

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Thursday, July 1, 2021
Online Meeting

Mayor Christenson called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Mayor Christenson read the protocols in accordance with the format used for the meeting as follows: Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 18, this meeting of the Malden School Committee is being conducted via remote participation. All effort will be made to permit public attendance of this meeting, in the manner specified below, via remote access by internet, telephone, and if available via public broadcast of the meeting by Urban Media Arts (UMA)/MATV on public access television channels. Public access will also be provided by posting draft minutes, and/or a transcript, recording, or record of the meeting on the City of Malden website at cityofmalden.org as soon as practicable after the 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	Present
Mr. Froio	Present
Mr. Gray	Present
Mr. Iovino	Present
Ms. Luong	Present
Mr. McCarthy	Present
Ms. Spadafora	Present
Mr. Weldai	Present
Superintendent Noriega-Murphy	Present
Clerk	Present

Mayor Christenson announced that live interpretation services will be available for the rest of the School Committee meetings this year. Mayor Christenson introduced Mr. Danyal Najmi of Rossetta Languages to explain the interpretation services available and how to access them on the Zoom channels. 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.

Mayor Christenson welcomed and introduced Superintendent Noriega-Murphy. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy thanked the School Committee for giving her the opportunity to be the Superintendent of the Malden Public Schools and added that her focus is going to be on communication, transparency and building teams.

1. Appointment of Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Superintendent Noriega-Murphy nominated Ms. Emilys Peña for the position of Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. Ms. Peña is tri-lingual in English, Spanish and Sign Language. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy provided information on Ms. Peña’s professional background as well as the areas of focus.

Ms. Peña provided some details of her background and what drew her to the field of education and creating learning environments. Ms. Peña continued that she will start by listening, observing and understanding in order to identify growth opportunities which will be used to establish priorities. Ms. Peña also mentioned closing pandemic gap will be a priority along with social emotional well-being of students.

Mr. Weldai made the motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Emilys Peña for the position of Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction. Mr. Iovino seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey voted YES

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.

2. Appointment of Assistant Superintendent of Diversity, Equity and Engagement

Superintendent Noriega-Murphy provided a summary of Ms. Laryssa Doherty’s academic and professional background.

Ms. Doherty provided details about her personal as well as professional background. Ms. Doherty continued to talk about the work ahead and how to engage students and stakeholders in the cultural responsiveness work.

Mr. Gray asked if Ms. Doherty will be filling two different positions. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that the two positions approved previously were the Community Engagement Manager and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator. The work of these two positions are very closely related. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that this work is very critical and that it is difficult to do at the level of a Manager or Coordinator. By combining these two positions into an Assistant Superintendent position, the incumbent can engage in conversations at a higher level with school leaders to make real changes at the schools. In response to Mayor Christenson, Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that there was no impact to the budget by combining the positions. Mr. Weldai said that in creating this position, it enables a very experienced and accomplished school leader to fill it.

Mayor Christenson said that Ms. Spadafora has been working on this matter with Assistant Superintendent Mertz ever since Superintendent Noriega-Murphy introduced this idea. Ms.

Spadafora was thrilled about Ms. Peña's music education background and that music is a great way to communicate with people who might not necessarily speak the same language.

Ms. Spadafora made the motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Laryssa Doherty for the position of Assistant Superintendent of Diversity, Equity and Engagement. Ms. Luong seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey voted YES

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.

Executive Session

Mayor Christenson said that the School Committee wants to clarify that at its June 7th, 2021 meeting, it entered executive session under Purpose 2 for Non-Union Contracts - Assistant Superintendent Kelly Chase, Business Manager Toni Mertz and Superintendent-Elect Noriega-Murphy, Non-Union Contract Negotiations - Supervisor of Attendance and Superintendent Salary Review and Purpose 3 for Public Records Litigation, Collective Bargaining Units A, B and C, SEIU Negotiations, SEIU Grievance and Pending Litigation Maguire v. School Committee because an open meeting will have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. Mayor Christenson asked for a motion to enter Executive Session for the June 7th meeting.

Mr. Iovino made a motion to enter into Executive Session for June 7th. Ms. Luong seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey voted YES

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.

Mayor Christenson read the Executive Session agenda for July 1st and asked for a motion to enter Executive Session.

Mr. Drummey made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 6:40 p.m. Mr. Weldai seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey voted YES
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 7:17 p.m.

Ms. Spadafora made the motion to approve the 2.5% salary increase for former Superintendent John Oteri retroactive July 1, 2019 for the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Froio seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey voted YES
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.

Adjournment

Mr. Iovino made a motion to adjourn at 7:19 pm. Ms. Spadafora 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