

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION  
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Monday, May 4, 2020  
Online Meeting

Mayor Christenson called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Mayor Christenson announced that the next School Committee meeting would be on Monday, June 1, 2020. Mayor Christenson said that the meeting will begin in honor of teacher appreciation week.

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 if available, a public broadcast of the meeting by Malden Access Cable Television on public access television channels. 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](http://cityofmalden.org) as soon as practicable after this meeting."

Mayor Christenson said that anyone who wished to participate in the "Public Comment" part of the meeting could do so by entering the Zoom meeting link and clicking on the "Q & A" button and then click "Ask Question". Mayor Christenson continued that members of the public would then need to enter their name and home address for the record in the question box. This will give a time stamped notice that a member of the public wants to speak and in the "Public Comment" section of the meeting. The person will be called upon to speak in the order that the request was received. When it is time to speak, Mr. Ron Cochran, Director of Communications will announce the name and address of the person before unmuting the line for the person to speak.

Mayor Christenson added that members of the public who were unable to participate in the Zoom call were asked to email or call ahead of time. Mayor Christenson said no emails or calls were received for 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.

**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. Weldai                     | 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 April 6, 2020 Regular Session of the School Committee. Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Froio seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Spadafora made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 6<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, President of the Malden Education Association (MEA) and the East Region Director of the National Council of Urban Education Associations  
Ms. Gesualdo recognized national teacher appreciation week. Ms. Gesualdo commended the selfless work that Malden Public Schools employees are doing during this situation.

Ms. Dawn Marie O'Toole, 130 Adams Street, Malden  
Ms. O'Toole asked whether high school and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students would receive a yearbook. Superintendent Oteri responded that work on the yearbooks for the high schoolers is going ahead. Superintendent Oteri said he would check on the yearbooks for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Ms. Dawn Macklin – 36 Darmouth Street, Malden  
Ms. Macklin asked if provisions are being made for special needs students who are struggling with remote learning. Superintendent Oteri said that this matter is being negotiated with the MEA.

Ms. Sandy Sullivan – 22 Rand Street, Malden  
Ms. Sullivan, a paraprofessional at the Early Learning Center (ELC) asked about the status of the paraprofessional contract. Mayor Christenson said that the item is on the docket for the evening and that the administration of the MEA President will provide more information on the status once information is available.

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### **1. Remote Learning Plan Survey Update**

Superintendent Oteri spoke about the remote learning plan survey results as of April 24<sup>th</sup> which had 341 responses including translations done in Chinese, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Spanish, and Arabic. There were no responses for Vietnamese and Amharic. Superintendent Oteri said that the survey which was open through April 30<sup>th</sup> will help to inform the Remote Learning Plan

going forward. Superintendent Oteri continued that an update will be provided once all the survey responses are compiled and analyzed.

As for Chromebooks distribution, Superintendent Oteri said that over 500 requests have been received for the final round of Chromebooks delivery. This number combined with the 756 Chromebooks distributed in April and the 1,800 Chromebooks already with Malden High School (MHS) students, will bring the total number of Chromebooks in students' hands to over 3,000. Superintendent Oteri thanked Ms. Kit Bridge and volunteers from Malden Neighbors Helping Neighbors, who will be delivering the Chromebooks from May 7-12. Originally, delivery was only scheduled for 5 days but May 12<sup>th</sup> was added as a sixth day. Superintendent Oteri said that the first priority was to give Chromebooks to families who lacked a device. This next round is meant to get a device in the hands of those families who may have missed the initial request and then to a family that needs an additional Chromebook. Superintendent Oteri continued that priority will be given to families without a device.

Superintendent Oteri said building principles compiled a list of 91 families who lacked internet access. To help these families, Superintendent Oteri said that hotspots were ordered and that they will be receiving them soon. Superintendent Oteri said that this will help with equity and access throughout the district.

**2. Special Needs Remote Learning Plan, IEP and 504 Re-Evaluation Plan and, Service Gap Plan Update**

Superintendent Oteri stated that the Malden Public Schools (MPS) Special Education Remote Learning Plan states that Special Educators, along with general educators, are responsible for delivery of "Free Appropriate Public Education" (FAPE) during this remote learning period. Each special educator is responsible for reviewing the IEP and contributing to the individualized remote learning plan for their students. The recommended plan will be sent to parents in the form of an N1.

Students are expected to participate in these services if possible, and will be provided with credit on a credit/no credit basis. The students will be provided with his/her special education services through the remote learning opportunities to the best of the District's abilities. The student's IEP and 504 plan accommodations will be adhered to by the special education teacher in terms of goals and accommodations. Ancillary services will be provided through activities to families and guardians by means of their special education teacher or student support teachers. These may be provided individually, small group or whole group as the teachers and therapists believe to be most effective in this environment.

Per updated federal and state-level special education guidance, IEP meetings will be conducted in order to maintain adherence to timelines/deadlines. Meetings will be held remotely, with consent from parents that are currently scheduled. This plan will be reviewed continuously through May 4<sup>th</sup> and updates will be made in the event the Massachusetts Department of

Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), School Committee, District Administration or the USDE requires changes.

**3. SEL and Sandy Hook's Say Something Bullying Prevention Update**

Superintendent Oteri said that Guidance Director, Ms. Erin Craven and Physical Education, Health and Athletics Director, Mr. Charlie Conefrey were unable to meet with all of the MPS counselors, social workers, Health and PE teachers for the planned social emotional learning professional development on March 13<sup>th</sup>. This was to be the planned discussion time for Sandy Hook "Say Something" program.

Director Conefrey and Craven are working on creating and distributing a survey virtually, to all of the above-listed parties, to accurately capture the social-emotional learning and curriculums already implemented in MPS. An update will be provided once the survey has been administered and responses analyzed.

Specific to the "Say Something" program through the Sandy Hook Foundation, Director Craven has discussed and shared the info with the School Guidance counselors in grades 6-12 to have all of the 6-12 counselors trained on the "Say Something" program by the end of this school year as well as to plan a Fall lesson/presentation at both the middle school and 9<sup>th</sup> grade levels. Superintendent Oteri said that given the uncertainty of the time and the abruptness to this global pandemic taking hold, no further concrete plans have yet been made. The School Committee will be provided with updates when they become available.

Superintendent Oteri said that throughout the closure, the social emotional needs of students and families have been paramount. School adjustment counselors, school psychologists and guidance counselors have been making themselves available to students on request by teacher, principal, or family and through their IEP or 504 plan through one to one phone calls, emails, Google Meets, or Google Classroom. The level of contact is based on priority of need, and the plan in place.

All school guidance counselors and school adjustment counselors have regular office hours every week for all students to engage with their counselors regarding specific questions, to say hello, or set up another time to meet. Superintendent Oteri continued that all 6 – 12 grade counselors have Google Classrooms and/or weekly newsletters set up now as a familiar platform to reach out to students, support them in a multitude of ways, and to share simple strategies for being well. Many counselors also have small group/lunch bunches happening at all grade levels for students. Since the first week away from school, the counselors have provided a robust list of sites/organizations for students and families to utilize depending on their unique needs, located on the MPS Enrichment Site, within each grade level area.

In case of social/emotional issues popping up unexpectedly in virtual classroom settings, Superintendent Oteri said that there is a district-wide procedure in place for teachers to follow,

to ensure the immediate well-being of our students. MPS also have been engaged with Eliot Services for students who may need ongoing family resources.

**4. Dyslexia Kindergarten Testing Rollout for July Update**

Superintendent Oteri said that Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Michael Wood and his team will proceed with a new DIBELS assessment for K-8 as the Dyslexia Screening tool. MPS already uses an older version of the DIBELS that serves as a compliment to the literacy program that enables teachers to use the data in planning instruction and monitoring progress. This new assessment will be ready to be used for Kindergarten Screening once school re-opens. Literacy and Title I Director, Mrs. Raymond will train teachers as necessary for the implementation. The next phase of work is to decide literacy programs and strategies to use when students fall below benchmark.

**5. CARES Act Update**

Superintendent Oteri said that the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Superintendent Oteri continued that MPS will be working with the State Delegation and DESE to see what programs or funding will be available to the district through the various federal programs, including the CARES Act. As of now, it appears that there might be some good news under the CARES Act in the form of potential eligibility in proportion to the district's Title I funding. Superintendent Oteri cautioned that nothing has been finalized but the district is optimistic that with the myriad of programs available, there will be opportunity to secure additional funding. Superintendent Oteri will keep the School Committee updated on this matter. Superintendent Oteri continued that the potential funding is very flexible in how it can be used.

**6. MHS Senior Graduation/Prom Update**

Superintendent Oteri said that the administration of MHS has been in constant contact with Central Office around these events. MHS aims to make every effort to honor traditions. Many adjustments will be made to assure that the safety of all attending remains the highest priority.

Superintendent Oteri continued that the May 31<sup>st</sup> graduation ceremony will be rescheduled for early August. This ceremony will comply with local, state, and federal mandates around restrictions and social distancing guidelines. If the mandates do not allow for large gatherings at this date, a new date will be discussed or an alternative plan. Superintendent Oteri said that if graduations occurs at Macdonald Stadium, procedures such as limiting attendees and other protocols would be implemented. The event is planned to be live streamed on Facebook and recorded by MATV.

Superintendent Oteri said that the MHS Scholarship/Awards night that is usually scheduled on the last week of May at the Jenkins auditorium has been a tradition where the partnership with the community is showcased and honored as many people have scholarships endowed in memory of loved ones. Superintendent Oteri continued that although this ceremony will be

cancelled this year, the awards and scholarships will still be distributed and the generosity of the donors will be acknowledged in the form of a press release published locally listing the scholarship, donor and recipient.

The MHS National Honor Society (NHS) Induction Ceremony, is another event typically held in the Jenkins Auditorium with student testimonials read aloud, on the same week as the Scholarship/Awards night. Superintendent Oteri said that this event will be in the form of a video that highlight the testimonials as well as key moments of the NHS ceremony.

This year's senior prom which was scheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Danversport Yacht Club has been cancelled. Danversport provided very few dates, mostly at the end of the summer, to reschedule. Superintendent Oteri said that although MHS is still investigating possible dates for the prom at Danversport, MHS can also host the event at the courtyard, gallery, and gym. This plan would allow the students to come back to MHS for one more night. The class of 2020 has raised sufficient funds during their time at the school which would allow the prom to be free of charge, as all expenses would be covered. This event could also serve as a "Community Event."

Superintendent Oteri said that the Senior Cookout will be postponed with the hope that an "End of the Summer" celebration could be held before the Class of 2020 heads off to the next chapter of their lives.

The principals at the K-8 schools are working collaboratively to celebrate 8<sup>th</sup> graders who will be moving up to high school next year. Superintendent Oteri added that the ELC principal is also working on something for the PreK students who are moving-up.

## **7. District Updates and Highlights**

Superintendent Oteri said that new guidance for the remote learning experience was released late last Friday and includes guidance as well as a series of prerequisite standards to be addressed during this time. Superintendent Oteri continued that the current learning plan is being revised, but most of what is in the new guidance is already being addressed by educators in Malden. This will be finalized upon discussion with the MEA by next week. Superintendent Oteri said that in this situation, everything is constantly evolving and the district is keeping up with it as best as possible.

Superintendent Oteri emphasized that unlike other districts, MPS directors and their teams of teachers stay one week ahead. They meet throughout the week and develop lessons and activities that are aligned to the standards. These activities are then shared in a weekly update. Educators can then use the links to craft their weekly plan and share with students and their families. This ensures that teachers across the district are in sync, addressing the same standards and using many of the same activities.

Superintendent Oteri spoke about recommendations for grading that the schools are going to implement based on DESE's advice and called upon Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kelly Chase, MHS Principal Mr. Chris Mastrangelo and Director of Guidance, Ms. Erin Craven to explain the grading for the remote learning plan.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kelly Chase said that the approach to grading in this circumstance articulates how students are engaging with remote learning. It is based on whether the student has access to the remote learning and whether the district can adjust that with standards so that some kind of assessment can be given to students when they come back to school to gauge what they had worked on while not being physically present in school. This will help the school to meet students at their level and go forward. Dr. Chase continued that for grades K-8, terms 3 and 4 will be combined and the grading which will be used is P for "Complete" and I for "Incomplete". Dr. Chase said that the grade of Incomplete is not a punitive measure but rather an indicator for teacher and administrators to how best serve the needs of the student. Dr. Chase said that this is subject to change according to what new guidelines might be received in the coming weeks. For the PreK students who typically receive a report on assessments around January and another at the end of the year, Dr. Chase said that they will not be receiving the end of year report. This will be substituted with the Kindergarten screening and assessments once the students are back in the classroom. Dr. Chase that there is also a special education component.

MHS Principal Mr. Mastrangelo said that for MHS students, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter will be combined and assignments will be graded P for "Complete" and I for "Incomplete". Mr. Mastrangelo also explained how teachers and administrators reach out to students and help them to complete the work. Seniors who are in danger of not graduating had already been identified and steps were put in place in the second and third quarters.

Mr. Mastrangelo said the grade from the combined 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters will be calculated with the grades from quarters 1, 2 and the mid-year exam to determine the final grade for this school year. There will be no final graded exams this year. Mr. Mastrangelo said that the combined 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter grade is either Pass or Fail and in the best interest of all students, Pass is 100% and Fail is 59%. The student's GPA will be calculated from grades received during quarter one and quarter two.

Director of Guidance, Ms. Erin Craven said that the grades from quarters 1 and 2 will be on the students' official transcript for the year and "Covid-19" will be noted on the student's official transcript. Ms. Craven said that grade point averages will be calculated this way. Ms. Craven added that colleges and universities have always been recalculating grade point averages and will take into account this situation.

Mr. Mastrangelo added that the early August graduation that has been tentatively planned will coincide with the summer school graduation which will give these students a chance to be part of the graduation ceremony.

Superintendent Oteri said that the district is currently using MyMath by McGraw Hill, and has been doing so for the past four years. The contract with them is now up. 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, more current 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. Right before the closure, Dr. Dias had set up a training for all K-5 teachers to explore the program. Superintendent Oteri added that the district is looking to expand this pilot, knowing that we must balance our need to increase access and rigor with a sensitivity to teachers and students as they re-enter the world of school. Superintendent Oteri said that there will be discussions in the coming weeks to see what the budget allows, get feedback from stakeholders, and carve out a plan to move forward.

During the pandemic, the district posted numerous messages on Twitter and used ConnectEd to alert families to apply for DTA and become eligible for SNAP. Superintendent Oteri said that the district worked with state delegation to get the message out to our families as well.

Since the PIC is physically closed, Superintendent Oteri said that the district was able to adjust and put Kindergarten registration online this week. Through the work of Ms. Joan Federico, PIC Manager and Mr. Kenny Tran, Database Manager, a Google form was developed for Kindergarten registration online. Superintendent Oteri added that in order to register, the parent/guardian will need a gmail account as well as other required documents that will have to be uploaded.

Superintendent said that the last District Visioning Team meeting was held on March 12<sup>th</sup> with the Administrative team. Consultant, Dr. Likis is synthesizing the material and input. Superintendent Oteri added that it is essentially done, and that they are working with the team on some outcomes. It is a draft form right now. Superintendent Oteri has directed Principals to use the draft of the District Improvement Plan as a guide for a 2-page overview of the School Improvement Plans.

Superintendent Oteri said that on the December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 School Committee meeting, the School Committee adopted the revised Homeless Students Transportation Policy that states among other things that homeless students within the district will receive comparable transportation as with other students in the district. This will take into effect starting from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Superintendent Oteri will be sending a letter shortly to go out to all the families that will be affected by this change.



If September 14<sup>th</sup> is declared a State Holiday, depending on DESE and the Legislature, Superintendent Oteri said that the school calendar will be adjusted and brought to School Committee for approval. September 14<sup>th</sup> is tentatively scheduled as the day of the running of the Boston Marathon as of now.

As of now, Superintendent Oteri said that the status of summer school is uncertain. It will depend on local and state restrictions as well as guidance from DESE. Regarding the reopening of schools, DESE is looking at multiple possibilities of a reopening in the fall. Superintendent Oteri will be convening a Re-Entry Task Force or Committee in the next few weeks. Superintendent Oteri said that safety will be paramount in considering any decision.

Superintendent Oteri said that today is the beginning of Teacher Appreciation Week. Teaching has never been an easy job, and these past weeks have posed incredible challenges. Teachers' work matters more than ever to students, families, and each other. Superintendent Oteri said that he is honored and humbled to be part of a district where educators give their best every day, going above and beyond to give the powerful gift of an excellent education to every single child in the district.

Superintendent Oteri said that the month of May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, and this year, it holds additional significance to the members of the community which this month celebrates. Asian American and Pacific Americans have faced bias, bigotry, and hate because of their culture and ethnicity. Superintendent Oteri said that it is important to recognize the overwhelming challenges being faced by all people of color, being disproportionately affected by this pandemic. Superintendent Oteri entreated everyone to continue providing support to students and their families, particularly students and families of color.

May 1<sup>st</sup> was Principals Day as well as School Lunch Hero Day. Superintendent Oteri commended the work and dedication of the seven principals at MPS as well as the food service staff who have been tirelessly serving the students of Malden.

Superintendent Oteri also thanked all the administrators, educators and staff of MPS. Although physically distant, they are socially and emotionally present in students and families lives, working diligently in coordinating efforts behind the scenes as well as reaching out to students and families. Superintendent Oteri commended the work of food service providers, Director of Information Technology, Ms. Natalia Brennan and her team, business office staff who continue to keep MPS operational, and Executive Assistant and School Committee Clerk, Ms. Shirley Dorai who works with a variety of media and coordinating between members and administration. On behalf of the City of Malden and the Malden Public Schools, Superintendent Oteri expressed appreciation for all that everyone has been doing.

Superintendent Oteri also acknowledged that this marks the beginning of the month of Ramadan observed by Muslims and that all staff are aware of any adjustments that need to be made for students.

In response to Mayor Christenson, Student Representative Chouiki said that she is grateful to know that effort is being made to host the graduation and prom as well as clarification regarding GPA and transcripts. Student Representative Chouiki continued that the other students feel the same because they know that the district is doing the best that they can in this circumstance. Mayor Christenson described the seniors as being resilient.

In response to Ms. Spadafora, Superintendent Oteri said that the each hotspot cost \$62 after discount and that the cost could be funded by the potential allocations received from the CARES Act or other programs from the state. Superintendent Oteri said that for now, the money was taken from the budget because of the immediate need. In response to Ms. Spadafora's question on Chromebooks, Superintendent Oteri said that there are still some older Chromebooks available but formatting them for remote use will be labor intensive and it is hoped that all families who need the Chromebooks have already requested and received one, with this second and final round of distribution. Principal Mastrangelo responded to Ms. Spadafora that the Pathways students also are on the field during graduation and that the Pathways graduation ceremony will probably be folded into the graduation on the field because of current restrictions or it might be held outside similar to the senior cookout. Ms. Spadafora said that the schools should work hard on having the Pathways graduation ceremony and Principal Mastrangelo said that all effort will be made to do so while abiding with safety guidelines.

In response to Mr. Weldai, Superintendent Oteri said that during the 1<sup>st</sup> round of Chromebooks distribution, some requests were turned down because priority was given to those families that didn't have any device but during the 2<sup>nd</sup> round, no requests were turned down. Superintendent Oteri said that all 91 families who requested the hotspots will receive it and that he will check if the hotspots have any kind of monthly or annual fee. Mr. Gray said that hotspots purchased under educational contracts normally have a flat rate with unlimited usage and students will not have to work about any associated paperwork.

In response to Ms. Luong, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Michael Wood said that dyslexia screenings are done at the beginning of the year and at the end of the year for every student. Mr. Wood added that there will be progress monitoring throughout the year for students who are identified as having dyslexia concerns. In response to Ms. Luong, Mr. Wood said that Dibels was chosen as a screening tool partly because it is recommended by DESE as well as the quality and expediency since the district has already been using Dibels.

In response to Mayor Christenson, Superintendent Oteri said that there were many positive responses for the remote learning plan survey. As for why the dyslexia testing for Kindergarten

is being administered now, Superintendent responded that it is a new requirement from DESE. In response to Mayor Christenson, Principal Mastrangelo said that any outstanding work prior to March 12 will not have to be made up.

In response to Ms. Spadafora, asked about connection stats, Director of Guidance, Ms. Craven said that there is a system to track students and different levels of staff are involved with tracking at each level. Ms. Craven added that every effort is made to contact every student and only 1% of high schoolers were not able to be contacted. Superintendent Oteri added that the connection rate that MPS has had with students is remarkable even when compared to other districts. Ms. Spadafora asked if assignments that are to be completed every week can be completed by the end of the quarter instead in order to accommodate the needs of families. Mr. Mastrangelo said that leaving it until the very end will be a daunting task for teachers and students as they will be racing against time to finish the incomplete work. Mr. Mastrangelo added that teachers regularly reach out to students with incomplete work to help them finish it. Superintendent Oteri said that the remote learning plan is very flexible to help alleviate stress for students and families.

Ms. Luong said that parents with special needs students are concerned about services that are not offered. Ms. Luong said that there seems to be inconsistencies in the delivery of services between students. Ms. Luong recognized the effort made by the staff in this situation but wanted to know how the educational gaps for the special needs students will be addressed. Superintendent Oteri said that the district is working on communication with families and is working on a FAQ page that will address these concerns. In response to Mr. Weldai, Superintendent Oteri said that some services cannot be delivered remotely because of safety concerns. Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Wood said that DESE guidelines are being followed and the communication by email or regular mail is being reviewed to make sure that communication is not affected. Mr. Wood added that more specific information will be sent that will focus on goals and objectives for the student as well as what goals and services they will be receiving. Mr. Wood said that initially google classrooms were conducted and now students are being invited to do smaller groups. The district is also working BCBA's to see how to overcome some obstacles in delivering services such as speech. Mr. Wood said that special needs students in PreK will receive a progress report.

### **Subcommittee Reports/Discussions**

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

Mr. Iovino said student enrollment as of Friday was 6,703 and there is an additional 68 students since the beginning of the year. The enrollment number is 26 students fewer than last year at the same time. Mr. Iovino said that the Parent Information Center (PIC) sends out almost 500 Kindergarten applications each year and thus far has received 135 completed Kindergarten registrations.

**2. Equity and Opportunity Subcommittee – Mr. Weldai**

**Kindergarten Registration**

Mr. Weldai confirmed with Superintendent Oteri that the online Kindergarten registration will be available by Wednesday. Superintendent Oteri said that the mail is being received and that families who would like to mail the documents instead of doing it online can do so.

In response to Ms. Spadafora’s question, Superintendent Oteri said that following DESE’s directives, MPS will continue to register students and that there have been 7 new students registered at MPS since the start of the pandemic. In response to Mr. Weldai, Superintendent Oteri said that the district is working on creating an online ELC registration as well. In response to Ms. Luong, Superintendent Oteri said that Kindergarten screenings that were planned to be done in the summer is on-hold awaiting further guidelines. In response to Mayor Christenson, Superintendent Oteri said that registrations are done on a rolling basis and that the residency policy that was adopted at the previous meeting has been implemented.

**Internet Access Inventory and Future Planning**

Mr. Weldai said that this topic was covered in the Superintendent’s report.

**Motions and Resolutions**

**1. Remote Learning/Reentry and Long Term Planning – Mr. Weldai**

Mr. Weldai asked about the process and plans for plans for moving forward. Superintendent Oteri said a re-entry task force will be assembled involving different stakeholders to review possible scenarios and come up with plans. Superintendent Oteri added that he has been in communication with the other 5DP districts regarding future plans. Mr. Iovino said that at the Budget Subcommittee meeting earlier in the evening, this topic was brought-up as being essential for budget planning. Mayor Christenson said that this matter should be revisited at the June School Committee meeting. Mayor Christenson requested Superintendent Oteri to brief the Budget Subcommittee before making any decision on hiring a consultant. Mayor Christenson added that the long term planning should be more community driven.

**2. Hourly Employees (Advise from DESE) – Ms. Spadafora**

Ms. Spadafora said DESE has advised districts to continue paying the hourly employees through the end of the school year. Ms. Spadafora added that this has already been budgeted. Superintendent Oteri said this in respect to the hourly employees who have been paid through May 4<sup>th</sup> who will now be paid through June. Ms. Spadafora made a motion to continue paying hourly employees through the end of the school year. Mr. Iovino seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. DESE School Choice Vote – Mr. Iovino**

Mr. Iovino explained that this is a matter brought forward by the DESE for a vote every year to determine if MPS would want to open enrollment to students from other school districts. Mr. Iovino said that he would urge the School Committee to not accept school choice students because of all the uncertainties for the 2020-2021 school year.

Mr. Iovino made a motion that the Malden School Committee is in agreement that MPS will not accept any school choice students for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. McCarthy 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.

**4. Linden's AEAP Program – Mr. Weldai**

Mr. Weldai said that the AEAP program refers to the Accelerated and Enriched Academic Program at the Linden S.T.E.A.M. Academy. Mr. Weldai continued that Ms. Tara Beardsley, former School Committee, had started a committee to study the AEAP program which has now folded over into the Equity and Opportunity Ad-Hoc Subcommittee's work. However, due to the situation now, this work has been interrupted. Mr. Weldai said that since we are in the midst of student enrollment, the Parent Information Center requires the admission policy during this pandemic for how students are enrolled into the AEAP program.

Mr. Weldai said that there are three options. The first option would be to continue with the current process. This poses difficulties as teachers would be judging readiness based on students who may or may not have had full access to remote learning. The second option would be to postpone enrollment for the 2020-2021 year and begin the program for students entering both Grade 1 and 2 during the 2021-2022 school year. The third option is for the School Committee to propose something different. Mr. Weldai recommended a third option which is to postpone the enrollment of Grade 1 new students into the program.

Superintendent Oteri said that the option proposed by Mr. Weldai is probably the one which is in the best interest of equity and does not penalize any student already in the program. In response to Mr. Gray's question, Mr. Weldai said that the difference between option two and three is that option two will phase out the program whereby no new students will be enrolled starting next year. Option three is just to put a pause on the program for Grade 1 enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year.

In response to Mayor Christenson, Mr. Weldai said that with this option, only the families of current Kindergarteners who want to be enrolled in this program as well as the class teacher will be affected next year. Mayor Christenson requested Superintendent Oteri to communicate this to the families as soon as possible. In response to Ms. Luong, Mr. Weldai said that the Equity and Opportunity Ad-Hoc Subcommittee will be looking into how to make this program equitable and available in all the schools.

Mr. Weldai made a motion to approve the third option which will be to postpone the enrollment of Grade 1 new students into the program for the 2020-2021 school year while the program is reviewed. Mr. Iovino seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Spadafora said that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued guidance on food service contracts to be extended for one year if possible. In response to Mr. Drummey, Superintendent Oteri said that MPS is now at the end of a three year contract with the food service company. Ms. Spadafora made the motion to authorize the Superintendent and Business Manager to begin communication with the food service company regarding a one year extension. Mr. Drummey seconded and it was so VOTED.

**Personal Privilege**

**Executive Session**

Ms. Spadafora made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:32 p.m. Mr. Iovino 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 9:19 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Weldai made a motion to adjourn at 9:20 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.



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Shirley Dorai, Clerk