

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, February 7, 2022
Virtual Meeting

Mayor Christenson called the meeting to order at 6:03 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 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 18, as well as Section 20(c)(d) of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 this meeting will be conducted via remote participation. In person attendance by members of the public is prohibited, and all effort will be made to permit public attendance at this meeting, via remote access by internet, telephone, and if available via public broadcast of the meeting by MATV/Urban Media Arts 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 practical after the meeting.”

Mr. Weldai provided details about joining the language access channels for 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. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy asked for another moment of silence for a first grade student from Linden S.T.E.A.M. Academy who passed away recently.

Roll Call

The following attendance was taken:

Mayor Christenson	Present
Mr. Drummey	Absent
Mr. McCarthy	Present
Ms. Spadafora	Present
Ms. Macklin	Present
Mr. Weldai	Present
Mr. Gray	Present
Mr. Bernard	Present
Ms. Rose-Zeiberg	Present
Superintendent Noriega-Murphy	Present
Student Representative Jean	Present
Clerk	Present

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the January 10th, 2022 Regular Session of the School Committee. Ms. Spadafora made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the January 15th, 2022 Training Session of the School Committee. Mr. Weldai made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Bernard seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Ms. Lisa Sears, 24 Winter Ave, Malden

Ms. Sears requested that future agendas should include a librarian for each school.

Superintendent's Report

1. Malden Reads

Superintendent Noriega-Murphy introduced Ms. Jodie Zalk who provided a presentation on the Malden Reads initiatives and programs. Both Mayor Christenson, Mr. Weldai and Superintendent Noriega-Murphy thanked Ms. Zalk and Malden Reads for all their work benefiting Malden Public Schools students.

2. District Updates and Highlights

Superintendent Noriega-Murphy invited Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Pam MacDonald to provide an update on COVID-19 cases, test kits and the Early Learning Center (ELC) accreditation. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy provided a reminder to caregivers to opt-in their children to receive the test at home kits. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy proceeded to provide updates and highlights on enrollment, attendance, as well as the accountability data for the school district.

In response to Ms. Spadafora, Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said the accountability data is based on graduation rates for all students as well as both Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) and MCAS Alternate Assessment (MCAS-Alt). Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that she would be glad to do a presentation on what is involved in every indicator for accountability data at another meeting. In response to another question from Ms. Spadafora, Assistant Superintendent MacDonald said that symptomatic testing as well as pool testing is still being conducted at the schools.

In response to Mr. Weldai, Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that the 2022-2023 school calendar is in the process and would be ready to be presented to the School Committee at the next meeting. In response to Ms. Macklin, Assistant Superintendent MacDonald said that families who opted in for the at-home test kits can use them to test their students just before returning to school after the February break. Assistant Superintendent MacDonald continued that the forms are on the Malden Public Schools (MPS) website. The Superintendent and principals have sent emails to caregivers with links. Paper copies have also been sent home with students. In response to Mayor Christenson, Assistant Superintendent MacDonald said that caregivers have to complete two separate forms, one for symptomatic and pool testing done at the schools and another for the at-home test kits.

Mayor Christenson asked what were the statistics that caused the accountability data for MHS. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy responded that the lowest performing students, dropout rate and attendance contribute towards the accountability data. Mayor Christenson asked Superintendent Noriega-Murphy to provide further information regarding this matter at the

next meeting. In response to another question from Mayor Christenson, Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that she prefers this new accountability system for schools and the school districts instead of the previous system based on levels. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy added that the new system is based on attainable points.

Mayor Christenson asked about the drop in the i-Ready scores between June and September 2021. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said it was the result of base line testing that was done when the students came back to school. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that the students started improving as the year continued. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that attendance continues to improve as well.

In response to Mayor Christenson about the additional two nursing positions, Assistant Superintendent MacDonald said there is a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) who will start work at MPS on Monday but recruitment has been challenging because of the current job market.

In response to further questions from Mayor Christenson regarding the MHS accountability data, Superintendent Noriega-Murphy provided further explanations about some of the indicators used. In response to Mr. Weldai, Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that if the previous accountability system of levels were still used, MPS would most likely be at Level 4 now. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy explained a little further about the supports that are being put in place at MHS to address some of the issues. Mayor Christenson requested Superintendent Noriega-Murphy to invite MHS Principal Mastrangelo to provide more information at the next meeting.

Subcommittee Reports

1. Food Service Bid Update – Ms. Spadafora

Ms. Spadafora informed the School Committee that the Request For Proposals (RFP) closed on January 27th. Ms. Spadafora said a site walk-through took place on January 19th for vendors who were interested in applying. The district has received three responses to the RFP. Ms. Spadafora continued that the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) requires the district to set up an advisory task force as part of the RFP process. The task force would review the RFP responses and vote to recommend a vendor to the School Committee.

Ms. Spadafora said that since the Athletics Director, Mr. Charlie Conefrey, had previously mentioned about forming a wellness committee to review the wellness policy, this is an opportunity to combine the two initiatives as nutrition falls under the wellness umbrella. Ms. Spadafora added that a Wellness Committee has been formed and will be meeting for the first time on February 9th. The Wellness Committee will be reviewing the three responses to the RFP. The members of the Wellness Committee include Ms. Spadafora, Mr. Conefrey, Director of Nursing, Ms. Tramondozzi, Director of Guidance, Ms. Craven, a few food service staff members, athletics educators from all grade levels, collaborators from the Cambridge Health Alliance

(CHA), a parent who has a background in pediatrics and nutrition, and a 7th grade student. Ms. Spadafora said that there will also be a 3rd grade student who is not part of the Wellness Committee but would be included in the site visits and taste testing the food.

Ms. Spadafora thanked Ms. Mertz and Mr. Conefrey for their work on this matter. Ms. Spadafora said that the plan is to complete the review of the RFP responses by the first week in March so that any differences in cost can be provided to the Budget Subcommittee for them to consider. Once this work is completed, the Wellness Committee will move on to review the wellness policy.

Motions and Resolutions

1. Residency Policy – Ms. Spadafora

Ms. Spadafora said that the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee met on January 18th with Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Laryssa Doherty and Welcome Center Manager, Ms. Joan Federico to review the current residency policy so as to make the student enrollment process easier for residents.

Ms. Spadafora continued that one of the changes is to allow tenants to submit a residency affidavit that is signed by the property owner along with a photo ID of the property owner instead of having the property owner be physically present at the Welcome Center to verify residency before the documentation is notarized. The other changes on the residency policy included accepting copies of bills for a landline phone and mortgage closing documents as proof of residency as well as changing the name from Parent Information Center (PIC) to the Welcome Center. Ms. Spadafora said that the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee voted unanimously to approve all the changes.

Ms. Spadafora made the motion to approve the changes to the residency policy which will take effect immediately. Mr. Weldai seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Linden Accelerated and Enrichment Academic Program (AEAP) – Mr. Weldai and Ms. Spadafora

Mr. Weldai said that there was a pause on new enrollment for the AEAP program due to the pandemic. Mr. Weldai continued that the matter has to be revisited.

Mr. Weldai made the motion to refer the AEAP program to the Equity and Opportunity Ad-Hoc Subcommittee for review. Ms. Spadafora seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Personal Privilege

Executive Session

Mr. Bernard made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:49 p.m. Mr. McCarthy seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey ABSENT

Mr. McCarthy voted YES
Ms. Spadafora voted YES
Ms. Macklin voted YES
Mr. Weldai voted YES
Mr. Gray voted YES
Mr. Bernard voted YES
Ms. Rose-Zeiberg voted YES
Mayor Christenson voted YES
Motion passed with 8 votes in favor and 1 absence.

The committee reconvened to the Regular Session at 8:29 p.m.

Ms. Spadafora made a motion to release the executive session minutes of August 9, 2021, August 30, 2021, September 13, 2021, October 4, 2021, November 8, 2021, and December 6, 2021 as redacted . Mr. Weldai seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Weldai made a motion to extend the contract of the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction by two years until June 30, 2024. Mr. Bernard seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey ABSENT
Mr. McCarthy voted YES
Ms. Spadafora voted YES
Ms. Macklin voted YES
Mr. Weldai voted YES
Mr. Gray voted YES
Mr. Bernard voted YES
Ms. Rose-Zeiberg voted YES
Mayor Christenson voted YES
Motion passed with 8 votes in favor and 1 absence.

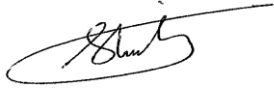
Mr. Bernard made a motion to extend the contract of the Assistant Superintendent for Diversity, Equity and Engagement by two years until June 30, 2024. Mr. McCarthy seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey ABSENT
Mr. McCarthy voted YES
Ms. Spadafora voted YES
Ms. Macklin voted YES
Mr. Weldai voted YES
Mr. Gray voted YES
Mr. Bernard voted YES
Ms. Rose-Zeiberg voted YES
Mayor Christenson voted YES
Motion passed with 8 votes in favor and 1 absence.

Adjournment

Ms. Spadafora made a motion to adjourn at 8:32 p.m. in memory of Mr. Paul Finn, retired Vice-Principal and Malden High School football coach, who passed away on February 7, 2022. 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shirley", is written over a horizontal line.

Shirley Dorai, Clerk