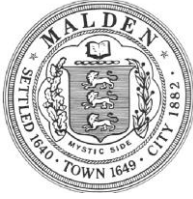


## CITY OF MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS



Rick Rogers, Interim Principal  
Monique Boudreau, Program Manager

## EARLY LEARNING CENTER

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### ELC School Council Meeting Thursday, January 14, 2021

#### MINUTES

**Members Present:** Nicole Chelman, Heather Cochran, Rebecca Martin, Gregory Marton, Danielle Reilly, Rick Rogers, Imene Bouziane Saidi

#### Public Comment

No members of the public attended.

#### Approval of [ELC School Council Minutes 12 02 2020](#)

On a motion by Gregory Marton, seconded by Danielle Reilly, the minutes for December 2, 2020 were approved.

#### Principal's Report

1. COVID Update:
  - All schools in Malden are fully remote for the first two weeks in January as a precaution. ILP students will return in-person on January 19.
  - State-provided Pool Testing will be available in late February. This will allow for testing of students (with parent permission) and staff.
  - Vaccination schedule remains uncertain, but teachers are expected to be part of Phase 2.
2. Staffing
  - Interim Principal Rick Rogers will remain for the rest of the school year, but will work 80% (4 days a week).
  - A 10<sup>th</sup> in-person ILP classroom is being added on January 19 due to increased enrollment. The classroom will have a special education teacher and one paraprofessional to start.
  - We are actively seeking 2 Long-term Substitutes to cover two maternity leaves that are expected to begin in February. We are also seeking to fill two vacancies for Building Substitutes. All of these vacancies are especially difficult to fill during the pandemic.

- 2-3 Lunchroom Aides will begin on January 19 and be able to provide coverage in classroom during teacher and paraprofessional lunch breaks. These positions are in lieu of full-time floating paraprofessionals.

### 3. **Enrollment**

- 244 students (as of 1/8)
- ILP: 9 in-person classes (52 students)  
3 remote classes (25 students)
- Integrated PreK: 167 students (All remote since September)

4. **Melmark New England Program Review:** Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Pamela MacDonald has contracted with Melmark New England to conduct a program review of the Early Learning Center. The review is underway with interviews of stakeholders. A records review and classroom observations will follow. The review is intended to help the district with long-term planning for the Early Learning Center and the types of services we provide. Having sufficient space for all programs remains a major concern. There are also questions about how to best serve the continued growth in the Intensive Learning Program.

### **Return to In-Person Learning**

Rick presented the results of the December parent survey for the Integrated PreK classes.

#### Full Day Program

19 requested In-Person

9 requested to remain Remote

#### Half Day Program

57 requested In-person (44%)

72 request to remain Remote (56%)

The Council was presented a draft plan to meet this need. Key components of the plan:

- Limit the in-person cohorts to 10 students.
- Create two cohorts – M/T and Th/F.
- 2-day students would be assigned to M/T
- 3-day students would be assigned Th/F (and remote Wednesday)
- 5-day students would be assigned to either cohort (and remote Wednesday)
- Half-day teachers would keep their students and teach in-person in the AM session and remotely in the PM session.
- Full-day: One teacher will need to teach one remote cohort on Th/F.

Discussion followed. Among the issues discussed:

- Concern that 5-day students would no longer have 5 days. This is unavoidable for full-day students due to staffing and cohort size limitations. As conditions change, this would be revisited.
- Teacher exposure to two cohorts during the week. While this is true, they will be working with the same number of students – just in two smaller groups.
- After vaccination is more wide-spread, will more families be able to opt for in-person? Yes, we ask for 4 weeks notice before making a change.

- How many students are transported to/from day care centers? We did not have the information available at the meeting.
- Will there be two-week returns to remote learning after February and April break? Families need ample notice as this is disruptive. There has not been any discussion of doing this as of yet. The reason for the January hiatus was due to the large number of families and staff celebrating holidays.
- A parent forum just for ELC families would be helpful – in addition to the district-wide forum being offered by the Superintendent.

**Tabled Until Next Meeting**

Supporting Families During Remote Learning (or Return to In-Person)  
School Improvement Plan

**Upcoming Meeting Schedule – THURSDAYS 2:15-3:15 PM**

March 11

April 8

May 13

June 10 (if needed)