

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, November 23, 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 August 23rd, 2020 revised guidance on order by the governor prohibiting assemblage of more than 25 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 via remote access by internet, telephone and public broadcast 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 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	Absent
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

Superintendent Search Timeline – Mayor Christenson

Mayor Christenson informed the community that Superintendent Oteri is not seeking a contract renewal for the next school year. Mayor Christenson continued that the first step in looking for the next Superintendent is to select a search firm to facilitate the process. The School Committee received three proposals from the Collins Center of UMass Boston, Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), and The New England School Development Council (NESEDEC). Mayor Christenson continued that after the School Committee votes to accept a proposal, a timeline will be developed with the hope of appointing the next Superintendent by April 2021 to begin employment on July 1, 2021. A committee of multiple stakeholders will be formed with community outreach. Mayor Christenson said that Mr. Weldai and Ms. Spadafora will be representing the School Committee on the Search Committee. Parent volunteers will be randomly selected in a public forum to join the Search Committee. Advertising for parent volunteers will appear on media platforms within the coming days. Mayor Christenson said

anyone interested in becoming a parent representative on the search should send an email to the dedicated email address supersearch@malDENps.org. An update will be provided at the December 7th School Committee meeting.

Mr. Weldai said that all three organizations have good proposals but the ones that stood out was from the Collins Center and MASC. Mr. Weldai said he favors the Collins Center after seeing how they did the Superintendent search in Chelsea. The Collins Center also did the superintendent searches in Melrose and Salem. Ms. Spadafora echoed Mr. Weldai. Ms. Spadafora said that NESDEC's recent superintendent searches were not done with urban school districts whereas the Collins Center seems to have more experience with urban districts. As for the cost, Ms. Spadafora said there was not much difference between the three proposals. Mr. McCarthy agreed that the Collins center would be a good choice. Mr. Gray said he is leaning towards MASC because of the familiarity. Mr. Froio agreed with Mr. Gray and added that MASC does a good job. Ms. Luong favored the Collins Center as they bring a different and fresher look. Mr. Iovino said that MASC is very familiar with Malden and that there will be no learning curve for them.

Mayor Christenson informed the School Committee that Ms. Maria Luise from the Mayor's Office will be assisting with the superintendent search. Mr. McCarthy said that he has heard good reports about the work MASC has done. Mayor Christenson confirmed with Attorney Greenspan that even if the School Committee does not select MASC, there will be no negative impact on the relationship with them.

Mr. Weldai made the motion to accept the proposal from the Collins Center. Ms. Luong seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey ABSENT

Mr. Froio voted NO

Mr. Gray voted NO

Mr. Iovino voted NO

Ms. Luong voted YES

Mr. McCarthy voted NO

Ms. Spadafora voted YES

Mr. Weldai voted YES

Mayor Christenson voted YES

Motion failed with 4 votes in favor, 4 against and 1 absent.

McCarthy asked if there is a possibility to change organizations if there are any service issues with the organization initially selected by the School Committee. Attorney Greenspan said it depends on the terms of the agreement.

Mr. Iovino made the motion to accept the proposal from the MASC. Mr. Froio seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey ABSENT

Mr. Froio voted YES

Mr. Gray voted YES

Mr. Iovino voted YES

Ms. Luong voted NO

Mr. McCarthy voted YES

Ms. Spadafora voted NO

Mr. Weldai voted NO

Mayor Christenson voted NO
Motion failed with 4 votes in favor, 4 against and 1 absent.

Mayor Christenson requested Attorney Greenspan to find out if the terms of the agreement with the organization can be written in such a way that it provides an opportunity for both parties to end the contract at the onset of the work, if there is a need.

Mr. Gray the motion to accept the proposal from the Collins Center. Mr. McCarthy seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey ABSENT

Mr. Froio voted YES

Mr. Gray voted YES

Mr. Iovino voted NO

Ms. Luong voted YES

Mr. McCarthy voted YES

Ms. Spadafora voted YES

Mr. Weldai voted YES

Mayor Christenson voted YES

Motion passed with 7 votes in favor, 1 against and 1 absent.

Executive Session

Mr. Iovino made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 6:26 p.m. Mr. McCarthy seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey ABSENT

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

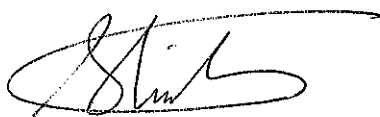
Motion passed with 8 votes in favor and 1 absent.

The committee reconvened to the Regular Session at 7:35 p.m.

Adjournment

Mr. Iovino made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 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