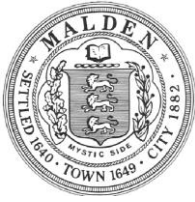


CITY OF MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS



Rick Rogers, Interim Principal
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EARLY LEARNING CENTER

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ELC School Council Meeting Wednesday, December 2, 2020

MINUTES

Members Present: Nicole Chelman, Heather Cochran, Rebecca Martin, Gregory Marton, Emily Parker, Danielle Reilly, Rick Rogers, Imene Bouziane Saidi, Elizabeth Paulsen Tonogbonua,

Introductions

We welcomed returning members Danielle Reilly (Teacher Representative) and Emily Parker (Community Representative) and one new member Gregory Marton (Parent Representative)

Public Comment

No members of the public attended.

Approval of November 4, 2020 Minutes

On a motion by Gregory Marton, seconded by Emily Parker, the minutes for November 4, 2020 were approved.

Approval of Co-Chair

On a motion by Gregory Marton, seconded by Heather Cochran, the Council voted to approve Elizabeth Paulsen Tonogbonua as Co-Chair.

Principal's Report

- COVID Cases: The ELC had its second case of COVID-19 confirmed over Thanksgiving. One in-person classroom switched to remote for the week of November 30 to allow for students and staff to quarantine for 14 days. In both cases, close contacts were notified and communication went out to staff and families. Rick thanked Director of Nursing Patti Tramandozzi for her support in responding to these situations.
- Enrollment
 - 238 students as of 11/30/2020 (increase of 11 since last month)
 - 58 students in 9 in-person ILP classes by the end of December (increase of 5 in 1 month) Additional in-person ILP class to be added in January to accommodate incoming students.
 - 28 ILP students in 3 remote classes (Parent choice)
 - 155 Students in Integrated PK (Full and Half Day programs). All remote with ~50 anticipated to remain remote when classes brought back in-person.

(Discussion: Enrollment is down about 100 students from last year at this time – primarily due to the reduction in PK classes made in August. Concern about impact of declining enrollment on state allocation to Malden next year. Hoping that districts will be held harmless for decline (at least in PK/K)).

- Stage 4 Timeline: No dates yet for when next cohort of students (EL students and youngest students) will begin in-person classes. Joint Labor Management Committee is meeting this week. We hope to have more information on a possible return date soon. Meanwhile, families are being re-surveyed on whether or not they would send their children to school or choose to remain remote.
- Staffing: Rick reported that the lack of substitutes makes daily coverage a challenge – particularly if several staff members need to quarantine. We will be hiring a new ILP teacher and will be posting two long-term substitute positions to cover anticipated maternity leaves in February.
- Principal Search: The district has posted position for a new principal to begin mid-year. More information about the timeline and process will be shared when it is available.

(Discussion: Members expressed concern that the position was posted as “interim.” Members were concerned about having two interim principals in one year and then a possible third person next fall. Would a new person have the opportunity to stay next year? Members also requested that teacher and parent voices be part of the hiring process. Rick will share these concerns with the Superintendent and Director of Human Resources.

School Improvement Plan

Danielle who is a member of the PK Task Force, provided an explanation on work done to update the PK curriculum in ELA, Math and SEL. The new curriculum is intended to better align with the Kindergarten curriculum, as well as new state standards. Questions raised:

- Do parents have access to curriculum documents? Rick will look into where curriculum information is posted.
- Does the new curriculum allow for play-based learning and unstructured play? It does under the area of SEL.

The remainder of our discussion focused on how to support families during remote or hybrid learning, including some of the following points:

- Make it easier for families to connect with each other
- Help with how to keep children focused during remote meets
- When and how to prompt (and when not to)
- Language diversity – Class DoJo is a good tool with built in translation
- Streamline communication – choose primary (DoJo, student email, parent email)
- Help parents know what materials are needed and when
- Clarify expectations and “need to knows” for parents (how to sit, when movement is allowed, parent role in a particular activity)
- Parent-led study groups using asynchronous work

Teachers will continue their discussion and identify some realistic action steps to put in place this year.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule – Wednesdays 2:15-3:15 PM

January 13	May 12
March 10	June 9 (if needed)
April 7	