

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION  
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Monday, June 1, 2020  
Online Meeting

Mayor Christenson called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Mayor Christenson announced that on the same day prior to the next School Committee meeting on Monday, June 22, 2020, the Budget Subcommittee will be having a public hearing on the FY 21 school budget. Mayor Christenson said that the meeting will begin in memory of the tragic death of George Floyd.

Mayor Christenson read the protocols in accordance with the format used for the meeting as follows: "In accordance Governor Baker's March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A, § 18, and the Governor's March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 revised guidance on order by the governor prohibiting assemblage of more than 10 people, this meeting will be conducted via remote participation. In-person attendance by members of the public is prohibited, but all effort will be made to permit public attendance of this meeting in the manner specified which is via remote access by internet, telephone and by Malden Access Cable Television. Public access will also be provided by posting draft minutes and/or transcript recording or record of the meeting on the City of Malden website at cityofmalden.org as soon as practicable after this meeting."

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. The School Committee also stood in solidarity for a moment of silence for George Floyd.

**Roll Call**

The following attendance was taken:

Mayor Christenson	Present
Mr. Drummey	Present
Mr. Froio	Present
Mr. Gray	Present
Mr. Iovino	Present
Ms. Luong	Present
Mr. McCarthy	Present
Ms. Spadafora	Present
Mr. Weidai	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 May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Session of the School Committee. Mr. McCarthy made the motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Luong seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Froio made the motion to approve the minutes of the May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Executive Session of the School Committee. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Ms. Deborah Gesualdo, Music Educator at Malden Public Schools and President of the Malden Education Association (MEA)

Ms. Gesualdo publicly renounced the act of racist brutality that resulted in the murder of George Floyd. Ms. Gesualdo said that black lives matter in our community and schools. The statement Black Lives Matters recognizes the fact that black lives have been historically oppressed and undervalued in this country and there is an urgent need to dismantle systems of oppression and inequity. Ms. Gesualdo hoped that the School Committee and district would commit to taking further steps to actively work with the school community to undo racism. The schools our students deserve are schools that have on-going high quality anti-racism training. Ms. Gesualdo also spoke about the school budget saying that calls for austerity budgeting in times of economic decline have proven to prolong the harm done by economic crisis and magnifies the impact on students, families, educators and community. It has a disproportionate impact on immigrant communities and communities of color. Ms. Gesualdo said that budget discussions on what to cut should be done by keeping in mind the equity for students and thoughtfulness on presentation of information that impacts the lives of so many people. Ms. Gesualdo said she was relieved to hear that the Early Learning Center (ELC) was included in the budget, as research and data prove that a strong and accessible early childhood program pays off throughout the lives of the students. Ms. Gesualdo said that MEA calls on the School Committee to reject austerity budgeting and join in the fight for the funding that the students, families, educators and community deserve. Ms. Gesualdo said that the MEA, School Committee, and community should be active advocates for the passage of the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act (HEROES Act) which will bring almost \$1 billion in education funding to the states.

Ms. Jessica Gold Boots, Malden High School (MHS) ESL Teacher and Corresponding Secretary of the MEA  
Ms. Gold Boots thanked the School Committee members for expressing solidarity for the family of George Floyd and anti-racist action in the wake of the tragedy. Ms. Gold Boots also advocated for the necessity of everyone in the Malden Public Schools (MPS) community to commit to concrete anti-racist actions to best serve the students, families and faculty. Ms. Gold Boots also spoke about austerity funding and the need for the district to fund the wraparound services that many students need which includes the work done at the ELC and exploratory subject teacher, social workers, nurses and librarians. MS. Gold Boots called upon the School Committee to advocate for the full funding of the HEROES Act.

Dr. Elizabeth Paulsen Tonogbanua, 31 Grace Street, Malden

Dr. Tonogbanua, a parent of a current ELC student as well as a past ELC student, spoke about the invaluable role that the ELC plays in the Malden youngest students' lives. The pandemic has interrupted their structure at a critical time in their development. Dr. Tonogbanua continued that marginalized groups need a strong community to ensure their access to education and that right now, early education is one such vulnerable group. Dr. Tonogbanua said that during these challenging times, Malden needs to band together regarding its commitment to our younger students.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Oteri said that the events of the last several days have greatly impacted the community. The community is deeply saddened, disturbed and outraged by the brutal, indefensible death of George Floyd. Horrible and blatant acts of racism have marked this spring across America. Superintendent Oteri continued that there must be meaningful dialogue and action to address this by all. MPS is committed to advocating for and promoting racial justice. MPS stands united with our students, staff and leaders in the fight against systemic injustice and inequality. Superintendent Oteri said that MPS will have counselors available for any student and staff who need assistance.

### **1. Re-entry and Long Term Planning**

Regarding the newly established Re-Entry Task Force, Superintendent Oteri said the Task Force members include Assistant Superintendents Dr. Chase and Mr. Wood, Business Manager Ms. Mertz, HR Manager Ms. Pierre, Director of Public Health Mr. Webb, Director of MPS Nursing, Ms. Tramondozzi, Director of Public Facilities Mr. Rubin, School Committee Members Mr. Iovino and Mr. Weldai, Malden Police/ER Management Capt. Glenn Cronin, all seven MPS School Principals, MEA President Ms. Gesualdo, MEA Vice-President/Forestdale Teacher Ms. Skinner, MEA Rep/Linden Teacher Ms. DeSantis, Director of Athletics/PE/Health Mr. Conefrey, City Councillor Ms. Crowe, MHS students Danny Gilligan and Lynn Sarah Georges, MPS Parents Ms. Denise Keating and Ms. Salima Slimane who is also the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) President.

Superintendent Oteri said that the second meeting will be held tomorrow. The first meeting which was held on May 19 began with introductions and an overview of the situation from Malden Board of Health Director, Mr. Webb. The team discussed the overall issue of the pandemic, how it currently and may continue to impact the reopening of schools in Malden. Superintendent Oteri said that they are in the process of setting up subcommittees.

As for reopening, the task force is awaiting guidance from the State, both from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Governor's office. Superintendent Oteri said although not knowing what September looks like causes frustration to families and staff, we must wait on guidance from DESE before solidifying plans to reopen schools in September.

Superintendent Oteri said that on a conference call last week, DESE Commissioner Riley spoke about a number of scenarios and items that will need to be considered for reopening. There will be some draft guidelines for opening of summer school from DESE and by mid-June, DESE will have guidelines on what the fall will look like. Commissioner Riley noted that districts will be responsible for the primary purchase of PPE and urged districts to use the CARES Act money for this, which Malden intends to do. They recommend a three month supply of PPE of disposable masks, nitrile gloves, digital/non-touch thermometers, thermal cameras for larger schools, N95 masks for nurses, disposable gowns, eye protection, face shields, sanitizer and making sure hand washing occurs at 100 degree temperature water. The commissioner believes that students will be expected to provide their own masks and make

it part of their “back to school supply list”, but schools would need to provide disposable ones for those who cannot bring their own, forgot their mask or if a mask gets soiled.

Superintendent Oteri said that at the end of the school year, surveys to parents and staff will be conducted around how many will not come back to school, how many will and what specific concerns there may be. This is highly recommended by the state to help give us a better sense of what our numbers may look like. Commissioner Riley also noted that there may be a “hybrid” approach where half the students will attend one week and half the next. There may also be a component of remote learning. Superintendent Oteri said that all stakeholders will be kept informed as soon as guidelines are received. The district will work with the guidance and stakeholders to make sure the re-entry of students and staff in Malden will be safe.

## **2. District Updates and Highlights**

### **Linden AEAP Program**

Superintendent Oteri said that at the last meeting, the School Committee voted to pause on applications for the program with a focus on equity. The district did not want to be placing students in a program without giving them a full opportunity to demonstrate their readiness for such a program in light of the school closure during the pandemic. Superintendent Oteri will be sending a letter out to the MPS community about the pause in enrollments for the Accelerated and Enriched Academic Program (AEAP), otherwise known as the Gifted program, for the upcoming school year. This would mean not creating a new classroom in Grade 1, and also pausing applications for spots that may become open in the classrooms in grades 2-8 while the future of the program is evaluated over the next school year. Superintendent Oteri clarified that the School Committee voted to not accept new entrants into the program but that the spirit of that vote was for both not creating a new grade 1 classroom as well as not admitting additional students into the upper grade classrooms as well.

### **Chromebook and Hotspot Distribution**

Over 630 Chromebooks were distributed by the end of May. Superintendent Oteri thanked the effort of Ms. Natalia Brennan, Director of Instructional Technology and her team as well as the delivery partnership with Malden Neighbors. They delivered the Chromebooks in a 5 day period in as contact-free as possible. Ms. Brennan and her team also configured and delivered over 100 wifi hotspots for families. Superintendent Oteri said that this was an incredible amount of work and logistics to make sure our families are connected during the remote learning period.

### **MCAS**

There was no MCAS administered this school year. Last week Commissioner Riley gave an update that any 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade student who took and passed a Science class this school year will be given full credit for the MCAS Science graduation requirement. Superintendent Oteri said that this year’s sophomores will make up the MCAS, as for now, in the late fall or early winter of this upcoming school year. Current 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be on track for taking the Science MCAS next year.

### **AP Exams**

Superintendent Oteri announced that the AP exams are completed and congratulated everyone at the Malden High School (MHS) involved in this effort. There were 668 exams ordered, and there are only 136 make up exams to re-order, so 532 students successfully took their exams which is 80% of the AP exams taken this year. The 136 represents both students who had any technical issues, which has been an issue across the country, and students who did not touch their exam at all.

### **Summer Programming**

The district is not anticipating running any programs this summer in person following the advice of Board of Health Director, Mr. Chris Webb. Superintendent Oteri said that several programs will be run virtually including the English Language Education (ELE) Summer Program the Director of ELE, Dr. Endara is finalizing for selected EL students. The MHS Math Summer Enrichment program will run virtually. Superintendent Oteri said that this year, the program will be free of charge and the program will be evaluated with an equity lens for future years. The MHS Summer school will run using the Edmentum Plato program for credit recovery for MHS students in need of credits. Under remote learning, all students will be promoted in the K-8, therefore the middle grades summer program will not run. Superintendent Oteri added that the district will look into Plato for middle grades for supplemental programs.

Extended School Year (ESY) services will be delivered remotely from Monday through Thursday beginning on July 6<sup>th</sup> and ending on August 6<sup>th</sup> due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Superintendent Oteri said that it will be half-day sessions and students will be assigned. The district will be offering all services of the remote service learning plans including academic, speech, PT, OT, and BCBA services. All students K-12 that have ESY services on their IEP's will be scheduled for summer services in this model. Students who are 3 and 4 years old will be offered their services according to their IEP.

Superintendent Oteri said that the Title 1 Summer Enrichment Program will not run this summer. Typically, the majority of the students who attend are incoming Kindergarteners to incoming grade 3. Many of these children need parent support on the computer. The other issue is that the program is not designed for remote learning and the benefits would be minimal. Superintendent Oteri said that it would be putting unnecessary extra stress on caregivers at home. Also, the process of inviting students is very complex and there is not enough time at the moment to do it. The students with the highest needs in literacy and math are invited first. If there is no response, the next higher level students are invited, and so on.

The district recommends that students continue to use i-Ready for literacy, IXL for math, and Imagine Learning for language skills. Superintendent Oteri said that it is best to concentrate on next year. In addition, by not running this program, the district will be able to save 2-3 Title 1 positions for the upcoming year.

The before and after school program will be announcing free weekly programs for six weeks this summer. Superintendent Oteri said that these will be a combination of online and some virtual components. Registration will be open shortly for grades K-5.

### **Summer Reading**

Superintendent Oteri said that teachers will be giving out summer reading assignments to their students during the month of June. The district is working with the K-8 and high school librarians, as well as the Malden Public Library (MPL), to ensure access to the assigned reading materials. Librarians have been working to identify free e-book and audiobook versions of texts, and MPL will be gathering up the materials for summer reading to make sure students have equitable access. The assignments will be posted on the MPS and MPL websites and will be translated into other languages to communicate with families. The assignments are full of student choice. If students can not locate a text there will be other choices available for them to complete the assignment.

Superintendent Oteri said that the expectations for summer reading assignments have been modified. Summer reading assignments will not be due until the end of the first marking period. Students will have the opportunity to complete the assignment at any point during September or October if they were unable to complete it over the summer. The assignment will also not count as a major grade and if students are having trouble completing it, they can speak with their teachers in the fall, and should circumstances dictate, allow the students an alternative assignment or to skip it altogether. Ultimately, the district wants students to read over the summer, but also recognize that sticking to a stricter summer reading program is not possible given the current circumstances.

### **CARES Act**

The district will be submitting an application for the FY 21 CARES Act funding. The money, under the law, has a variety of uses. Superintendent Oteri said that the district will be targeting the purchase of PPE from masks, sanitation equipment, thermometers and other necessary PPE as well as purchasing additional chromebooks in the event that the district might have to do remote learning again.

The law lists 12 allowable uses of the \$13.2 billion in the package's K-12 relief fund and among other things includes Response efforts of schools with state and local health departments; Activities to address the needs of low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, ethnic minorities, homeless students, and foster care youth; Training for staff on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases; Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean school facilities; Providing meals, purchasing technology for online learning and providing other educational services; as well as providing mental health services and supports.

The CARES Act includes an additional \$100 million in grants under Project SERV, which is dedicated to helping school districts and post-secondary institutions recover from “a violent or traumatic event that disrupts learning.” That pot of money can support distance learning, as well as mental health counseling and disinfecting schools.

### **SEL Update**

Superintendent Oteri said that Ms. Erin Craven, Director of Guidance and Mr. Charlie Conefrey, Director of Health, PE, and Athletics provided an update of the SEL and Bullying Prevention. Despite the shutdown due to COVID-19 and the need to pivot to remote learning and all that it entails, they continue to make progress in the area of social-emotional learning and bullying prevention. An online audit was done. Educators were asked to identify any and all programs they currently use in their practice, as well as to provide their thoughts and ideas about what the district might want to explore going forward and best practices to maintain. The survey has been completed with about 30 responses, and as expected, there are many different programs in play, some due to intentional choices that fit individual schools' needs, and others that are a result of changes over the years. The next step is to carve out additional plans that will streamline what is offered. This takes multiple meetings and a process for selecting materials. The work will proceed with guidance from the state about what the future holds.

Among the next steps that Ms. Craven and Mr. Conefrey are working on includes creating an SEL curriculum map (calendar) for the year by grade level depicting specific social-emotional topics to be covered across the district. The plan will be to incorporate SEL lessons across schools to create balance and equity. Bullying prevention and intervention awareness will be developed and incorporated into all schools across the district during October's Bullying Prevention Month. Bullying units/lessons will be taught using the MARC curriculum, as usual, in all health classes K-12. An alternate plan or hybrid plan for remote learning/virtual lessons is in the works focusing on creating an online/virtual experience that is visually pleasing to garner attention, increase participation in remote learning, and ease of use. Bullying Prevention and Intervention Training for ALL MPS staff via an online module is also being planned. SEL / Bullying Prevention will remain a topic that will be addressed in the New Educator Induction program. Mr. Conefrey presented two sessions this year so that 80 plus educators could begin to build their understanding in this area. There will also be additional Professional Development through grant funding focusing on identity, cultural proficiency, and supporting students in a post-COVID 19 context.

All of the K-8 schools are already part of or have applied to DESE-sponsored academies related to SEL. Forestdale is entering Year 2 of MTSS/SEL Academy and has just applied for Inclusive Practices Academy. Beebe and Ferryway are entering Year 2 of PBIS Academy. Salemwood just applied for PBIS Academy. Linden just applied for MTSS/SEL Academy. All K-8 schools have teams that participated in district-wide PBIS training during 2019-2020.

### **PD from TNTP**

The Malden Public Schools has been working closely with The New Teacher Project (TNTP) to deliver professional development focused on cultural competency as it relates to the classroom practice and closing the achievement gap. Superintendent Oteri said that despite not being together in the schools, TNTP is offering PD for MPS educators. The work in the upcoming two sessions is directly related to re-entry and what it looks like in terms of student progress and achievement. TNTP has published a handbook of sorts related to all things re-entry as tied to teaching and learning.

### **Housing Families**

Housing Families was able to complete 6 out of 9 Saturday School sessions before the school closure. Superintendent Oteri said that they are able to complete the remaining three Saturday sessions with students in a virtual platform. Families will be contacted to let them know about the remaining sessions of the program. Housing Families staff will deliver kits to families such as STEM materials or arts and crafts materials so that kids have all the materials they need to join the live online session.

### **Eureka Math / MyMath Update**

Superintendent Oteri said that the district has been using MyMath by McGraw Hill for the past four years. Knowing that the contract was in a yearly renewal stage, Director of STEM Dr. Dias worked with coaches to examine MyMath in relation to other materials that are more rigorous and more closely aligned to the state standards. Their study led to Eureka Math, which was piloted by 22 teachers in grades K-5 this year to rave reviews. In order to move forward in a thoughtful way that is fiscally responsible, sensitive to teachers' capacity, and equitable in terms of access to rigorous material for all students, Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee in order to gather feedback as the district plans next steps.

In summary, a survey of teachers showed a very strong desire to move to Eureka, with a few responses indicating being a little hesitant due to the fluid situation we are in. Eureka is more expensive because of the initial start up, but funds from this year would be available to support the expanded pilot. Rather than expanding the pilot to all grade levels, Superintendent Oteri said that it would be scaled back to two/three grade levels, while paying a reduced cost for MyMath for remaining grade levels. As funds allow, the district would strategically phase out MyMath and bring in Eureka in the remaining grade levels. To sustain the program for next school year, the district would make a case for using ESSR/CARES Act funds and this spending would be contingent on grant approval, which the district will know prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> if the application is submitted by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

In conclusion, Superintendent Oteri said that the district needs math materials, regardless of which vendor provides them. The funds would not be coming from lines that could otherwise be used for teachers. The cost for MyMath is already a yearly item in the operating budget. Superintendent Oteri continued that any change right now is a challenge, but believes that the online component of Eureka will actually ease the burden on teachers. The district would not propose moving forward if there was not an overwhelming endorsement from the initial pilot teachers and positive survey results. The message from central office and principals is that students need updated, rigorous materials to help them meet the demands not only of high stakes testing, but also of the changing world around them.

### **WestED Math**

WestED is working with SSoS (from DESE) to review middle school math and align it to the curriculum. Superintendent Oteri said that this is paid for by the state at the cost of \$20,000. Dr. Dias is overseeing this with some of the middle grades math educators.





### **ST MATH**

DESE approached us last week about a free opportunity to take part in a unique Math Program called ST Math (spatial temporal math). ST Math is run by a MIND Nonprofit named Mind Research Institute working to ensure that all students are mathematically equipped to solve the world's most challenging problem. It is a PreK-8 visual/instructional math program that leverages the brain's unique spatial temporal reasoning to solve math problems. This is especially helpful for EL students as the program is not very language dependent. The district applied for the program and will find out in a few days if accepted. This is a program that has virtually no language but teaches math concepts. It is a gamification of math using a penguin which completes tasks. This would be piloted at some grades as a supplemental piece, not in place of the actual curriculum. ST Math is used by over 800,000 students nationwide with great success. Superintendent Oteri will keep the School Committee informed about the application status.

### **Museum of Science**

Superintendent Oteri said that last year, in the name of learning and equity, all grade 3 and 4 teachers attended a grant-funded full-day STEM training at the Museum. This year, the goal was to continue this trend by sending all grade 5 teachers to STEM training on March 13<sup>th</sup>. As this was not possible, Dr. Dias, STEM Director, worked with the team at the Museum on ways to equitably provide quality STEM learning opportunities to students. The result has been an Engineering is Elementary (EiE) kit for students that can be used at home or in the classroom. EiE is an award-winning research-based, hands-on engineering curricula created by the Museum that introduces learners to the engineering design process and creates a generation of problem solvers. There is sufficient grant funding to provide all grade 6-8 students with these EiE kits as well as teacher training for the next school year. This equitable STEM learning and training opportunity could not be possible without the strong collaboration established between Malden and the Museum.

### **Pisa Pizza Donations**

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, Pisa Pizza donated almost 200 pizza kits to selected PreK-2 students and families as well as to the food service workers and custodians. This was an effort initiated by Mr. Joe Crowley, the very generous community partner and owner of Pisa Pizza. Mr. Kevin Duffy of the Mayor's office worked with Triangle, Inc. to have the kits delivered to the students and Superintendent Oteri delivered to the school personnel. Superintendent Oteri expressed gratitude to Mr. Crowley and Pisa for their continued support of MPS.

### **MHS Graduation, Parade and Cap/Gown Distribution**

MHS Cap & Gown and "Senior Swag" were distributed on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, yearbooks did not arrive on time and will be distributed at a later time. Superintendent Oteri said that MHS Graduation is planned for late July or early August. It will be modified with six foot distancing, two tickets per graduate and limited audience on stage. Superintendent Oteri will notify the School Committee when a date is selected and a final approval is received from the Board of Health.

The graduation parade was held on May 31<sup>st</sup>, with teams of MHS educators going to all 8 wards and driving by the graduates' homes. Superintendent Oteri thanked Mr. Stephen Freker who helped coordinate this great effort by mapping out the entire route, ward by ward. Superintendent Oteri also thanked Principal Mastrangelo and all staff who helped out as well as the over 70 staff who came out to ride through Malden.

### **MHS Athletics**

Superintendent Oteri congratulated the male and female Student Athletes of the Year who are recipients of \$1,000 scholarships, **Angelina Schorr** (Brown University) 4.8 GPA and **Omar Asousy** (University of Southern California) 4.3 GPA. Superintendent Oteri also congratulated all the students who received scholarships from the Golden Tornado Club Scholarship Foundation.

### **Last Day of School**

The last day of school is Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> in line with DESE's guidelines that school need not extend school beyond the 185<sup>th</sup> day. Superintendent Oteri wished all the students a happy summer despite the current situation. Superintendent Oteri thanked Batoul Chouiki, School Committee Student Representative and wished her as well as all the Malden High School seniors good luck as they venture out into the world. As for all the other Malden Public School students including the Grade 8 and ELC students who missed out on moving-up ceremonies, Superintendent Oteri was very proud of them for showing resilience and continuing to do their best while facing recent changes. Superintendent Oteri said that the district will be doing some form of celebration for them as well and looks forward to welcoming them back into class next school year.

As for the teachers, staff and administrators, Superintendent Oteri said that they rose to the challenge and did whatever was needed to serve the students of MPS. MPS could not have pulled off this remote learning while keeping all the crucial school and central office operations running during this pandemic without everyone. Superintendent Oteri said that he is humbled and honored to work alongside each and everyone.

Mr. Weldai referenced what Superintendent Oteri said about the spirit of the AEAP program vote made by the School Committee at the last meeting and said that he supported that the vote included postponing enrollment for 2020-2021 for Grades 2 -8 as well as Grade 1. Ms. Spadafora said the vote at the last meeting only mentioned Grade 1 and that there was no indication that the vote would also extend to the postponement of enrollment for the other grades. Ms. Weldai apologized that the motion made at the last meeting was not clear. Ms. Spadafora said that with this clarification, it looks like Option 2 is being selected which is to postpone the enrollment of new students to Grades 1-8 in the AEAP program for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Weldai agreed that it is Option 2. In response to Ms. Luong's question as to how many empty slots are available in Grades 2-8, Assistant Superintendent Chase responded that it is usually only 1 or 2 slots for the lower grades but for the middle school grades, it is a larger number due to attrition. Assistant Superintendent Chase added that applications from around the district for the AEAP program for the upper grades are very few if at all and normally what is done at Linden to balance out class sizes is that a number of students from the other classes in Linden

will be placed into the AEAP classes. Mr. Weldai made the motion to clarify that the motion made at the last meeting was to postpone the enrollment of Grades 1-8 new students into the AEAP program for the 2020-2021 school year while the program is reviewed. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Weldai thanked the Superintendent Oteri and Assistant Superintendent Chase for being able to run the high school summer math program free-of-charge and hoped that this will help with equity going forward. In response to Mr. Weldai's question about having more mental health support personnel for students who might need them when they come back to school, Superintendent Oteri said that the funds from the CARES Act cannot be directly used for salaries for school personnel but it can supplement. Superintendent Oteri added that the funds could probably be used for areas such as tutoring or contracted services. Ms. Spadafora thanked Superintendent Oteri for establishing the Re-Entry Task Force and asked if more parents and members who have expertise in different areas could be added. Superintendent Oteri said that more parents can be added and that some of the members already on the task force have experience in many other areas outside their present job position. Superintendent Oteri added that it is also important that the task force be not too large. In response to Ms. Spadafora's question, Assistant Superintendent Chase said that the survey administered by Ms. Erin Craven, Director of Guidance and Mr. Charlie Conefrey, Director of Health, PE, and Athletics about an audit on social emotional programs received only 30 responses because it was directed to personnel like school social workers and guidance counselors who utilize the particular curriculum.

### **Subcommittee Reports/Discussions**

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

Mr. Iovino said that there are 6,697 students enrolled as of May 29<sup>th</sup> and this figure is only 3 students fewer compared to the enrollment last year at the same time. Mr. Iovino added that the enrollment numbers are stable. As for the ELC, Mr. Iovino said that work is continuing on how to cope with the growing number of students and the space issue but no decisions can be made without guidance from DESE.

**2. Policy and Procedures Subcommittee – Mr. Weldai**

Mr. Weldai said the subcommittee met on May 21<sup>st</sup> and that many of the items discussed at the meeting was covered in the Superintendent's updates. Mr. Weldai added that the bullying prevention and intervention policy was also discussed.

**3. Budget Subcommittee – Ms. Spadafora**

Ms. Spadafora thanked the subcommittee members, city and school officials who have been working on the budget and meeting weekly since May 4<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Spadafora added that the state delegates who were invited to one of the meetings were not able to provide much information from the state level because nothing has been finalized yet. Ms. Spadafora said that the subcommittee has been reviewing the different scenarios presented by Superintendent Oteri and Business Manager Ms. Toni Mertz, and will be meeting the following week to continue with this effort. June 22<sup>nd</sup> was identified as the date to have the public budget hearing. Ms.

Spadafora said that the subcommittee might be meeting again in August and September to work on the budget if anything changes.

### **Motions and Resolutions**

**1. Reaffirming Tolerance and Expressing Solidarity with the People of Chinese or Asian Descent Resolution – Mr. Weldai**

**Co-Sponsored by Mayor Christenson, Mr. Iovino, Mr. Drummey, Mr. McCarthy Jr., Ms. Spadafora, Mr. Gray, Ms. Luong and Mr. Froio**

Mr. Weldai said that this resolution is jointly sponsored by all in the School Committee. Mr. Weldai said the resolution was the result of trying to do something immediately to show support and solidarity with some of the community who are struggling in different ways. Mr. Weldai thanked Ms. Luong who highlighted this matter. Mr. Weldai added that the City Council also voted on a similar resolution. Mr. Weldai said that work on the resolution started a week before the meeting and at that time, it was not apparent that a resolution that denounces hate based on race, religion, etc. and emphasize Black Lives Matter would be very much needed. Mr. Weldai made the motion to adopt the Reaffirming Tolerance and Expressing Solidarity with the People of Chinese or Asian Descent Resolution. Ms. Luong seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

**2. Bullying and Harassment Prevention Task Force – Mr. Weldai**

Mr. Weldai said Ms. Luong has started to look into having a Bullying and Harassment Prevention Task Force and has been in consultation with Assistant Superintendent Chase, Ms. Erin Craven, Director of Guidance and Mr. Charlie Conefrey, Director of Health, PE, and Athletics. Ms. Luong said that the hope is that the district can look together at the policy and identify parts of the policy that can be very confusing for the diverse community. Ms. Luong added that parents need to be made aware about social emotional, sexual harassment prevention and bullying prevention aspects so that they can make informed decisions and know what steps to take. Ms. Luong added that every school, grade and teacher need to be doing exactly the same thing when it comes to these matters to promote equity. Ms. Luong continued that the task force should revisit this matter annually and audits should also be done annually. Ms. Luong said that the task force should begin next year on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Weldai made the motion to establish a Bullying and Harassment Prevention Task Force and nominate Ms. Luong as liaison. Mr. Iovino seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Resolution in Support of Education Funding in the COVID-19 Era – Mr. Iovino**

Mr. Iovino said education requires proper funding. Mr. Iovino continued that the resolution among other things supports the passage of the New Deal-level funding legislation at the federal level, requests the governor to properly fund education from PreK to higher education, and requires that the Student Opportunity Act be fully funded. Mr. Iovino added that the resolution also states that the city should maintain its commitment to fund public schools to the highest degree possible, and should the HEROES Act pass and should the Massachusetts Legislature and Governor Charlie Baker fully fund the first year of the Student Opportunity Act, the city will enthusiastically fully fund public education. Mr. Iovino made the motion to adopt the Resolution in Support of Education Funding in the COVID-19 Era. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

**4. Ferryway School ELT Grant – Ms. Spadafora**

Ms. Spadafora said that a vote was taken and passed unanimously at the last Budget Subcommittee meeting not to pursue Extended Learning Time (ELT) program at Ferryway School. As of now, the grant only provides \$272,000 as opposed to over \$1 million that is needed to operate the ELT program. Ms. Spadafora said that if this is also voted by the School Committee, there will be equity among the schools in terms of start and end times. In response to Ms. Luong’s question, Superintendent Oteri said that there is a deadline to apply for the grant and all indications point to the fact that the Governor’s budget will not be able to fund this program. Superintendent Oteri added that the district pays \$1.25 million on top of the ELT grant to run this program. Mr. Weldai said that in his conversations with Business Manager Ms. Toni Mertz, he was informed that the 15% differentials paid to the staff at Ferryway is a lot higher than other neighboring districts that pay between 8-9%. The budget will not be able to accommodate this expense. Ms. Spadafora made a motion to not pursue the ELT grant for Ferryway School for 2020-2021. Mr. Iovino seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously. Mayor Christenson requested Superintendent Oteri to inform the Ferryway community.

**5. Food Service Management/Contract – Ms. Spadafora**

Ms. Spadafora said that at last meeting, the School Committee voted unanimously to let authorize the district to begin negotiations with Whitsons food service to extend the contract by one year. The one year contract is now ready and has been reviewed by Attorney Greenspan. Ms. Spadafora added that there is a 3.2% increase in cost for food service. Attorney Greenspan said that the federal government because of COVID-19 passed a regulation to allow school districts to extend the current food service contract for one year without putting out a request for proposal. Ms. Spadafora made the motion to accept the new food service contract for 2020-2021. Mr. Iovino seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

**Personal Privilege**

**Executive Session**

Mr. Iovino made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:47 p.m. Ms. Spadafora seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey voted YES

Mr. Froio voted YES

Mr. Gray voted YES

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 unanimously.

The committee reconvened to the Regular Session at 8:31 p.m.

Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the Unit C Memorandum of Understanding for a 3% salary increase for the 2019-2020 school year. Ms. Spadafora seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey RECUSED

Mr. Froio voted YES

Mr. Gray voted YES

Mr. Iovino voted YES

Ms. Luong voted YES

Mr. McCarthy RECUSED

Ms. Spadafora voted YES

Mr. Weldai voted YES

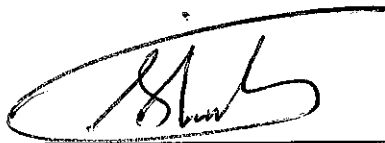
Mayor Christenson voted YES

Motion passed with 7 votes in favor and 2 recusals.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Iovino made a motion to adjourn at 8:33p.m. Mr. Drummey seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

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', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Shirley Dorai, Clerk