

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, August 31, 2021
City Council Chambers – 215 Pleasant Street

Mayor Christenson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Mayor Christenson announced that the next School Committee meeting will be on Monday, September 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Room #105, 215 Pleasant Street, Malden.

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. A moment of silence was also observed for the service personnel who lost their lives in Afghanistan.

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
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 8 languages available and each translator gave a brief introduction in their language. The languages available were Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Cantonese and American Sign Language (ASL).

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the August 9th, 2021 Special Session of the School Committee. Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Drummey made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 19th, 2021 Executive Session of the School Committee. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Ms. Deborah Gesualdo, President of the Malden Education Association (MEA)

Ms. Gesualdo thanked Unit A, B and C MEA members, school site administrators, food service workers and custodians. Ms. Gesualdo added that last year, she witnessed so many acts of compassion,

activism, and community organizing by members of the Malden Public Schools community. Ms. Gesualdo was thankful and proud to be part of this community.

Mr. Patrick Fitzgerald, President of the Malden Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) Mr. Fitzgerald said that all caregivers of students with individualized education plans (IEPs) and 504 accommodation plans are automatic voting members of the SEPAC. Mr. Fitzgerald invited all who are not already on the SEPAC listserv or who have questions to email pac@maldensepac.org or reach out through the Malden SEPAC Facebook page or through their website at www.maldenps.org/malden-speac where the content is translated into other languages. Mr. Fitzgerald addressed the North Reading Transportation (NRT) contract which was the subject of the July 29, 2021 School Committee meeting. The SEPAC had reached out to the district repeatedly in the spring after amendments to the contract was discussed publicly due to the pandemic. The SEPAC was aware of the June 30th contract expiration and had received several comments about NRT's quality of service from many diverse members of the SEPAC community. Mr. Fitzgerald continued that for whatever reason, the district decided not to pursue a request for proposal ahead of the expiration of the contract and nothing was done before the June 30th deadline which then prompted the emergency meeting on July 29th after being without a contract for 30 days during extended school year services and 30 days out from the start of in-person learning. Mr. Fitzgerald said that this was an avoidable situation. It was unacceptable to have no other options or bargaining leverage and this was quite possibly was not in the best interest of students. Mr. Fitzgerald added that there was a lack of more than 48 hours notice before the meeting and a lack of public comments at the meeting before the vote was taken to extend the contract for an additional year. Mr. Fitzgerald said that there was also no dialog, discussion or consideration of different perspectives despite Ms. Spadafora's efforts. Mr. Fitzgerald added that because of the vulnerability of the population that need this transportation, state law requires transportation companies to collect and retain data but this is not reflected in any district policy or procedure. Since this appears to be a considerable liability for the district, Mr. Fitzgerald implored the School Committee to implement data collection and retention policies and procedures. Mr. Fitzgerald said that SEPAC offers their assistance between now and before June 30th and looks forward to an open and collaborative relationship with the district administration and the School Committee.

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

Ms. Garhart-Smith was thankful for the summer program at Salemwood this year. Ms. Garhart-Smith expressed frustration that there is no after-school program at Linden and that notice was not provided that only some schools will have after-school programs. Ms. Garhart-Smith was also frustrated that there is no band teacher at Linden this year. Ms. Gargart-Smith said it was disappointing that she had to wait until today to learn that lunch at the school will entail 160 students in the lunch room and 80 students in the entryway with no masks. Students need to be safe. Ms. Garhart-Smith was concerned and worried about the safety of students. Ms. Garhart-Smith added that the COVID-19 testing forms for students should already be sent home.

Superintendent's Report

1. Entry Plan

Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that every superintendent who is part of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents have to do an entry plan and it is part of

the contract. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy presented the work accomplished so far as part of the entry plan and introduced her mentor, Dr. Mary Bourque.

In response to Ms. Spadafora, Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that the 3 phases in the entry plan will have specific timelines and that will be provided at the next meeting. In response to Ms. Spadafora's next question as to whether the goals mentioned in phase 3 is tied to the goals that the superintendent will be evaluated on, Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that these emerging goals should be used for evaluation purposes. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy responded to the next question stating that the school principal meetings with caregivers can be recorded so that it can serve as a resource for anyone who missed the meetings. Mr. Weldai thanked Superintendent Noriega-Murphy for the outreach work.

2. Renaming the Parent Information Center

Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that the Parent Information Center will be renamed as the Welcome Center. There will also be professional development for all staff at the Welcome Center.

3. Acceptable Use Policy and Chromebook Loaner Agreement

The School Committee members discussed whether the policy and agreement should be referred to the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee before the School Committee votes on the matter.

Mr. Iovino made the motion to refer the Acceptable Use Policy and Chromebook Loaner Agreement to the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

4. District Updates and Highlights

Superintendent Noriega-Murphy invited Mr. Iovino to provide an update on school enrollment. Mr. Iovino said that the enrollment as of August 30th was 5,771 student and this is significantly lower than last year but there are registrations that are still being processed. Mr. Iovino continued that there were 415 students who graduated from Malden High School (MHS) in June and 12 more students graduated in August, totaling 427 students who received their high school diploma. Enrollment for the summer programs totaled 814 students.

Superintendent Noriega-Murphy proceeded to provide updates on the work done with internal staff and caregivers as well as contingency plans that are being put in place. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy called upon Assistant Superintendents, Ms. Laryssa Doherty, Ms. Emilys Peña, Ms. Pam MacDonald and Ms. Toni Mertz to provide further updates. Directors, Ms. Jennifer McCabe, Ms. Victoria Mulkern and Mr. Charlie Conefrey provided updates for English Learner Education and Title III, Title I and Literacy as well as Athletics.

In response to Ms. Spadafora, Assistant Superintendent MacDonald said that Frontline will include out-of-district students as well because every single student's IEP and 504s will be in the system. Ms. MacDonald added that if a student transfer between school systems that use Frontline, file transfers can be done through Frontline. Ms. Spadafora thanked Ms. MacDonald for the therapeutic program RISE at the K-8 schools and Ms. MacDonald said that the program

provides a continuum of services for K-12. In response to Ms. Spadafora, Assistant Superintendent Mertz said that the ESSER funds should be available relatively quickly. In response to Mr. Iovino, Ms. Mertz said that the ESSER 3 funds can be expended until FY 2024 and there are no restrictions other than the bidding process for capital expenditures.

In response to Mr. Weldai, Assistant Superintendent Peña said that there is a plan to hire a K-5 STEM Director. In response to another question, Assistant Superintendent MacDonald said that Frontline can translate information into multiple languages. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy added that parents can sign IEPs online through Frontline. In response to Mr. Weldai regarding Title III coaches, English Learners and Title III Director McCabe said there is one K-12 Title III coach and one K-12 English Learners coach. Title I and Literacy Director Mulkern said that there are 6 literacy coaches and 5 math coaches. In response to Mr. Iovino, Guidance Director Craven said that there were 143 students with dual enrollment at Malden High School and Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) last year as well as 40 early college program students. In response to Ms. Spadafora, Assistant Superintendent Mertz said that the electrostatic cleaning will only be done once the after-school students leave the building at the end of the day. In response to another question, Ms. Mertz said that the water at the water bottle fountains is filtered water. Ms. Mertz continued that the district is waiting for the Malden Board of Health to give the green light for when it is safe to allow the water bottle fountains to be used.

In response to Mayor Christenson, Assistant Superintendent Peña said 30-40 elementary teachers will need to be trained in the K-5 math curriculum. In response to another question, Ms. Peña said that she did not have any projection of the number of paraprofessionals among the 50 paraprofessionals who have undergraduate degrees who would be interested to become teachers. However, the response has been encouraging. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy added that paraprofessionals will also receive help to pass the MTEs.

In response to Mayor Christenson, MHS Principal Mastrangelo responded that the Early College Center will be housed in one of the faculty rooms on the 4th floor of the Boyle House that has been converted. Mayor Christenson said that in his talks with the President of BHCC, there might be some interest of BHCC opening a satellite campus in Malden. Assistant Superintendent MacDonald said that the therapeutic program RISE is housed in the former superintendent's suite at MHS. In response to another question, Title I and Literacy Director Mulkern said that all the vacant positions in Title I have been filled except the administrative assistant position. Ms. Mulkern continued that the monthly events for families will be per building. In response to Mayor Christenson's question on the dropout numbers, Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that the numbers are very similar to previous years and that the Supervisor of Attendance, Mr. John Parcellin is working on contacting these students and bringing them back. Mayor Christenson said that the School Committee would be interested on updates about how this work is progressing. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that there might be a possibility that these students had moved out of the district but that a closer look at the data is needed to determine this information.

Subcommittee Reports

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

This matter was addressed earlier during the meeting.

Motions and Resolutions

Personal Privilege

Executive Session

Mr. Iovino made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:48 p.m. Mr. McCarthy 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.

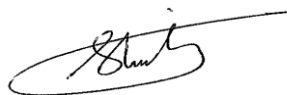
The committee reconvened to the Regular Session at 8:26 p.m.

Mr. Iovino made the motion to approve a cost of living increase of 2.5% for 2020-2021 school year retroactive from July 1, 2020 for the Supervisor of Attendance. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Mr. Drummey made a motion to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. Mr. McCarthy 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