

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
PUBLIC INTERVIEWS FOR SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Monday, March 8, 2021
Meeting Conducted Remotely**

Chairperson Christenson called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Chairperson Christenson reviewed the agenda for the evening and stated that the special meeting was called to conduct an interview of the first of 3 candidates for Superintendent of Schools. He stated that in accordance with Governor Baker’s Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, the meeting was being conducted via remote participation by Committee members. He further noted that the meeting was being recorded and aired by UMA/MATV.

The Chair 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 today.

1. Roll Call of Committee Members

The following attendance was taken by Maria Luise who clerked the meeting:

Mike Drummey	Present
John Froio	Present
Joseph Gray	Present
Leonard Iovino	Present
Michelle Luong	Present
Rob McCarthy	Present
Jennifer Spadafora	Present
Adam Weldai	Present
Gary Christenson	Present

The Chair determined that a sufficient quorum was present to conduct business and also introduced Danyal Najmi of Rossetta Languages to explain the translations services available and how to access them. There were 7 languages available and each translator gave a brief introduction in their language. The languages available were Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, Mandarin and Cantonese.

Each School Committee member introduced themselves to the candidate. The process was explained with each School Committee member asking one question and then they would be given the opportunity to ask follow-up questions.

2. Interview of Dr. Margaret (Margo) Ferrick

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the School Committee
March 8, 2021**

The Chair recognized Dr. Margaret Ferrick and offered her the opportunity to start with an opening statement addressing “why Malden, why now?” Dr. Ferrick did give an opening statement detailing her background, experiences in education and what she would bring to the role.

The Chair then asked the first question which centered on diversity, equity and inclusion followed by each School Committee member asking Dr. Ferrick questions regarding the topics set forth in Attachment A to which she responded.

There were follow-up questions asked to which Dr. Ferrick responded.

Mr. Iovino inquired about Dr. Ferrick’s work in the Lowell Public Schools as the Principal of the Career Academy & the Cardinal O’Connell.

Ms. Spadafora’s question focused on special education and she asked about Dr. Ferrick’s vision and the steps she would take to bring our out-of-district students back to our schools and how would she create that therapeutic environment.

The Chair asked specifically about Dr. Ferrick’s thoughts on bringing back students for in-person learning.

This concluded the interview questions and Dr. Ferrick gave a brief closing statement.

Mr. Weldai informed the Committee of the upcoming interview schedule of March 10th and March 11th , with deliberations on March 15th .

3. Adjournment

With no other business before the Committee, a motion was made by Ms. Spadafora to adjourn. Mr. Froio seconded the motion which was voted on in the affirmative unanimously.



Maria Luise

ATTACHMENT A
Malden School Committee
Superintendent Finalist - Interview Questions

Christenson:

What does meaningful Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work look like in a school system to you, and how have you undertaken this work in your previous roles? Where do you see yourself making an impact in Malden?

Drummey:

What do you expect your top priorities to be for the district for your first year? For 3-5 years down the line? How would you go about devising and implementing your objectives and how would you enlist your top staff to support this?

McCarthy:

How would you go about looking at a technology plan for our future, and who would you involve in that discussion?

Spadafora:

In this difficult fiscal climate, what process would you use to determine budgetary priorities? What are some of your priorities in a school budget?

Iovino:

As a result of the pandemic, and the number of days that our students have been in remote learning, there may be significant gaps in student achievement. What specific measures will you undertake as superintendent to assess and address that issue?

Weldai:

Could you describe some ways in which you have been an instructional leader in your previous roles, and share an initiative that you were responsible for implementing that significantly changed teacher practice, or student outcomes?

Gray:

Communication skills are instrumental to any leadership role and carry two key components: being a good listener as well as being a strong communicator. As superintendent, your communication varies with different groups of people: city leaders, school committee members, staff, and parents. How accessible will you be to these individuals welcoming ideas, thoughts, and concerns?

Luong:

What experience do you have working with students with varied abilities, and specifically what checks and balances will you put in place to ensure that special education, ELL and all students who need services are receiving those services appropriately?

Froio:

Malden High School is a comprehensive high school, If money were available would you consider adding a few more Technology Education shops, to make it a truly comprehensive high school? What experience do you have working with vocational, and college and career pathways?