

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, August 24, 2020
Online Meeting**

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

Mayor Christenson read the protocols in accordance with the format used for the meeting as follows: "In accordance Governor Baker's March 12th, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A, § 18, and the Governor's March 23rd, 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.

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
Clerk	Present

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the June 22nd, 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.

Mr. McCarthy made motion to accept the minutes of the June 22nd, 2020 Executive Session of the School Committee. Ms. Luong seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Iovino made motion to accept the minutes of the August 6th, 2020 Special Session of the School Committee. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Luong made motion to accept the minutes of the August 6th, 2020 Executive Session of the School Committee. Mr. Weldai seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Mayor Christenson deferred to the audience for anyone who may have any comments. There was no response. Mayor Christenson closed this portion of the meeting.

Superintendent's Report

1. Face Coverings Policy

Superintendent Oteri said the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) released a draft policy on face coverings written with guidance from the state and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The policy is intended to provide districts with a model for requiring face coverings during the COVID-19 pandemic. The policy will be applicable when Malden Public Schools (MPS) return to a hybrid or in-person learning model. Superintendent Oteri said this policy is brought to the School Committee and Subcommittee for review and approval.

2. District Updates and Highlights

Following-up on the information presented at the meeting on August 6th, Superintendent Oteri thanked the work and effort of all the 31 members of the Re-Entry Advisory Task Force and the families who were able to participate in the three community listening sessions that were held on July 28th, 29th and 31st as well as the parent survey. There were over 500 participants in the three sessions and 3,615 participants took part in the survey.

Superintendent Oteri said that MPS will begin the 2020-2021 year remotely, as directed by the School Committee on August 6th. On August 14th, the district submitted a detailed plan to DESE outlining the commitment to remote learning, as well as the other two plans in anticipation of pivoting to hybrid and ultimately in-person learning.

The teachers will be starting on August 31st with 10 days of professional development. Friday, September 4th, there is no school for staff, as listed on the district calendar. Monday, September 7th, all schools and offices will be closed in observance of Labor Day. School for PreK and grades 1-12 will officially start on Wednesday, September 16th.

A survey form was sent to Special Education families who have students in the substantial sub-separate programs to assess whether they will send their children back to school this fall. Over 90 responses was received. The district will contact the families that did not complete the survey.

On Tuesday, August 18th, a family support survey was sent to families to gather information so that the district can better support families in the upcoming school year. It is available in eight languages: English, Spanish, Portugues, Haitain-Creole, Chinese, Vietnamese, Arabic and Amharic. This survey is very important and all families are encouraged to take the survey. The survey will remain open through Wednesday, August 26th at 5 p.m. The survey link is on the MPS website at www.maldenps.org/reopening.

Superintendent Oteri said that some training opportunities for families are being planned to support them in remote learning during the fall. This will be communicated to the community when they are up and running.

Technology Essentials Grant

Superintendent Oteri announced that Malden Public Schools was awarded a Remote Learning Technology Essentials Grant of \$490,981.00. The purpose of the Remote Learning Technology Essentials grant program is to support district and school efforts to ensure that every student has adequate access to technology to use for remote learning purposes during the 2020-2021 school year. Superintendent Oteri thanked Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kelly Chase, Business Manager Ms. Toni Mertz and Instructional Technology Director Ms. Natalia Brennan for their hard work on this grant. Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee that more information will be provided at the next meeting on how this grant will be used.

Chromebook and Hotspot Distribution

Chromebooks were gathered to be refurbished a few weeks ago. The district is waiting for over 4,000 chromebooks to be delivered from the vendor which would ensure that every student would have a device. Superintendent Oteri said that this is critical for remote learning. Families will be notified when Chromebooks will be available for distribution.

Technology Updates

To streamline families access to education apps, the district has set up a portal that centralizes most of the learning applications. Superintendent Oteri said that CLEVER is a free resource for schools (60% of students in the US use CLEVER). CLEVER syncs all of the eligible learning applications for a school district and allows a student to use 1 username and password to access a majority of their learning apps. Instead of logging into IXL with one username and password and then iReady with another username and password, and then again into Brainpop, CLEVER syncs with their Google Account and uses that to automatically log them into all those apps. Additionally, there are teacher pages that can customize with links and apps for students.

Other Grants

Superintendent Oteri said that the district has applied and is awaiting approval for other grants such as the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) and Educator Diversification Grant.

Professional Development

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Chase and the Directors provided a number of trainings this summer and have planned more training for the upcoming school year.

Safety Training (COVID-19 Related) – The district is exploring training opportunities and working with Malden Education Association (MEA) on a number of safety related trainings for the upcoming school year. Safety protocol/precautions within the classroom that could include cleaning and disinfecting the workplace, handwashing, mask breaks, PPE usage, hallway safety and fire drill training. There will also be protocols for recess, entry/dismissal, lunch, sending students to the nurse's office, COVID-19 discipline policies, COVID-19 awareness, face coverings, social distancing, managing stress and anxiety.

Curriculum & Pedagogy – Superintendent Oteri hoped to provide staff with training on signs/symptoms of trauma. The district is exploring training on adjusting to back-to-school from the Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) lens which will focus on lessons around the first weeks of school time to just get back to being in a school, being welcoming, providing classroom games, talking about fears that the students may have and classroom procedures. It is also hoped that the staff could be trained on what to expect, setting individual growth goals in math

and ELA, flexible grouping without grouping as well as curriculum and planning adjustments for Virtual learning and hybrid models. There will also be professional learning communities collaboration and expectations. The curriculum work that many teachers have engaged in during the past few weeks is coming to a close. From scopes and sequences to units and resources, directors are ready to start reviewing and compiling all of the work into a centralized, online "curriculum hub" that educators will be able to access throughout the year.

Better Lesson Sessions - Many of MPS educators started Better Lesson sessions on August 17. Better Lesson is an organization that provides professional development for educators. While this has been a crazy and disappointing year, one of the positives that has emerged is the energy and enthusiasm MPS educators have shown to learn new things that will ultimately benefit Malden's students. Superintendent Oteri thanked them for their willingness to adapt, embrace a growth mindset, and take on new challenges. Superintendent Oteri continued that this is a nice way to model for students and show them that learning never ends. The feedback generated will be used to inform next steps.

Salem State Collaborative Membership – Superintendent Oteri said that the district has renewed membership with Salem State Collaborative. With this premium membership, educators can sign-up on a first come first served basis for 2-hour, 5-hour, or 10-hour workshops for free. Workshops range from content area to technology sessions. The 15-hour workshops only cost \$25, which is a discounted fee as a result of membership. The district does NOT cover this fee. These sessions are not eligible for salary credit, but may be used toward PDPs for recertification.

New Teacher Orientation – Superintendent Oteri said that the orientation will begin on August 25th and it will be virtual as opposed to the in-person meeting that was held in past years. Mayor Christenson will deliver his remarks on behalf of the School Committee.

CARES Act

Assistant Superintendent Chase attended a recent webinar on the CARES act. Superintendent Oteri said the district submitted an application for the FY 21 for CARES Act funding. The money, under the law, has a variety of uses. With Business Manager, Ms. Toni Mertz, and the rest of the cabinet, MPS will be preparing proposals. MPS will be targeting the purchase of PPE from masks, sanitation equipment, thermometers and other necessary PPE as well as purchasing additional chromebooks and technology. Also, under the law, a percentage of the CARES money will be distributed to the two private schools in Malden: Cheverus and Malden Catholic.

School Committee Training

During the summer, on August 5th and 12th, the School Committee participated in an anti-racism and anti-bias training. The trainer, Mr. Manuel Fernandez is a Principal of a middle school in Cambridge and a highly acclaimed trainer in anti-bias. The training focused on the essential question of "What it means to be a leader for equity in a multicultural and multiracial community."

MHS Graduation

MHS graduation was held on August 3rd at MacDonald Stadium with 444 students receiving their diplomas. The event was greatly modified but it was able to be held in-person. Superintendent Oteri thanked Principal Chris Mastrangelo, House Principals and administrative Team, Mr. Joe

Levine, Recreation Director, Mayor's Office, Athletics Director Mr. Charlie Conefrey, Malden Police Department, Central Office, custodians and the incomparable Ms. Judy Sullivan and Ms. Barbara Scibelli for making this happen. It was a night to celebrate the class of 2020, who, in a major understatement have endured a most unusual and unfortunate senior year. Superintendent Oteri also thanked Mr. Todd Cole and Ms. Erin Mazza for their musical accompaniment of the evening.

AP Exam News and PSATS

MPS had 82% of AP students opt-in to take their at-home AP exams this spring, which was in keeping with the state average for 2020. This number represents 302 students taking 553 exams. A qualifying score of 3 or more was achieved by 72% of MPS students. This represents an 18% increase in qualifying scores from 2019, a 22% increase from 2018, and a 27% increase of qualifying scores since 2017 and 2016. Guidance Director Ms. Craven spoke with Jenny Caccavale at Collegeboard (MA Testing liaison) about the typical administration of the PSAT in October, which parents have started to inquire about. As the School Day PSAT administration is traditionally the Wednesday after Columbus Day for 10th and 11th graders, the Collegeboard is now looking to move a potential PSAT opportunity to the middle of winter. They will send more info on that soon. Superintendent Oteri said that more information about SATs and PSATs will be communicated in the coming weeks. Most colleges and universities are not requiring SATs for the Class of 2021.

Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program (MSYEP)

Out of over 100 students, 30 MSYEP participants attended a statewide virtual showcase to display the work they have done this summer. Malden presented 2 of their many projects. Superintendent Oteri said that staff and youth came together in 5 weeks and produced tremendous amounts of work. Superintendent Oteri thanked Ms. Kelli Collomb of MHS, Ms. Karen Hayes and Mayor Christenson for his unwavering support of the program. Superintendent Oteri also thanked Team Leaders (Marcus Barbagallo; Jennifer Hedrington; Elisee Pompilus and Jim Valente), Instructors (Guetchina Letang, Tamarh Louis and Tamerlie Roc); Job Coaches (Deb Bompane, Edwidge Jen Baptiste and Kim Smith); Staff Trainees (Jaime Cochran, Andrew Louis, Marsha Louis and Sara Schneider); Payroll (Debbie Camarata and Omar Ortiz); and HR (Jeri Scibelli).

Superintendent Oteri provided samples of their work and projects which included gardening projects from home, health and wellness themed posters that will be printed and available for all school personnel and city staff for free, full websites designed by youth with daily challenges, resources, journals, blogs, and videos. The students also did posters featuring art on Black Lives Matter, cultural identity, welcome messages, and flags in multiple languages. Art that reminds people to take care of themselves in multiple languages and from multiple cultural perspectives. Students did podcasts on a wide variety of topics as well as a full documentary, over an hour-long on Essential Workers in the time of COVID 19 and multiple interviews. There were also students who graduated from a fully online culinary class and passed their SERVSAFE Certifications. The classes taken and passed by our youth include EEC, Introduction to HealthCare, Website Design, Virtual Marketing and Psychological First Aid.

Superintendent Oteri congratulated the 8 MSYEP Youth who won the Silver Prize of \$250 for Scholarship Contest developed, run and scored by Commonwealth Corporation: Sean Castrucci, Elizabeth Eshetu, Meryem Hakkoui, Julie Huynh, Tam Pham and Elina Yang. Superintendent

Oteri also congratulated Emily Wang and Yuxin Zeng for being awarded an Honorable Mention with a prize of \$50.00 Gift Cards.

MHS Athletics

Superintendent Oteri invited Director of Athletics, Mr. Charlie Conefrey to speak about the upcoming sports season. Mr. Conefrey provided some information on interscholastic high school athletics. Mr. Conefrey said that many meetings were held at the state level with the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) and Greater Boston League (GBL) members focusing on health and safety. The MIAA has been following all Executive Office of Energy and Environmental and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) guidance. The MIAA has 377 member schools. Among the changes for this year is an extra season was added with flexibility in the dates for the seasons. In solidarity with the neighboring school districts, MPS will also be moving many sports activities to a later date. Mr. Conefrey said as part of the guidance received, School Committee approval is required for districts to participate in either competitive sports or practice for student athletes which will begin after the start of the school year. Mr. Conefrey said that the districts starting the year with remote learning are not comfortable with offering athletics or extracurricular activities during remote learning. However, every effort will be made to reach out and engage with student athletes. Mr. Conefrey also added that many safety measures and protocols need to be put in place before students can participate in sports.

In response to Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Conefrey said that the sporting activities will be reduced when it starts again. Mr. Conefrey said that there are protocols being established for scenarios that might arise during the pandemic. In response to Mr. Weldai, Mr. Conefrey that the district has to ensure that they establish protocols. Mr. Conefrey said that if the pandemic gets worse, the sports season will be delayed or shortened. In response to Ms. Luong, Mr. Conefrey responded that captain practices are not sponsored by the district or MIAA. Mr. Conefrey said that coaches will be in touch with student athletes for social emotional purposes. Mr. Conefrey assured that no activities will be held by the MPS Athletic department until all procedures are established and implemented. Mr. Conefrey said that Athletic Trainer, Ms. Jen Sturtevant, is well informed of health matters and directives. In response to Ms. Spadafora, Mr. Conefrey said that prior to the pandemic, the district was increasing their sports offering to over 25 different sports for boys and girls. Mr. Charlie added that this pandemic is certainly going to impact the offerings and participation in some way although he is going to try his best not to cut any sport.

Mr. Drummey made the motion to allow MPS to participate in competitive sports under the guidance of the MPS Athletics Department. Mr. Iovino seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Resignation and Retirement

Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Mr. Michael Wood's last day at MPS was on Friday, August 14th. Superintendent Oteri wished Mr. Wood all the best in the next step of his journey as he leaves Malden.

Superintendent Oteri thanked Early Learning Center (ELC) Principal, Mr. Peter Dolan, who will be retiring on August 31st. Mr. Dolan was not only the ELC Principal but also the Safety Officer for MPS. Prior to that, Mr. Dolan worked at the Linden School as an Assistant Principal. Superintendent Oteri wished him well in his retirement.

Superintendent Oteri informed the School Committee members that interviewing for the position of ELC Principal and Assistant Superintendent of Student Services has begun. Ms. Maura Johnson, former Assistant Superintendent for Special Education in Malden and Ms. Debbie Connell, former Special Education Director in Somerville and current director in Nahant, will be consultants during the interim.

New Hire

Superintendent Oteri congratulated Ms. Lisa Kingsley, the new Program Manager for Pathways who officially started today at MHS. Ms. Kingsley is from the Curtis Tufts School in Medford. She has an extensive background in Special Education, Administration, as well as Alternative Education. Ms. Kingsley also has a strong background in curriculum and instruction.

Superintendent Oteri said that the district has begun hiring to replace staff who have resigned or retired and Human Resources Director, Ms. Ashley Pierre has been leading this effort. MPS is committed and is making progress in hiring a faculty that more closely reflects the student body. Interviews are often in the form of tele-interviews or via a video conference. The School Committee will be updated as staffing is finalized.

Moving Forward

Superintendent Oteri concluded his report by informing all Malden Public Schools parents and guardians that the district will be working very closely with them while educating their children remotely. Superintendent Oteri said that he is aware many feel lots of anxiety, uncertainty and even fear as we go through this phase but that we are all in this together. Superintendent Oteri hoped to bring the highest needs students in during the year with the goal of being in a hybrid mode at some point, and then, if the health conditions warrant, fully in person. However, Superintendent Oteri reminded that the focus must be on the safe remote learning environment. The staff is excited to meet their students and partner with families to guide students to their best potential. They will be available for all students and families to support them in a holistic sense. Superintendent Oteri said that the district is 100% committed to helping our students and families. Superintendent Oteri encouraged all parents and guardians to not feel hesitant to reach out if they are feeling overwhelmed or lost in this process.

Mayor Christenson asked Mr. Weldai regarding the face coverings policy and about getting some public input about it. Mr. Weldai responded that the subcommittee will be looking into the matter.

Mr. Weldai made the motion to refer the face coverings policy to the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee for review. Ms. Spadafora seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

In response to Ms. Spadafora, Superintendent Oteri said that the chromebooks should be delivered in September. Superintendent Oteri said that Ms. Brennan is in contact communication with the vendor and that the order was placed in July, way before many other districts. As for the free breakfast and lunch during remote learning, Superintendent Oteri said that it will be provided as normal through September 11th but that the district is working on how the breakfast and lunch program will be administered during remote learning. Superintendent Oteri said that options that are being considered include having more distribution sites.

In response to Ms. Luong, Superintendent Oteri said that together with Ms. Maura Johnson, calls have been made for the special education audit but there have been some difficulties in doing this in a remote setting. Superintendent Oteri said the timing of the audit hopefully benefits from the onboarding of the new Assistant Superintendent for Student Services so that this or her input and guidance can be sought. Ms. Luong said that one of the reasons for the survey is to see how families who did not receive services or in a timely manner in the spring can be better served in the fall. Superintendent Oteri responded that the families will be contacted and provided with the service in remote mode in the fall.

Mayor Christenson said that Mr. Weldai had an idea which was brought to him by some teachers about whether there is some way that teachers can socially distance and meet with students in-person in a safe manner before starting remote learning. Superintendent Oteri said that the district is currently in negotiations with the MEA.

Subcommittee Reports

- 1. Space and Enrollment Ad-Hoc Subcommittee – Mr. Iovino**
Mr. Iovino said the enrollment numbers are changing too much at the moment to provide a number but thinks it is the same as last year.

Motions and Resolutions

- 1. COVID-19 Testing Availability Resolution – Mr. Weldai**
Mayor Christenson said that this motion was co-sponsored by everyone on the School Committee. Mr. Weldai said that about 10 other school districts in the state have already adopted this resolution for the state to provide every school district ongoing, easily accessible, free testing with a quick turnaround operation for staff and students. The resolution further read, " We must ensure a statewide school re-opening that is safe, responsible and equitable." Mr. Weldai made the motion to approve and adopt the COVID-19 Testing Availability Resolution. 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 7:25 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 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Iovino made the motion to reappointing the School Attendance Officer, Mr. John Parcellin's for 2020-2021 with a review in May 2021. 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

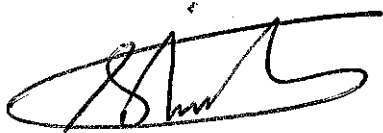
Mr. Weldai made the motion to approve a salary increase of 4% to Dr. Kelly Chase, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment as well as Ms. Toni Mertz, Business Manager, retroactive to July 1, 2019. Ms. Spadafora seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

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.

Adjournment

Ms. Spadafora made a motion to adjourn at 9:03 p.m. Ms. Luong 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.



Shirley Dorai, Clerk