

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION  
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Monday, November 9, 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 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 order 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

**Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Session of the School Committee. Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Luong made motion to accept the minutes of the October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Executive Session of the School Committee. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Mayor Christenson apologized to the School Committee and the community for not reading an email submitted for public comment at the October 5<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting. With the School Committee's approval, Mayor Christenson read aloud the email received from Mr. Bruce Friedman of 8 Marvin Street, Malden on October 5, 2020 at 11:02 a.m. as follows:

*"Greetings, I would like the school committee to comment on and update the citizens of Malden on the status of the special education audit of services delivered and not delivered to all special education students in 2019-2020 as so ordered by the Malden School Committee at the regular meeting of June 22, 2020 which was due September 1, 2020. I would like to know the following:*

- 1. Is the audit complete?*
- 2. If it is not, why not?*
- 3. What has been accomplished to date?*
- 4. When the audit will be complete?*
- 5. Who is charged with completing the Audit?*
- 6. Who is holding the administration accountable to complete the audit?"*

Mayor Christenson said that most of these items will be addressed through the next item of the agenda which is the Superintendent's Report. Mayor Christenson reminded everyone that during the public comments section, testimonies are taken but typically there is no back and forth with the people testifying. Mayor Christenson asked the School Committee going forward, if emails or letters that are written to the School Committee should be read into the public record at the meeting. Mayor Christenson said the matter of whether to allow the reading of emails or letters from the public at the meetings as another means of public comment need not be decided immediately but should be discussed and decided as a group at a future meeting. Mayor Christenson added that prior to and during the pandemic, members of the public who wished to address the School Committee always appeared in person at the physical locations or Zoom locations of the meetings.

Ms. Spadafora made a motion to have the Policies and Procedures Subcommittee review the matter of having emails or letters that are written to the School Committee be read into the public record at the School Committee meeting. Ms. Luong seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Patrick Fitzgerald, 45 Wesmur Road, Malden

Mr. Fitzgerald thanked teachers and service providers for teaching students through remote learning despite challenges. Mr. Fitzgerald spoke about the delays and gaps in education as well as the lack of meaningful and targeted assessment of students in the remote learning setting. Mr. Fitzgerald said that students face significant regression. Mr. Fitzgerald recommended that the school district conduct another parent survey to find out if they will send students for hybrid learning. Mr. Fitzgerald continued that the survey results may show that two cohorts of students can be facilitated through the hybrid learning model in a safe manner. Mr. Fitzgerald asked the School Committee for how and when they plan to continue with the next steps towards in-person learning.

Ms. Jackie Ecker, 58 Lanark Road, Malden

Ms. Ecker, a Forestdale School parent, highlighted the lack of interactive communication between the administration and parents. Ms. Ecker mentioned that no town halls have been scheduled and no responses were provided to emails from parents. Ms. Ecker reached out to other parents on her own to find out what they think about the school year. Among the questions received was: what is the school re-opening plan; when will a roadmap be shared with parents; what supports will be provided to parents who have to juggle their own work while having their children study remotely; what are the special needs audit findings; will a parent and teacher survey be done again to see if how many would like to be in the buildings; will there be a review of what is working and what is not working with remote learning; why are there differences in remote learning between the schools; are there plans for families who want to stay in remote learning when the school migrated to a hybrid learning model, what happened to the plan to provide parents with training videos; how will special needs services be delivered; how will

the issue of reticence about school which is growing and becoming problematic among special needs families be handled, and what are the plans for COVID-19 related tracking when school reopens. Ms. Ecker said that more questions were coming in through social media and that she will be compiling and sending them to the School Committee members and Superintendent Oteri. Mayor Christenson clarified that Superintendent Oteri did not do a town hall meeting because all the individual principals were going to be doing meetings first.

Ms. Eden Garhart-Smith, 16 Corey Road, Malden

Ms. Eden Garhart-Smith asked if some in-person learning outdoors could be organized especially for the youngest learners. Ms. Eden Garhart-Smith also asked if the committee can look at long-term planning and not just reactionary measures.

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### **1. Special Education Audit Update**

Assistant Superintendent MacDonald said that families are being called to find out if they received IEP plans in the spring, what services were received and not received. At the same time, contact details such as emails are also being updated. As of today, 372 families have been contacted, all K-8 school families have been called at least once and currently high school families are being called. Around 600 calls have been made so far. Families that require translations will be called at the beginning of next week with translators. There are 200 families left to call out of a 1,000. Assistant Superintendent MacDonald said that the Student Services Department has contacted the respective schools to do individual outreach and re-build relationship with families who have communicated that they have issues with the IEPs or receiving services. Assistant Superintendent MacDonald continued that any family that have not been contacted yet can call the office to provide input for the audit. There is also a Google form that also can be used for this purpose.

In response to Mayor Christenson, Assistant Superintendent MacDonald hoped that the translations can be done in the next couple of weeks. Ms. Luong encouraged all those listening who have not yet been called for the audit, to contact the Student Services office. Ms. Luong said that going forward, the important part is going to be what will be done to benefit families once all the data has been gathered and reported. In response to Ms. Spadafora, Assistant Superintendent MacDonald said that families of out-of-district students will also be called. Most out-of-district schools are doing in-person classes. In response to Ms. Luong, Assistant Superintendent MacDonald said all team chairs and liaisons will be reaching out to families as a totally separate process but simultaneously with the audit in how to serve the needs of the students including tutoring, extended year services, etc.

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

##### **Student Services Update**

Assistant Superintendent MacDonald said that there about 175 students attending in-person learning at the seven schools and it is going well. There is a new student services website that will be unveiled in the next few weeks. It will have useful information and resources for parents

as well as staff contact information for every school in one place. Assistant Superintendent MacDonald also announced that the district applied and has been selected as an Early Adopter for the new IEP project by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). DESE is re-doing the IEP process and it is centered on best practices to close achievement gaps. Malden teachers will be the first to use the new forms. The concept is to move away from compliance and using data to inform instruction. Superintendent Oteri said that this initiative will help close the achievement gap especially among low-income students and students of color with disabilities as well as gives students and families more voice in the IEP process. Mayor Christenson asked for a summary of this new IEP project to be sent to the School Committee.

### **Opening of Schools**

Superintendent Oteri said that schools were opened on Tuesday, October 13, for the high-needs special education students. This was done following a survey of families with special needs students that resulted in 72% of families opting to send their children for in-person classes. Superintendent Oteri continued that there has been successful engagement of students while following all safety precautions. The numbers for in-person learning have held steady. A few families requested to switch but it has been an even swap. Superintendent Oteri continued that the percentage of students in the Pre-K -8 classrooms is higher than 72% and closer to 80%. In the HS pathways program, it is the reverse with the majority of students electing to stay remote. This is because the program serves many students with school refusal issues and they are more comfortable with the remote platform. DESE has advised that parents should be allowed to switch back and forth with 6 weeks notice. This is to allow Districts to make any needed changes in staffing, cohort size for social distancing reasons and transportation. The district has been able to accommodate requests much quicker, usually within a week. The administration and staff have been and will continue to work closely with parents on this matter.

### **Positive COVID-19 Cases**

Superintendent Oteri said that there were three staff persons who tested positive at the Linden STEAM Academy last week. As mandated, the cases, with names omitted were reported to DESE who in turn notified the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). This incident made the Linden school eligible for free testing at their premise for any persons and their families who were in the building last week. The testing was provided free of charge by Fallon Ambulance on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. All persons determined to be close contacts of the people who tested positive were notified on the weekend of October 17<sup>th</sup>. Many got tested immediately after the notification.

On October 30<sup>th</sup>, the district was informed that a member of the Early Learning Center (ELC) community and a member of the Beebe School Community have tested positive for COVID-19. In the Linden School situation, the school had to be closed because there was a cluster of positive cases and we were informed late the night before school. Contact tracing could not be done until the next day and the Board of Health had to be informed. Also, in Linden, the close

contacts were many of the staff and students, who needed to quarantine and get tested. That is not the situation in the ELC or Beebe. On November 6<sup>th</sup>, the district was again notified of a positive case in the Beebe School community. The school nurses and Board of Health immediately began contact tracing and notified any person in the community who was determined to be a close contact to get tested and isolate. Closure of schools was not deemed necessary.

### **Joint Labor Management Committee (JLMC)**

The JLMC continues to meet every Thursday. Superintendent Oteri said that the meetings are more of a stalemate at this point and reflective of the larger picture in the state with the wishes and desires of DESE as well as the Governor to open schools and begin to get more students in and the holding of the line by the teachers' unions stating it is unsafe, especially in the current situation with rising cases. Last week, there were a 121 communities deemed high-risk (including Malden which has been high risk for the last 4 weeks). At the last JLMC meeting, it was decided that some time was needed to cool off and work on common goals such as student in-person testing for ACCESS and retesting for MCAS.

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, the state introduced a new classification system and mapping for COVID-19. The 121 "high-risk" or "Red" communities was reduced to 16 as the Governor and DPH introduced new health metrics into the calculation of determining risk. The same "traffic light" designation system of Green, Yellow and Red exists, but the criteria has changed. The school district is working with the local Board of Health on understanding and examining how this impacts Malden and how to continue to keep Malden safe.

### **Criteria for Movement Between Stages of Learning**

Superintendent Oteri said that at the JLMC meets regularly to review the Public Health Data at the state and local level. Members of JLMC are: Superintendent Oteri, Malden Board of Health Director Chris Webb, Principal Van Huynh, Principal Chris Mastrangelo, Assistant Superintendent MacDonald, MEA President Deb Gesualdo, Jessica Gold-Boots, Cara Hovanhessian, Colleen LeShane and Sarah Kaleko. Serving as medical advisors are Dr. Kourtney Nickerson (Malden Board of Health) and Patti Tramondozzi (Director of Nursing for MPS).

The determination is based on many factors:

- Available physical and staff resources: Hybrid and in-person will require additional staffing
- Review of Local and State data, including trends
- Review of local and state ordinances
- Consultation with local medical professionals(Mr. Webb, Dr. Nickerson and Ms. Tramondozzi)
- The Rt (Rate of exponential spread)
- The positivity rate of cases per 100,000
- 14 days of declining date in Malden
- Mass DPH Weekly Public Health Report
- Total new COVID-19 cases in MA for the week/time period

- Breakdown of age group (school age) that is experiencing high infection rates
- Report from Malden Board of Health and medical experts

Factors considered under the revised classification:

- Looks at % positivity/100K
- % positivity of tests given; if over 4% becomes “red” or “high risk”
- Considers size of community as a factor

Superintendent Oteri said that it is not an exact science but all these factors are constantly monitored.

### **Professional Development on November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

The second annual 5 District Partnership professional development with nationally recognized and awarded speakers and trainers was held virtually on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The keynote speaker was Eric Sheniger from Houston, TX. The theme this year was “Equity for All”.

### **Wednesdays and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Due to cleaning and the next stage of learning, schools are closed on Wednesdays for students and it is optional for staff to come in. Staff are sent home at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays so that cleaning can commence and get done in a timely manner. There is plenty of PPE for students and staff.

### **Superintendent’s Diversity Advisory Board**

Superintendent Oteri began work to establish a Superintendent’s Diversity Advisory Board last year in the spring just before the pandemic. Superintendent Oteri is looking for a School Committee member to be a part of this committee. The Board will meet five or six times a year in an advisory capacity. Superintendent Oteri is targeting a December meeting.

### **Adams Scholarship Recipients**

There are 109 students in the Class of 2021 which is 28% and over a quarter of the class who have earned the Massachusetts John and Abigail Adams Scholarship this year. As such, these students are eligible for a tuition waiver at the MA State Colleges and Universities this fall. The students will be receiving their individually addressed letter via mail in the upcoming weeks. Superintendent Oteri said this is a tremendous achievement for the students and a tribute to the fine work of MPS educators who guided and supported them.

### **Back to School Nights**

Back to School nights began this week via online. There was a horrible incident 20 minutes into the Malden High School (MHS) event. The Malden Police were notified immediately and they began a full investigation. They informed that these incidents are happening with alarming frequency all over attacking schools, public meetings, churches and businesses. The people involved are outsiders who scour the internet for any zoom meetings

and hack into it. MPS focused on healing within the school. The K-8 Back to School Nights resumed that week. Superintendent Oteri said that the security features of these meetings were enhanced to help prevent these incidents in the future.

**Flu Clinic**

A few flu clinics have been held in Malden and about 900 doses were administered. The Massachusetts DPH has mandated all students need a flu shot by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Families and students can be exempted for medical reasons with a note from their physician. For religious exemptions, families are advised to contact the school nurse.

**District PTO**

The first District PTO was held last week with great success. Superintendent Oteri said there were some questions regarding technology and COVID as well as the flu shot mandate.

**Teacher Diversification Grant**

MPS received the Teacher Diversification Grant again this year, which is 3 years in a row, to continue the great work done so far. Superintendent Oteri said that teacher diversification has been a priority of his since he started in in 2017 and it will continue to be a priority so that the faculty can be reflective of the student body.

**Abbott BinaxNOW Antigen Testing**

The Abbot BinaxNOW testing is a rapid, 15 minute, antigen testing that Malden became eligible for and had submitted an application. The use of Abbott BinaxNOW testing in schools can rapidly identify symptomatic individuals with COVID-19 so that appropriate isolation and contact tracing can begin quickly. The state is providing 2 million free test kits. Superintendent Oteri was on the DESE webinar along with Mr. Chris Webb, Assistant Superintendent Pam MacDonald and Patti Tramondozzi on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Superintendent Oteri said that this could be an incredibly useful tool and may help ease some anxiety about a return to school.

**Tech Update**

**a) Family Help Desk**

Superintendent Oteri said that the Family Help Desk has been an invaluable tool in supporting families and students.

Information on the calls to the Family Help Desk:

Month	# of Phone Calls	# of Chats	Average Per Day
September	220	509	48
October	195	350	25

### Types of Calls

Month	Password/ Connections	ChromeBook Requests	Information Provided
September	255	182	292
October	109	191	245

Superintendent Oteri most of the calls were password resets and user error. This feature is available on the MPS website and it is multi-lingual.

#### ***b) MPS Family Resource Site***

MPS has updated the MPS Family resource website to consolidate and share resources in one location. Families can find curriculum resources in addition to technology tutorials on the website. This site continues to be in development and will be updated as more resources are added by Directors and other district leaders. The link to this site can be found on all school websites, and the site can be translated into multiple languages.

#### ***c) EdTech Family Training Videos***

MPS is working with EdTechTeacher, a technology PD provider, to create custom videos for Malden Families. MPS has a contract for a series of 15 videos, which will be shared with families via the MPS Family Resource Site, on the Technology Support page. Subtitles for these videos can be translated into multiple languages using YouTube's auto generated translation feature.

#### ***d) Devices and Content Filter***

All Units A, C and Admin Assistants were provided an opportunity to exchange and update their Chromebook. In response to reports of devices not being able to access web resources, MPS updated the content filter from being locally hosted to cloud based. This change went into effect on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. It will continue to be adjusted.

#### **Absenteeism Policy**

Superintendent Oteri said that there is a need to develop a policy on absenteeism and enrollment during Remote learning. Many students are logging on but are not physically in Malden. Often this is for child care while the parents work. Some instances are families temporarily relocating to another location for safety reasons or work. Superintendent Oteri said that there is also a need to address families moving out of the country. These scenarios all bring up concerns about safety and knowing the whereabouts of students in the instance of trying to locate a family member or student in an emergency. Superintendent Oteri requested to have the Policy Subcommittee to define this policy so there can be consistency across the district in serving the needs of families. As for the matter of what to do when a student has unexcused



absences for 10 consecutive days, the district has been following a procedure that was established a few years ago whereby the student is unenrolled from the district. Since this practice is not in written form anywhere, Superintendent Oteri requested to refer this matter to the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee for further review.

### **Enrollment and State Study**

Kindergarten enrollment is at 405 students compared to 380 students at the beginning of October. Superintendent Oteri said there are still some incomplete applications at the Parent Information Center (PIC) that are awaiting more registration documents. Superintendent Oteri continued that DESE began a survey of enrollment at school districts. MPS is not alone with a declining enrollment. Of the 170 districts that responded to the survey which is 45%, there is a decline of 25,000 students. Neighboring districts are all experiencing a decline in enrollment as well. The state indicated that they will try to “hold harmless” districts with sharp declines in enrollment especially for Pre-K, Kindergarten and middle grades. The state will be analyzing this and decipher what the reasons are for the decline across the state.

### **School Lunches**

The free “reheatable” dinners began to be distributed on October 19<sup>th</sup> for all families. Superintendent Oteri said that this is a tremendous opportunity to help address food insecurity in the community. The FREE breakfast/lunch/dinner is available at all K-8 schools and MHS daily from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and available to any school age student in Malden. The district also provides meals for the weekend on Fridays. Meals for the weekend cannot be picked up on other days due to the fact that:

- Hot lunches are cooked and packaged daily, not weekly
- In a weekly or multiple days feeding model, hot lunch will only be available to students currently attending school
- Menu offerings would change to allow for said food items to be stored longer
- Will be forced to bring in more shelf stable, processed foods
- Perishable items are distributed such as fresh fruit and vegetables
- There is a risk of food borne illness if food is not properly stored, re-heated.
- Need DESE approval

Superintendent Oteri said that meals for the weekend can only be picked up on Fridays because Thursday is a big prep day to make the weekend meals which is distributed on Fridays. Essentially if the district allows extra meals to be picked up on any other weekdays, the food service department will need to run two different feeding models.

For the month of October, a total of 3,481 meals/day were served:

Breakfasts - 1,285/day; Lunches - 1,336/day; Dinners - 860/day

Superintendent Oteri reminded families that there is no school on November 11<sup>th</sup> due to Veterans Day and as such, 2 days worth of meals can be picked up on November 10<sup>th</sup>. The

community will be informed about free meals pick-up during Thanksgiving when the date draws closer.

### **Public Relations Consultant**

Through a grant with Catalyst Ed, the district has been able to secure the services of the Donovan Group, a public relations consultant for 3 months. The Donovan Group will be providing a communications audit. They will assist with written and electronic communications as well as assess MPS strategies. The Donovan Group is a consulting and communications group that has many national accounts exclusively in educational communications.

### **Kindergarten Packet and K-8 Art Supplies**

Superintendent Oteri said that by working with Mr. Chris Webb, there is a one-time distribution of Kindergarten packets. Art supplies will also be distributed at the K-8 schools.

### **Closing**

Superintendent Oteri reminded students, families and staff to follow all the necessary health guidelines so that they can keep themselves and everyone else safe during the holiday season. Superintendent Oteri also thanked everyone for doing all they can to adapt to changes and pressing forward through this very challenging year.

In response to Ms. Luong, Superintendent Oteri said that the funds for the public relations consultant was made available through an extension from the Barr Foundation. In response to another question from Ms. Luong, Superintendent Oteri said that another survey will need to be sent out to families to find out how many students in which grade and school would want to come back in a hybrid learning model. In response to Mr. Weldai, Superintendent Oteri said that the Urban Superintendents group is probably preparing a paper on the ACCESS and MCAS testing as not all school districts are prepared to do the tests. Mr. Weldai and Superintendent Oteri said that there is also some advocacy for holding districts harmless about declining enrollment. Mr. Weldai mentioned that there were some reports about long wait times for the family helpdesk. Mr. Weldai said that the absenteeism policy will be taken up by the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee for review. Mr. Weldai asked that there needs to be empathy when students are penalized for being tardy or absent during these trying times.

Ms. Spadafora said that the criteria for decision-making for moving through the learning phases is still not clear. Ms. Spadafora suggested inviting experts such as Mr. Chris Webb to provide more information to the community. In response to Mr. McCarthy, Superintendent Oteri said the next parent survey will be ready in the next few weeks. Mayor Christenson asked for the HVAC report on the school buildings to be put on the school website. In response to Mayor Christenson, Superintendent Oteri said that students who do not get a flu vaccine by December 31<sup>st</sup> will not be denied remote learning but it will be required for those doing in-person learning. Mr. Weldai mentioned that teachers along with parents should be surveyed about returning to hybrid or in-person learning.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

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

Mr. Iovino said that student enrollment was 6,203 as of last Friday. There was an increase of 164 students in Kindergarten since the beginning of the year. However, there was a decrease of 83 students in Pre-K since the beginning of the year. Mr. Iovino said that there was not much changes in the other grades. Superintendent Oteri said that there are 76 incomplete applications as of right now.

**2. Superintendent Summative Evaluation 2019-2020 – Mayor Christenson**

Mr. Weldai made a motion to table this matter to the December meeting so that any missing School Committee member can provide input. Mr. Iovino seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Technology Discussion – Mr. Gray**

Mr. Gray said that a report of technology was presented to the School Committee several years ago when chromebooks was first introduced to the district. Wifi was upgraded at that time as well. However, there was no long-term vision or planning done. Mr. Gray continued that during the past few weeks, parents raised questions about the administrative policy and infrastructure.

Mr. Rodrigues, Malden Director of Information Technology, provided a brief technology update. Mr. Rodrigues said that during the past few years, the district has been taking advantage of funding opportunities for technology. Among other technological devices the city maintains are 2,300 desktops and 7,000 chromebooks. Phone systems have also been upgraded. Just like other school systems, Mr. Rodrigues said Malden faces the same challenges in technological architecture. Most of the network design has been about creating an environment for internal users. Due to the pandemic, now there are 7,000 external devices that need to communicate with the internal network for purposes of authentication, content filtration, etc. This has given rise to certain issues. Some of the other school districts experienced a system crash that lasted for several days when they were trying to support chromebooks externally. Malden's technology has had hiccups but never crashed. The authentication process was mainly handled internally but at the 4,000 chromebooks point, the system was not able to cope when they hit the network simultaneously. In order to support all these devices, external authentication was introduced to handle the workload along with the internal authentication. Right now, the district has the capacity of handling over 9,000 devices seamlessly. There is also a helpdesk set-up for families through Global Data Systems to assist with technology issues. Mr. Rodrigues said that this has been a new experience for IT in the city and apologized for any interruptions.

In response to Mr. Gray, Mr. Rodrigues said that since the district still has a lot of capacity, there is not yet a need to move towards IPv6. Mr. Rodrigues added that although all the current systems are IPv6 compliant, shifting from IPv4 to IPv6 will have hiccups. Mr. Gray asked if there would be cost savings if more internal storage is pushed to the cloud. Mr. Rodrigues responded that there were savings when some of the internal servers were replaced with virtual servers. However, Mr. Rodrigues said that from the emergency management angle, it is good to also have physical servers on-site for emergency and faster access. The district utilizes both category of servers presently for security, back-up, business continuity and disaster recovery. Mr. Rodrigues said that by consolidating all the networks, a separate network has been set-up for controlling all the HVAC and lighting.

In response to Ms. Spadafora's question, Mr. Rodrigues said that the external authentication is only happening between the G-suite and content filtering. Mr. Rodrigues said that the internal server and cloud based server communicate with each other in a secure manner while alleviating the bottleneck that was happening when there was no cloud-based server. Mr. Rodrigues continued that if one network in the city is down, it would not affect other locations. Mr. Gray added that the authentication process is secure and not broken. However, the incidents that have been happening during school virtual meetings are caused by internal people who already have access to the system.

Superintendent Oteri said there is a need for a replacement cycle plan. There are two models in grades 5-8 that coming to the end of their cycle where they will no longer be supported technologically by Google. Superintendent Oteri said that the additional 4,000 chromebooks that were ordered and received was distributed first to the students and then to the teachers as well as paraprofessionals. All the new Dell chromebooks have a complete replacement warranty. There were only very few of these chromebooks that had issues and were swapped. Other issues were user error, mainly because families were unfamiliar with how to utilize them. There were also some broken devices but this was mainly due to misuse. Superintendent Oteri continued, that in addition to the chromebooks, laptops, desktops, voice-over-IP phones, copiers, printers and cell phones, there are 12,000 devices in the district that is being managed with the same number of staff as before the pandemic. Superintendent Oteri said that there needs to be a staffing plan.

### **Motions and Resolutions**

**1. Donation in Memory of Joan Greenberg – Mr. Iovino**

Mr. Iovino said that Ms. Joan Greenberg who worked at the ELC passed away last month. There was a memorial set up in her name.

Mr. Iovino made a motion to accept all the donations in the name of Ms. Joan Greenberg. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

**2. Dedication of Outdoor Classroom at Salemwood for Khalid Alfaez – Mayor Christenson**

Mayor Christenson invited Principal Van from the Salemwood School to provide more information. Principal Van said that Khalid Alfaez, 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Salemwood passed away on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Principal Van continued that Khalid was enrolled in Salemwood since Grade 1 when he came from Saudi Arabia to seek medical treatment in Boston. Principal Van said the Salemwood community have been very fortunate to know him and be with him. Many of the students have grown up with him and his loss has affected them greatly. Principal Van, on behalf of the Salemwood community and Grade 8 students, asked for permission to dedicate the garden area near the bike path in honor of Khalid. This was a special area where Khalid spent time with his friends. Khalid leaves behind his parents, his older sister in college, his twin siblings in Grade 4 and his 2 year-old sibling. Mayor Christenson that this request is supported by City Councilor Barbara Murphy and Mr. Adam Weldai.

Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the dedication request. Ms. Luong seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

**Personal Privilege**

**Executive Session**

Mr. Iovino made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:21 p.m. 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 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 9:02 p.m.

Mr. Iovino made a motion to approve the MOU with MEA on ELC Unit A and Unit C members who were involuntarily transferred and/or reassigned. 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

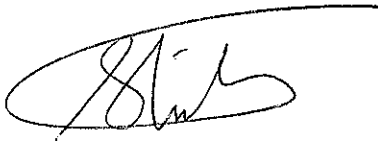
Mayor Christenson voted YES

Motion passed with 8 votes in favor and 1 absent.

**Adjournment**

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



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Shirley Dorai, Clerk