

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, November 14, 2022
Herbert L. Jackson Council Chamber Room #106 - 215 Pleasant Street
And Virtual Meeting

Mayor Christenson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Christenson read the docket items 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.

Roll Call

The following attendance was taken:

Mayor Christenson	Present
Mr. Drummey	Present
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 Hakkaoui	Present
Clerk	Present

Mayor Christenson invited Mr. Weldai to provide details about joining the language access channels for the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the approval of minutes for the September 12th, 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.

Mr. McCarthy made the motion to approve the Regular Session minutes of October 3rd, 2022. Mr. Bernard seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Spadafora made the motion to approve the Emergency Session minutes of October 17th, 2022. Mr. Bernard seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Weldai made the motion to approve the Special Session minutes of October 21st, 2022. Mr. Bernard seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

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

In light of American Education Week, Ms. Gesualdo thanked all the educators, education support professionals, food service workers, clerical workers, custodial workers and administrators. Ms. Gesualdo continued to speak about the needs of students and educators. Ms. Gesualdo said that smaller class sizes and educator caseloads, more educators and specialists in PreK-12 to support students, benefits the academic as well as social emotional and physical well-being of students. Ms. Gesualdo continued that rank and file members look forward to fulfilling the commitment of the language that was agreed upon in the new collective bargaining agreement for Units A, B and C regarding equitable case loads and housing justice. Ms. Gesualdo concluded that American Education Week is a good time to start thinking about how to gather as a school community to move forward in ground breaking ways for students, their families and public education.

Ms. Eden Garhart-Smith, 16 Corey Road

Mr. Weldai read the email from Ms. Garhart-Smith who was not able to attend the meeting where Ms. Garhart-Smith was asking for salary increases for other school staff such as after-school staff as well. Ms. Garhart-Smith mentioned that this might help attract more people to apply for these jobs.

Superintendent's Report

1. District Updates and Highlights

Superintendent Noriega-Murphy provided updates on district enrollment comprised of 6,437 students as of November 14; November 2 safety training in partnership with the Malden Police Department for caregivers; future plan to provide safety training for students beginning in January 2023; activities and events at schools; Honors pilot program for middle school grade students and plans for full implementation in school year 2023-2024; teacher certification tracking and opportunities; working groups for the Code of Conduct; Handbook; Program of Studies; Welcome Center; Malden Out Of School Time (MOST) program enrollment; vacant positions across the district; and the Accelerated and Enriched Academic Program (A.E.A.P.).

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Ms. Peña presented the MCAS data. STEM Directors, Dr. Dias and Ms. Hovhanessian as well as Director Title I and Literacy, Ms. Mulkern provided more in-depth data on specific subjects. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy proceeded to provide updates on attendance, SmartPass Digital Hall Pass which is being piloted at the Malden High School (MHS), and athletics.

In response to Ms. Spadafora, Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that the increase in out-of-district students in the past month was because there are some students who need services that cannot be provided in-district. Ms. Spadafora asked for a summary of all the in-house programs to be presented at some point to the School Committee. In response to Ms. Spadafora, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Peña said that MCAS assessment itself is not changing but to close the learning gaps that resulted from the pandemic, a deeper dive is being done with internal assessments to monitor student progress. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy added that the district is focusing on the basics, namely literacy and numeracy. In response to another question, Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that excused absences will not be held against the student for the middle school grade levels honors pilot program eligibility.

With regards to licenses, Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that currently, no staff is working under an expired license. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy added that in addition to the reminder from the Human Resource Department at Central Office, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) sends reminder emails at regular intervals to educators whose licenses will be expiring soon. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy clarified that siblings would not be separated as students wait for openings at their preferred school to become available, unless the parents want their children to be in different schools.

In response to Student Representative Hakkaoui, Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that IXL is being used for assessment at the high school instead of i-Ready which was used in past years because of the feedback received from educators. The educators provided feedback that the i-Ready content was geared more towards middle school and it was not really engaging high schoolers.

Mr. Weldai asked for a presentation at a future meeting on the number of staff working under emergency licenses, waivers or licenses that are about to expire. In response to a question from Mr. Weldai regarding the learning gap in grades 3 -5, STEM Director, Ms. Hovhanessian said that there was no curriculum in 2019 and without the foundation in numeracy at those grade levels, it becomes more difficult as the students move to higher grade levels. Ms. Hovhanessian continued about the work that is being done to close the gaps. Mr. Weldai and Superintendent Noriega-Murphy clarified about the different targets being set towards the goal of having all students achieve grade level proficiency.

In response to Ms. Rose-Zeiberg, Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said there was a decrease in AEAP enrollment for Grade 5 because a student in the program left the district. In response to another question, Superintendent said if the nearest school has no sets for an incoming student, the student would be placed at the next nearest school.

In response to Mayor Christenson, Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that the Honors program falls under Assistant Superintendent Peña's department and that the community service component will be done at the individual schools. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that different programs and tools are implemented at different stages in schools as it is very difficult to implement everything at the same time.

Subcommittee Reports

Motions and Resolutions

- 1. Memorandum of Agreement for MPS Cafeteria Employees International Union, Local 888 – Ms. Spadafora**
Ms. Spadafora said that at the October 21st Executive Session meeting, the School Committee voted to approve the memorandum of agreement for the cafeteria employees and custodians contingent upon ratification. Ms. Spadafora continued that since the ratifications have since been completed, the School Committee can vote on the memorandum of agreements in the regular session.

Ms. Spadafora made a motion to accept the Memorandum of Agreement for MPS Cafeteria Employees International Union, Local 888. Mr. McCarthy seconded. A roll call vote was taken.
Mr. Drummey voted YES
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 unanimously.

2. Memorandum of Agreement for MPS Custodians International Union, Local 888 – Ms. Spadafora

Ms. Spadafora made a motion to accept the Memorandum of Agreement for MPS Custodians, International Union, Local 888. Mr. McCarthy seconded. A roll call vote was taken.
Mr. Drummey voted YES
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 unanimously.

3. Superintendent Evaluation – Ms. Macklin

Ms. Macklin said that the School Committee members submitted their evaluation for the Superintendent in July and it was presented to the School Committee in September but there were some discrepancies. Ms. Macklin asked if there is a date by which the evaluation needs to be submitted and after corrections are made, when will it be brought to the School Committee for a vote. Mr. McCarthy said the Superintendent Evaluation Ad-Hoc Subcommittee will be meeting again to address the discrepancies. In response to Mayor Christenson, Mr. McCarthy said that the matter will be brought to the School Committee at the next meeting.

4. Welcome Center Transfer Policy Review – Mr. Weldai

Mr. Weldai said that the Superintendent is looking to add a line to the Welcome Center transfer policy that would allow the Superintendent to grant transfer requests in emergency situations.

Mr. Gray was in favor of voting on the matter on the floor. Ms. Spadafora said that this matter should be referred to the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee to clarify the types of emergency situations. Mr. Bernard said that defining emergency situations is a good idea. Mayor Christenson asked Ms. Spadafora to look at surrounding districts policies on the matter. Mr. Weldai made the motion to refer the matter to the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Personal Privilege

Executive Session

Ms. Spadafora made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:29 p.m. Mr. Bernard seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

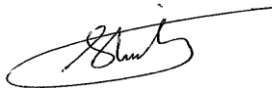
Mr. Drummey voted YES
Mr. McCarthy voted YES
Ms. Spadafora voted YES
Ms. Macklin voted YES
Mr. Weldai voted YES
Mr. Gray voted YES
Mr. Bernard voted YES
Ms. Rose-Zeiberg voted YES
Mayor Christenson voted YES
Motion passed unanimously.

The committee reconvened to the Regular Session at 8:15 p.m.

Adjournment

Mr. Drummey made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. 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