

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, October 3, 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. Mr. Weldai requested a moment of silence for School Committee Clerk, Ms. Dorai's husband, Mr. Ravi Khanna who passed away leaving behind two children in the Malden Public Schools (MPS). As October is breast cancer awareness month, Mr. Bernard requested a moment of silence for all those whose lives were cut short by cancer and who are living with cancer.

Superintendent Noriega-Murphy introduced Student Representative, Meryem Hakkaoui, a senior from Malden High School (MHS).

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	Absent
Mr. Bernard	Present
Ms. Rose-Zeiberg	Present
Superintendent Noriega-Murphy	Present
Student Representative Hakkaoui	Present
Clerk	Absent

Mayor Christenson invited Mr. Danyal Najmi from Rosetta Languages 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 table the minutes. Mr. Bernard seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Ms. Dawn O'Toole, 130 Adams Street, Malden

Ms. O'Toole is a parent of a current MHS student and an Educational Support Professional at the Beebe School. Ms. O'Toole asked the School Committee how the Chapter 70 funding can be fixed. Ms. O'Toole named neighboring school districts that are getting much more of Chapter 70 funding than Malden.

Dr. Elizabeth Tonogbanua, 31 Grace Street, Malden

Dr. Tonogbanua asked the School Committee to reinstate the Elementary Guidance Counselor position that was eliminated from the Beebe School budget for this school year. Dr. Tonogbanua added how vital this position is to the students and that the position is a fixed part of the operational budget in other schools.

Amalia, Grade 4 student at Beebe School

Amalia said that the Guidance Counselor at Beebe School last year helped her and her friends. Amalia asked that the Guidance Counselor position be brought back to Beebe.

Superintendent's Report

1. Introduction: Supervisor of Attendance

Superintendent Noriega-Murphy introduced Mr. Julio Perez who was recently hired as Supervisor of Attendance, working alongside Mr. John Parcellin who has been working as Supervisor of Attendance at MPS for many years. In January 2023, Mr. Perez will be taking over the reins from Mr. Parcellin.

2. District Updates and Highlights

Superintendent Noriega-Murphy congratulated Athletics and Physical Well-Being Director, Mr. Conefrey for being awarded the District Athletic Director of the Year. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy reminded everyone that there would be no school on October 10 in observance of Indigenous Peoples Day. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy also provided statistics that the MPS is the #1 most diverse public school district in Massachusetts and #8 in the country. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy continued to provide updates on the enrollment, after school program (Malden Out of School Time - MOST), staffing open positions, Accelerated and Enriched Academic Program (AEAP) update, COVID-19 update, special education transportation update, instructional focus, reducing absenteeism, MCAS results, accountability, and district initiatives aligned to recovery.

In response to Mr. McCarthy, Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that vacant positions in the MOST program is being advertised. MOST staff help with students' literacy and numeracy. In response to another question, Assistant Superintendent Doherty said that the vacant positions will remain posted online as it is driven by the waiting list. In response to Ms. Spadafora, Superintendent Noriega-Murphy provided clarification regarding special education placement terms such as Holding School, Out-of-District School and Home School that was mentioned in the report. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said data for MCAS-Alt will be presented later as data become available. Mr. Weldai commended all who worked hard work to find a solution for the bussing issue and asked when parents can access the "Find My Bus" app. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy responded that it is only piloted at the schools at the moment. In response to Mayor Christenson, Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said the class sizes are capped at 25 students. In response to another question from Mayor Christenson regarding after school programming, Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that everything depends on staffing and the

current waitlist will be reduced by 10-15 students for every staff hired. As for the AEAP working group, Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that more participants are needed for the working group and some had to leave due to time commitments. In response to another question, Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that the full MCAS report will be available next month. Mayor Christenson asked MHS Principal Mastrangelo about the most important factors that enabled MHS to have a substantial increase in MCAS participation. Mr. Mastrangelo said that it was a team effort to identify the issues and students who needed academic support as well as providing outreach to caregivers.

Subcommittee Reports

Motions and Resolutions

1. Sabbatical Leaves of Absence - Ms. Spadafora

Ms. Spadafora said that in the collective bargaining agreements with the Malden Education Association (MEA), it is indicated that the School Committee needs to determine every year, the number of sabbatical leaves of absences that would be granted for that year.

Ms. Spadafora recommended that this year, no sabbatical leaves of absences should be granted because of financial constraints. Mr. Weldai agreed. Mr. Bernard asked how many were granted in the past. Mr. Weldai and Mr. Drummey responded that probably just one or two in the past 8 years. Mr. Bernard said that although he is in agreement, he did not want this to be a deterrent to educators and education support professionals to seeking further education or qualifications. Mr. McCarthy echoed Mr. Bernard on this matter. Mr. Weldai provided clarification that any employee can take unpaid leave to further their education but the matter being discussed is whether the district can afford to pay for the leave, the substitute as well as a portion of the tuition.

Ms. Spadafora made the motion to grant 0 sabbatical leaves of absence for 2022-2023 because of financial constraints. Mr. Drummey seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey voted YES

Mr. McCarthy voted NO

Ms. Spadafora voted YES

Ms. Macklin voted YES

Mr. Weldai voted YES

Mr. Gray ABSENT

Mr. Bernard voted NO

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg voted YES

Mayor Christenson voted YES

Motion passed with 6 votes in favor, 2 votes against and 1 absent.

2. Supervisor of Attendance - Ms. Spadafora

Ms. Spadafora said that this matter was voted in Executive Session and needs to be voted on the floor. In response to Mr. McCarthy, Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that Mr. Perez will be

shadowing Mr. John Parcellin for the next few months and in January 2023, Mr. Perez will be the only one in this position.

Ms. Spadafora made the motion to appoint Mr. Julio Perez as Supervisor of Attendance for Malden Public Schools. Mr. Bernard seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey voted YES

Mr. McCarthy voted NO

Ms. Spadafora voted YES

Ms. Macklin voted YES

Mr. Weldai voted YES

Mr. Gray ABSENT

Mr. Bernard voted YES

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg voted YES

Mayor Christenson voted YES

Motion passed with 7 votes in favor, 1 against and 1 absent.

Personal Privilege

Executive Session

Mr. Drummey made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:24 p.m. 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 ABSENT

Mr. Bernard voted YES

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg voted YES

Mayor Christenson voted YES

Motion passed with 8 votes in favor 1 absent.

The committee reconvened to the Regular Session at 8:23 p.m.

Adjournment

Mr. Drummey made a motion to adjourn at 8:23 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.



Gary Christenson, Chair