response to Ms. Luong's question, Superintendent Oteri said that the survey was also made available in Vietnamese and that the majority of responses received were in English. Superintendent Oteri apologized for not providing information about the survey results prior to the meeting and added that he can provide it the next day. Ms. Luong added that the number of survey responses is too few. Ms. Luong also said that the 5 or 7 days notice for the next town hall meeting is too short. In response to Mr. Gray's question, Superintendent Oteri said the funds will be utilized based on critical priority need. Each school will not be receiving an equal amount because it will be based on where the need is most critical. Superintendent Oteri added that as part of the budgeting process, the administrative team meets with each principal and director to ascertain needs. In response to Mr. Weldai, Superintendent Oteri said that this is the overall blueprint for the template because DESE is not looking for specific details but rather justification as to the items being prioritized and why it will benefit MPS students.

Mr. Iovino made a motion to approve the SOA plan. Mr. Weldai seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Weldai voted NO

Ms. Luong voted NO

Mr. Drummey voted NO
Mr. Froio voted YES
Mr. Iovino voted YES
Ms. Gray voted YES
Mr. McCarthy voted NO
Ms. Spadafora voted NO
Mayor Christenson voted YES
Motion failed 5-4.

Mayor Christenson said that the School Committee will reconvene for as many times as it takes until a plan is approved. Mayor Christenson said that the plan is very general but that the budget is where the funds will be further allocated to specific areas. Mayor Christenson encouraged the members to get their questions ahead of time and not just at the meeting.

4. Bullying Prevention Plan Update

Superintendent Oteri invited Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics, Mr. Charlie Conefrey to provide an update about the MPS Bullying Prevention Plan. Mr. Conefrey said that the previous Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Donah developed the plan in 2018. School Committee approved the plan and Mr. Conefrey built a curriculum to be incorporated into the existing health curriculum. In 2019, Mr. Conefrey worked with health and PE teachers to research the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC) K-12 Anti-Bullying Program and to identify how the MARC curriculum would fit into existing offerings. It was determined that MARC complemented the work done in The Great Body Shop Community Health and Safety (Violence Prevention) unit. District-wide and specific trainings were conducted.

Mr. Conefrey and Director of Guidance, Ms. Erin Craven will offer professional development on March 13th in an effort to align the curriculum, especially social emotional for adjustment counselors, school counselors (K-8 and 9-12), health / PE teachers (K-8, 9-12). These groups will come together to complete an inventory of what curricula related to social emotional work / mental health are being used throughout the district. From there, participants will identify potential gaps or overlap and will recommend next steps for building consistency among the district's schools. Mr. Conefrey added that there are a number of teachers who serve as coaches who have been trained and carry that training out of the classroom and into their coaching environments.

Ms. Luong said she would like more information about what has been done at each school. Ms. Luong also asked how parents have been included in the bullying awareness process. Mr. Conefrey said that the MARC curriculum which is being currently utilized has information about how parents are involved in the process. There is also homework involved where students work with parents. In response to Ms. Spadafora, Superintendent Oteri said principals work with Mr. Conefrey and are aware of the curriculum and are provided regular updates on the progress. In response to Mr. Iovino, Mr. Conefrey said that the PD Day on March 13th will allow an audit

districtwide as everyone will be at the same place at the same time and this will help in trying to keep equity and alignment across the district. In response to Mr. Gray, Mr. Conefrey said that he will look into the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) which might have some data on whether bullying rates at the schools have decreased. Superintendent Oteri added that the Massachusetts Anti-Bullying Law was enacted in 2010. Superintendent Oteri added that statistics show that bullying has filtered down to the middle school grades. Superintendent Oteri said that a training video will be developed for staff and should be ready by the end of this school year. Mr. Conefrey said that it will be an overview of the entire plan.

5. Sandy Hook Update

Superintendent Oteri said part of the plan for MPS Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is to do an audit and address areas where gaps exist. Superintendent Oteri said that Director of Guidance, Ms. Erin Craven has been looking into Sandy Hook Promise Start with Hello curriculum among others. The Say Something program is being vetted by the Emergency Management Team. Ms. Craven said that she has completed a training on the Sandy Hook Start with Hello Program. On the PD Day March 13th, over 50 educators will consider the Start with Hello initiatives along with many other evidence based, peer reviewed SEL curriculums. Ms. Craven added that according to RAND International, there are over 60 curriculums that are currently in use that are evidence based and peer reviewed. Ms. Craven said that it is vital to have a clear understanding of what practices are being used and which practices have already been successfully implemented in MPS. Ms. Craven continued that the findings from the March 13th PD Day both by school and districtwide can be provided to the School Committee.

In response to Mr. Iovino, Ms. Craven said that the Sandy Hook Promise Start with Hello is about preventing students and staff from feeling isolated or not connected. It teaches students to reach out and start with hello and other ice breakers. Ms. Craven added that there are lessons for younger grades as well as to ways to present to a class and entire school. Ms. Craven added that it is free, friendly and simple. Ms. Craven continued that the Sandy Hook Promise was founded by parents from Sandy Hook and many of their initiatives are around preventing gun violence in the community and schools. Much of their curriculum is about feeling connected and belonging, thus it teaches students to reach out to someone who does not seem connected or to report that someone seems not connected.

6. District Updates and Highlights

Superintendent Oteri announced that Malden Public Schools will wish the legendary Mr. Ron Janowicz, Program Manager for the Pathways Program at MHS, a happy retirement at the end of this school year. Mr. Janowicz has been with MPS for almost three decades and leaves big shoes to fill. Through funding from the Barr Foundation, Superintendent Oteri, Assistant Superintendents Wood and Chase, Principal Mastrangelo, and Program Manager Ron Janowicz worked with consultants Ms. Barbara Crock and Ms. Christina Farese to get a sense of the history of Pathways, the strengths and challenges related to the program as it has grown and

evolved, and a vision for future programming. A job description and posting for a new Pathways Manager will be prepared and posted shortly.

Superintendent Oteri said that the District Visioning Team, headed by consultant, Dr. Lori Likis, are close to having a plan finalized. The leadership team will review it on March 12th. The plan will be brought to the School Committee once it is ready. Superintendent Oteri said that although it is a 3-year plan, the team took a "10 year approach" towards the development of the plan.

Superintendent Oteri announced that as of March 2nd, the Ferryway School opened two all-gender bathrooms. One is located on the 3rd floor, A wing and the other one in the 2nd floor, C wing. Planning is being done to add two all-gender bathrooms at Forestdale by next month. In May and June, PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), will be doing trainings for all students in grades 5-8. Superintendent Oteri said that PFLAG is highly recommended by Safe Schools from DESE. Exact dates of the trainings will be provided when they become available. In addition, all staff will receive training on this topic on one of the first two days of school, either on August 31st or September 1st.

There was a great deal of work around the district for Black History Month in February. Superintendent Oteri said that black history was incorporated into various curricula and grades across the district. The month was highlighted with the Malden High School Door Decorating contest. The participation was excellent, so good, that the demand far exceeded the supply. In total, 21 doors were in the contest, but 45 expressed an interest.

Human Resources Director, Ms. Ashley Pierre and Superintendent Oteri will be attending the Massachusetts Partnership for Diversity in Education job fair on March 21st at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. Superintendent Oteri said that it is an opportunity to meet with diverse educators and present the great career opportunities in Malden.

The Diversity Network meeting on February 26th in Worcester was attended by Human Resources Director, Ms. Ashley Pierre, Humanities Director, Mr. Greg Hurley and Superintendent Oteri. They met their cohort to develop a plan as part of the grant that the district acquired. Superintendent Oteri said that this work is important and that School Committee support was required to begin this work and will also be required down the road.

Superintendent Oteri is establishing a "Superintendent's Diversity Advisory Committee" for MPS. The purpose of the committee is to discuss recruitment, hiring and retention of a diverse faculty and administrative staff and any concerns related to the MPS diverse student population and faculty. Superintendent Oteri added that the committee will be made up of 11 members who represent a rich part of the fabric of Malden's diversity whose input and guidance will provide a positive overall benefit for our students and staff. The goal of the committee is to meet 5-6 times a year. Superintendent Oteri has been working with Ms. Regina Caines, the

educational liaison of the Mystic Valley Chapter of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) and this is a model that she has had great experience and success with in another district. Superintendent Oteri continued that the process of finalizing the committee is underway and that School Committee will be informed when it is established.

Superintendent Oteri said that kindergarten registration for the 2020-2021 school is open to Malden residents who were born between September 1, 2014 and August 31, 2015. About 450 registration booklets have been mailed and families are starting to receive them. Parents are already submitting their registration paperwork and scheduling ELL testing. The Parent Information Center (PIC) compiles a list of students from the Early Learning Center, the city censuses obtained from the city clerk's office and through advertisements on social media, Malden Access Television (MATV) as well as local newspapers informing parents to call the office. Superintendent Oteri continued that for school year 2019-2020, a significant number amount of screenings were completed in the summer of 2019. For the next school year 2020-2021, Superintendent Oteri hoped to start the screenings even before this current school year ends.

The first MELAC (Malden English Learner Advisory Committee) meeting was held on February 11th. Superintendent Oteri said that the next meeting will feature a guest speaker who will present on the theme: Know your Rights. The tentative date is sometime in April. More information will be sent home to families of English learners as it become available.

DESE would like to acknowledge April as Heritage month and has reached out to MPS Department of English Language Education and MPS in general, to showcase how our students celebrate their heritage. Superintendent Oteri said students will be asked to present to DESE staff in April.

Superintendent Oteri said that MPS the is trying to schedule evening adult English as a Second Language (ESL) classes in April, for families of English learners. There is a great need of trained adult ESL teachers. Director of ELE, Dr. Yvonne Endara has spent a lot of time and effort in trying to hire teachers. Postings have been done both internally and externally but it has not been successful. Superintendent Oteri continued that MPS has been working with a consultant from Lesley University, who is helping to identify some potential grad students who might be interested. On the redistribution of English learner students, Superintendent Oteri said that Dr. Endara will consult with the leadership ELE team in Framingham on March 3rd and will report back accordingly.

In January, the SBIRT letter and opt out form was sent home with students. All Massachusetts public schools must include a verbal substance use preventive screening as part of their yearly mandated universal health-screening programs. Superintendent Oteri said that MPS will use the Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) protocol with students in grades 7 and 9 in March. All screenings will be held in private one-on-one sessions with one of the

specially trained nurses or counselors. What students tell the screener is confidential and will not be shared with any other person without prior written consent of the student, parent, or guardian, except in cases of immediate medical emergency or when disclosure is otherwise required by state law. No written record of the results of this verbal screening are kept with information that identifies any individual student. Screening results will not be put with any other information that identifies any child. Screening results will not be included in your child's school record.

Superintendent Oteri said that the Malden Emergency Management Team meets regularly about coronavirus, led by Board of Health Director, Mr. Chris Webb. Superintendent Oteri and Mr. Peter Dolan attend these meetings. The team has been informed via CDC and State Department of Public Health that the risk for Coronavirus remains low but that we need to prepare and be ready. First responders and ER personnel will exercise universal precautions. Superintendent Oteri said that the schools will monitor students and staff who display flu-like symptoms, and "what to do when your child is sick" fliers have been sent home. Information from the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Department of Public Health has been posted on the website and will be sent home with students as well. The fliers are being translated into other languages. Superintendent Oteri said MPS had confirmed cases of the flu, but no one has registered or is being quarantined for the coronavirus.

Superintendent Oteri said that students from the Tornado Travelers Club are scheduled to travel to London and Paris in April. At this point, both destinations are deemed safe for travel, However, Superintendent Oteri said that since this is a rapidly developing situation, MPS will continue to monitor the global situation and work with CDC and local authorities.

On February 12th, Detective Renee Kelley, Detective Steve Mulcahey and Sargeant Mike Powell hosted a cyber safety training session for parents. Superintendent Oteri said that the offered parents many insights and tips to keep their students safe while online. The training will be provided to all grades 5–8 students in the spring but there will be an opt-out option.

An Info Session on the Before and After School Programs was held on March 13th. Director Jennie McGoldrick and site coordinators were on hand displaying student project work and answering questions. Superintendent said that there was a good turnout as well as a question/answer session. The program has made great strides in the last few years and looking forward to more great things in the near future. The April camp vacation flyers and Adventure Summer Camp flyers are posted on the website.

Superintendent Oteri congratulated STEM Director, Dr. Doug Dias for receiving the Fulbright Leaders for Global Schools Grant Program to Singapore. Dr. Dias is one of 20 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad through the Fulbright Leaders for Global Schools in 2020-2021. Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential. The Fulbright Leaders for Global Schools Program sends

cohorts of K-12 school and district administrators to Finland and Singapore for an intensive program to learn about best educational practices to enhance students' learning and prepare them for careers and citizenship in a global economy. The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to build relations between the people of the United States and the people of other countries that are needed to solve global challenges. The Fulbright Program is funded through an annual appropriation made by the U.S. Congress to the U.S. Department of State. Participating governments and host institutions, corporations, and foundations around the world also provide direct and indirect support to the Program, which operates in over 160 countries worldwide.

Superintendent Oteri commented that a few MHS students went to Belize in February as part of the Tornado Travelers club, led by Ms. Shauna Campbell and Ms. Sarah Jones. Along with Ms. Anne Mooney, they led over twenty MHS students on a trip to Belize exploring the natural and historic wonders of the trip.

Reminders for upcoming events provided by Superintendent Oteri included the 2020 Census. The census will be sent to all families on March 12. Superintendent Oteri said that Malden is deemed a "hard to count" community and therefore MPS is working to get the word out to take the census as everyone counts. Fliers will be sent home this week in multiple languages. Every person in Malden translates into roughly \$2,500 of funds. Superintendent Oteri said that the census is important, safe and everyone counts.

The Massachusetts Presidential Primary election will be held on March 3rd. There will be extra police at each polling place as school is in session. Every school except the High School is being used as a polling station.

Superintendent Oteri announced to the School Committee that Town Hall meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. on March 5th at MHS and May 7th at Ferryway. STOP the Stigma Day will be held on April 3rd.

Superintendent Oteri said that MHS will host its first annual Financial Literacy Fair on May 8th at the Dockside. Students will participate in a simulation to experience what it is like to balance a budget and make choices around housing, food and clothing, etc. Superintendent Oteri thanked Mr. Kevin Duffy and City Councilor Peg Crowe for their support in connecting MHS with local organizations and businesses to support this endeavor. Superintendent Oteri also thanked Dockside for graciously hosting the event as well as the community business and organizations who have already communicated their interest in volunteering. Planning for the fair is still in the early stages, and an official press release will be shared after details are finalized. Superintendent Oteri said that anyone interested in supporting this work can reach out to either Ms. Natalia Brennan or Ms. Erin Craven.

Superintendent Oteri congratulated MHS junior, Yohanni Costa who won back-to-back state wrestling championships at the 145 pound category as well as the girls wrestling team who won second place in the state championship this past weekend. This is a cooperative team with Everett High School.

In response to Mr. McCarthy, Superintendent Oteri said that an overview of the training will be obtained from PFLAG and provided to parents so that they can decide whether to opt-out, although the district is encouraging all students to attend. In response to Mr. Weldai, Superintendent Oteri said that he is working with the Mayor's Office in identifying community members for the "Superintendent's Diversity Advisory Committee". Mr. Weldai requested for one or more members of the Equity and Opportunity Subcommittee to be included in the committee. Mr. Weldai also requested that town hall meetings be included in the website calendar. Mr. Weldai asked if there was anything that the schools were doing regarding promoting the census. Superintendent Oteri responded that Mr. Jim Valente's class at MHS is preparing a video that will feature multiple languages. Mr. Weldai also requested that the MPS Before and After-School Program Director, Ms. Jennifer McGoldrick provide an update at the next School Committee meeting. Mr. Weldai asked for the superintendent updates to be included in the packet. In response to Ms. Luong, Superintendent Oteri said that any student who is quarantined for the coronavirus will be eligible for some educational support after 5 days. Superintendent Oteri added that MPS is working with local authorities in the event that students need to be quarantined. In response to Mr. Weldai, Superintendent Oteri said that he will provide an update once he checks on how the Safe School Zones resolution and policy has been implemented.

Subcommittee Reports/Discussions

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

Mr. Iovino said that student enrollment as of February 28th was 6,706. Mr. Iovino continued that based on the report of students living in apartment buildings, there are 943 students. This is about 14% of MPS students. Mr. Iovino said that in total, there have been an additional 171 students who enrolled in MPS since the beginning of the school year. In February alone, there was an increase of 27 students.

During the school vacation week, Mr. Iovino, Superintendent Oteri, Principal Dolan of the Early Learning Center and Business Manager, Ms. Toni Mertz met with a consultant from DESE on early childhood education, space and continuing enrollment. Superintendent Oteri said that DESE is encouraging MPS to increase community partnerships, to explore options on working with an inclusive classroom by partnering with one of DESE and EEC licensed providers to service as many students as possible. DESE is looking to do some outreach by working with a specialist and other partners who can assist MPS.

2. Equity and Opportunity Subcommittee – Mr. Weldai

Mr. Weldai thanked Assistant Superintendent Chase for spearheading the equity audit at the schools. Mr. Weldai informed that the Equity and Opportunity Subcommittee as well as the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee will be meeting on the following Monday. Mr. Weldai said that once the audit is completed, there will be forums held at each of the K-8 schools and the Early Learning Center. In response to Ms. Spadafora, Mr. Weldai said that a forum can be held at MHS too.

Motions and Resolutions

1. MPS Bullying Prevention Policy – Ms. Luong

Ms. Luong said the MPS Bullying Prevention Policy needs to be reviewed to ensure that it is addressing the needs of the students. Ms. Luong continued that there are still incidents of bullying that are not addressed at the school level because there is a disconnect between what parents relate to her and what is being reported to the schools.

Ms. Luong made the motion to pass the Bullying Prevention Policy to the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee for review. Mr. Weldai seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Student Opportunity Act Plan – Mr. Iovino

This matter was addressed earlier in the meeting. Mayor Christenson said that special meetings will be held on each Tuesday in March until the plan is approved.

3. MPS Calendar 2020-2021 – Mr. Weldai

Mr. Weldai made the motion to approve the MPS Calendar 2020-2021. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Personal Privilege

Executive Session

Mr. Iovino made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. Mr. Froio 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 9:08 p.m.

Mr. Iovino made the motion to grant the Principals a 4% salary increase retroactive from July 1, 2019, 3% effective July 1, 2020; and 2% effective July 1, 2021 as well as award any Principal during the year of retirement, the option of buying back 10 unused vacation days starting from the 2020 school year. Mr. Weldai seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Weldai voted YES
Ms. Luong voted YES
Mr. Drummey votes YES
Mr. Froio voted YES
Mr. Iovino voted YES
Mr. Gray voted YES
Mr. McCarthy voted YES
Ms. Spadafora voted YES
Mayor Christenson voted YES
Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Christenson announced that the next School Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, March 10th, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Malden Senior Center, 7 Washington Street, Malden.

Adjournment

Mr. Iovino made a motion to adjourn at 9:09 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