

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, June 7, 2021
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 with Governor Baker’s March 12th, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A, § 18, as well as the Governor’s August 23rd and December 8th, 2020 revised guidance 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 MATV/Urban Media Arts 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	Present
Mr. Froio	Present
Mr. Gray	Present
Mr. Iovino	Present
Ms. Luong	Present
Mr. McCarthy	Present
Ms. Spadafora	Present
Mr. Weldai	Present
Superintendent Oteri	Present
Student Representative Davidson	Present
Clerk	Present

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.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the May 3rd, 2021 Regular Session of the School Committee. Mr. Drummey made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the minutes of the May 3rd, 2021 Executive Session of the School Committee. Ms. Luong seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

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

Ms. Garhart-Smith said that the later start time of 8:15 a.m. instead of 7:45 a.m. at schools during the pandemic was helpful and should continue. Ms. Garhart-Smith noted that having students line up for tardies will only serve to further delay them from getting to class.

Ms. Julie Schmitt, 2nd Grade Teacher at Linden

Ms. Schmitt thanked the Ferryway School staff for proposing to dedicate and name the Ferryway School cafeteria in memory of her father, Paul Abare. Ms. Schmitt spoke on behalf of her mother, sister and family that they were honored and touched by this gesture from the Ferryway community.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Oteri extended deepest condolences to the family of Simon Daponta, a 2020 graduate of Malden High School (MHS), who was killed in a vehicle accident on Route 93 on Friday, May 28th. Simon was a member of the lacrosse and golf teams at MHS. On Wednesday, June 9, the boys and girls lacrosse teams will be having a tribute to Simon Daponta at the Girl's Lacrosse game. The family's wishes in lieu of flowers for Simon is that people donate to the JL11Fund at www.jl11fund.org. The James Luti fund is in support of mental health awareness and teen suicide. In 2017 when James Luti, a Stoneham High School hockey player took his own life, the Malden Public Schools Athletic Department, specifically the boys and girls lacrosse programs supported the Luti family and Stoneham athletics due to the connection between the Daponta's and the Luti families. Superintendent Oteri invited everyone to rise and observe a moment of silence in memory of Simon Daponta.

1. MHS Student Voice Project

Principal Mastrangelo said the MHS Student Voice Project stemmed from the need at MHS to have a voice from students. The project started last year after having conversation with House Principal Sibley. Students went through an interview process to be part of it. The advisors were Ms. Guetchina Letang and Mr. Romario Berneche. MHS students, Sammi Nie, Julie Huynh, Micaela Henry, Reem Bouachra, Alain Joseph, Meryem Hakkaoui, Marsha Louis, Ketshaly Philome, Emmalyn Woods, Saia Hussain, Tales Carneiro Passos, Meklit Abel and Carolina Cuevas were part of the Student Voice Project. The MHS Student Voice Project partnered with YouthTruth, an organization from California and did an extensive survey of the students, families and faculty. They were hoping to get about 700 responses but over 1,500 MHS students participated and this was the highest number of responses that they have ever had for the survey. The data gathered was analyzed by the Student Voice Project members and they presented their findings to the School Committee. The presentation focused on *Belonging and Peer Collaboration, College and Career Readiness, and Emotional and Mental Health*. The findings included challenges in creating an all-inclusive environment to make students feel welcome, college and college readiness being topics that have not been normalized, and students being adversely impacted by the pandemic and needing more support. Potential solutions were also presented.

In response to Student Representative Davidson, Sammie Nie said that the survey was distributed through email by Principal Mastrangelo and that teachers allowed students to complete the surveys in class. House Principal Sibley said that she can provide Student Representative Davidson with the number of responses per grade level after the meeting. Principal Mastrangelo said that the Student Voice project will continue next year and the following years. Mr. Weldai said that the survey was administered when students were doing remote schooling for about 7 months and the results might be somewhat different when the survey is administered again next year. Mayor Christenson said that the School Committee and Ms. Maria Luise from the Mayor's Office have been working on having a Health Center at MHS which is currently out to bid. The Health Center will also include mental health services to support students. In response to Mayor Christenson, House Principal Sibley said that the report from the Student Voice Project could be presented annually in spring.

2. MHS Scheduling Committee

Principal Mastrangelo said that the Student Voice Project's work is also reflected in the proposed new scheduling for MHS. The work around scheduling started 5 years ago. Ms. Filer, educator at MHS did a presentation for the School Committee highlighting flex time and incorporating findings from the Student Voice Project. Ms. Filer said stakeholders were involved in the process. In response to Student Representative Davidson, Ms. Filer said that 5-minute breaks could be considered although it is currently not practiced by every educator. In response to another question from Student Representative Davidson, Ms. Filer said that the Flex Committee will be looking into how students will be assigned during the flex block. In response to Ms. Spadafora, Ms. Filer said that this will not be a graded class. Principal Mastrangelo spoke about ways to handle situations where students might not want to attend the flex block. In response to Mr. Weldai, Ms. Filer said that changing the school start times could be reviewed again. Mayor Christenson and Superintendent Oteri said that in an earlier initiative a few years ago, the results of the study revealed that the majority of the students preferred the earlier start time. Superintendent Oteri and Principal Mastrangelo responded to another question from Mr. Weldai about the stipends and professional development for teachers being confirmed. In response to Student Representative Davidson's comment about the start time, Superintendent Oteri suggested having a committee review the matter of changing start times. The last time it was done was in 2018.

3. Dedication of Ferryway Cafeteria in Memory of Mr. Paul Abare

Superintendent Oteri introduced Principal Ciampa who spoke about Mr. Paul Abare. Principal Ciampa said Mr. Abare attended Lincoln Jr. High and graduated Malden High School in 1969. He was captain of the team his senior year. Paul attended North Adams College, where he was captain of the North Adams Basketball team. Paul began as a substitute teacher in Malden in 1973. Shortly after, he was hired as a permanent substitute at the Salemwood School and then the Browne Jr. High School. From there he moved on to teach at the Belmont School and then the Ferryway School. Paul soon became an Assistant Principal at the Ferryway School and continued in this role until he retired in 2009. Paul also helped out several times after that year as an acting Assistant Principal when he was needed. Principal Ciampa continued to share words from other staff regarding Mr. Abare. Mr. Iovino added that when he was an Assistant Principal at the Lincoln Middle School, Mr. Abare was one of the staff and it was a pleasure to work with him.

Mr. Iovino made a motion to dedicate and name the Ferryway School cafeteria in memory of Mr. Paul Abare. Mr. Drummey seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Special Education Update

Assistant Superintendent MacDonald's presentation to the School Committee focused mainly on the Extended School year program as well as the strategic plan goals. In response to Ms. Luong, Assistant Superintendent MacDonald said the 100 slots for summer programming and compensatory services were filled through conversations with families. Assistant Superintendent MacDonald continued that services will be provided for the families that want them.

5. District Updates and Highlights

Superintendent Oteri said that there is a heat advisory at the moment and that the air-conditioning is running well in all seven schools. Superintendent Oteri continued that staff have been instructed to keep the windows when the air conditioners are running and that when issues come up, they are quickly resolved.

On May 18th, the state dropped the mandate on wearing masks outside for school activities including recess, school sports and outdoor educational activities. The school district and principals developed some protocols and plans to continue to keep students safe and implemented this on May 21st.

In working collaboratively with Malden Board of Health Director Chris Webb and Malden Public Schools (MPS) Director of Nursing, Patti Tramondozzi, the district secured six vaccination clinics the week of May 24th to vaccinate anyone ages 12 and up. It was also opened up to family members and nearly 800 people were vaccinated. The second dose of the Pfizer vaccine will be administered at the same sites.

With the relaxing of COVID-19 sanctions, the very traditional spring events such as the National Honor Society induction ceremony, MHS Senior Scholarships and Awards night took place culminating with the Prom which was held on May 28th. Superintendent Oteri thanked the Department of Public Works, Public Facilities, custodians, Class Advisors, Ms Laidley and Ms. Corcoran as well as Principal Chris Mastrangelo and team for making the Prom a success. Superintendent Oteri publicly thanked El Porto Mexican Restaurant, The Dockside, Pearl St. Station, Evivia Trattoria, 110 Grill, All Seasons Table and Donut Villa for their generous donation of food for the event.

The MHS graduation took place on June 6th at MacDonald Stadium. Over 375 students received their diplomas. There were three students who received the Posse Scholarships, one student received the Questbridge Scholarship, 23 Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) graduates, 7 of those Early College graduates earned full associate's degrees from Bunker Hill simultaneous to their HS diploma. This is the largest single group of Early College high school students receiving

degrees in BHCC history. Thirty seven percent of the Class of 2021 have taken at least one college course while at MHS. Almost HALF of the Class of 2021 has a GPA of 3.0 or higher (200 of 409 graduates.) Seven students completed all components of the Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma. According to the Senior end-of-year survey, 80% reported they are attending college in the fall, 1.5% reported they are attending the military, 1.5% students are joining a union or trade, 3.5% of students reported they are going to volunteer year/gap year programs, 12% reported they joining the workforce directly and 1.5% reported “other”.

Superintendent Oteri said that the Linden School council voted unanimously to disband the uniform requirements for the 2021-22 school year.

The district was approached by Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women’s Hospital and the Youth Development in Diverse Contexts Lab at Fordham University on a project that explores racial discrimination experiences, discrimination responses, and COVID-19 related stress on Asian American families, specifically Chinese American parents and adolescents. This will be 3-year research data collection that will eventually provide recommendations for proactively addressing racism, workshops to facilitate a more inclusive school climate, and student opportunities to participate in the development of an anti-racist intervention and civic engagement. Superintendent-elect, Ms. Noriega-Murphy and Superintendent Oteri committed to this effort and await to see if it will be funded.

Among the summer programs that will be taking place at the schools are Title I , incoming K and identified students needing additional support, Title III programming, MHS Math Enrichment, Malden Adventures and Academics Program (MAAP)and others. The Ferryway School will be offering a Summer Enrichment Program geared to Grade K to 8.

Summer reading assignments will be given out to students in grades 6-11. The district is working with the K-8 and high school librarians, as well as the Malden Public Library, to ensure access to titles. If students or caregivers have any questions or concerns about the summer reading assignment, they are encouraged to reach out to their child's teacher or Director of Humanities Greg Hurley. Summer Reading Lists along with a Reading Response page for grades K-5 will be distributed on the last day of school to each student, with report cards. These suggested reading lists were created in conjunction with the Malden Public School librarians and the Malden Public Library's children's librarian, Rebecca Smith. Copies of these books will be available at the library in paper copy and online.

There was an article in the Boston Globe that noted the Ferryway School had seen a spike in absenteeism. This year at the Ferryway, daily attendance, while remote, was taken at homeroom which is first thing in the morning. During remote learning at the Ferryway, if a student missed homeroom but logs in to all their classes and is marked present they would still show as Absent for the day. The district has informed the Department of Elementary and

Secondary Education (DESE) and this will be corrected for the end-of-the-year report. If a student is present for more than half of the day the student is credited with being present.

As for the technology update, Superintendent Oteri said that all Hotspots must be returned. Unlimited Data is being frozen for July/ August. The district will be collecting devices from students at the Early Learning Center (ELC). Students at the ELC will no longer need access to a chromebook for 2021-2022 as they return to a more normal school year. Students in grades 5-8 will need to return their devices as SOME of them are aging out and need to be refreshed. All students in grades 5-8 will return their devices during the last week of school. Students participating in summer programming will have access to a device provided by the summer program. Conversations are ongoing about whether students can take their device home daily for next year. There will be 1,600 chromebooks coming into the district to update old devices. Students in Grade 12 will be returning their device between now and June 3rd.

Students currently in grades K-4 will keep their device and return it upon the first day of school to be housed in their upcoming classroom. Next year, students will not be taking their device home daily. Devices will be kept in the student's classroom in a cart. Each student will still have an assigned device. Students in grades 9-11 will keep their device. The district will offer tech check-ins for students in K-4 and 9-11 for students who want to make sure their device is ready for the upcoming school year.

Every K-4 classroom will be getting a 65" Viewsonic Viewboard. These are large touch screen displays that are on wheeled carts. These are arriving before July 1 and will be ready to go for September. With this purchase, the vendor is also providing 8 hours of training to staff on how to use the boards. Every member of Unit A will be turning in their chromebook and in September be assigned a laptop. Docking stations are being deployed in classrooms so that teachers can use projectors, document cameras, copiers etc. with their new device. Devices have arrived and the district is making plans to prep classrooms, manage devices, and deploy them to staff.

The athletics update included seniors honored on Senior Nights for all teams, with parents allowed to attend those special events. Senior three sport athlete and Posse Scholar, Abby Tang, was honored by both the Boston Herald and Boston Globe as an All-Scholastic in swimming. Senior three sport athlete, David Lombardi, continued to add to his list of accolades as a recent recipient of the Annual Boston Globe Foundation/Richard J. Phelps Scholarship. David will be traveling south to attend High Point University in North Carolina this fall. On Senior Scholarship night, the Golden Tornado Club awarded several scholarships to deserving graduating seniors including Male and Female Athletes of the Year, Makalay Preston and David Lombardi. Lastly, the spring season is well underway with baseball, softball, boys and girls outdoor track, boys and girls tennis and boys and girls lacrosse.

Almost everyone of the Central Office have moved to the new location at 110 Pleasant Street. The Parent Information Center is there as well. The Special Education Department, Business Department and Directors have all relocated to 110 Pleasant Street. Very shortly the Superintendent and support staff will be there.

Superintendent Oteri said that the SNAP survey was sent out in May in 7 languages to find out people's obstacles to registering for SNAP benefits. The Malden Public Schools Food Truck was delivered from Buffalo, NY on Thursday. It is wrapped in the Malden Logo with Nedlam the Lion coming out of the tornado and is in full Blue and Gold Pride. The truck has cooling and warming capacities. This will be a great asset to Malden in helping to combat food insecurity.

MHS Principal Chris Mastrangelo says students and staff noticed a turkey nesting right outside the entrance of the school about a month ago. Everyone kept their eyes on the eggs as they entered the building, and they noticed that the eggs had hatched two weeks ago. The hen and her 11 babies, which are called poults, were seen roaming near the front doors of MHS. Tilda the Turkey even made the Channel 5 news.

The last day of school for students and staff will be June 17th. Friday, June 18 is the Juneteenth Holiday, all schools and offices are closed. June 21st is a professional development day for all staff members of units A, B and C.

Mr. Iovino commended students and staff for persevering through the pandemic year.

Subcommittee Reports

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

Mr. Iovino said that student enrollment was 6,242 for PreK-12 as of last Friday. There was an increase of 53 students since April. Mr. Iovino said that the numbers keep trending upwards. There were 331 kindergarten applications and more are expected.

2. Budget Subcommittee – Ms. Spadafora

Ms. Spadafora said she was pleased to have a level-serviced budget of \$76.05 million. There have been no cuts and even some additions to the budget to help make the schools more equitable.

Motions and Resolutions

1. 2021-2022 Proposed School Budget – Ms. Spadafora

Ms. Spadafora made a motion to approve the FY22 budget. 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. School Improvement Plans – Mr. Iovino

Mr. Iovino provided an overview of the school improvement plans. Mr. Weldai commented that the plans from all the schools could be more unified in terms of the gateway city model.

Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the School Improvement Plans from all the seven schools. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Relations with Police Authorities Policy – Mr. Weldai

Mr. Weldai said this motion refers to “File KLG – Relations to Police Authorities” of the Malden School Committee Policy Manual. Mr. Weldai said that about a month ago, the Malden Police Accountability and Alternatives (MPAA) requested that the School Committee review this policy and update it.

Mr. Weldai made the motion to refer the Relations with Police Authorities Policy to the Policy Subcommittee. Ms. Spadafora seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Personal Privilege

Executive Session

Ms. Spadafora- made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:36 p.m. Mr. Drummey seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey 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 9:50 p.m.

Mr. Weldai made the motion to approve the one year contract for the Supervisor of Attendance, John Parcellin for 2021-2022.. Ms. Spadafora seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey 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.

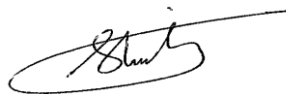
Mr. Weldai made the motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Malden Education Association for the 1 year pilot 8 block MHS schedule for the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Froio seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey 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

Ms. Spadafora made a motion to adjourn at 9:52 p.m. Mr. Weldai 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