

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, March 1, 2021
Online Meeting

Mayor Christenson called the meeting to order at 8:25 p.m.

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
Attorney Greenspan	Present
Assistant Superintendent Chase	Present
Assistant Superintendent MacDonald	Present
Business Manager Mertz	Present
Human Resource Director Pierre	Present
Clerk	Present

1. Update on Litigation - Keenan v. Malden Public Schools

Attorney Greenspan informed the School Committee of the case filed by former Interim Superintendent Carol Keenan, at the Middlesex Superior Court. Attorney Greenspan continued that the case pertains to her middle school principal's contract which was not extended beyond 2018 as it had expired while she was an Interim Assistant Principal for two years. A motion for summary judgement was heard in front of Judge Haggan via zoom on February 11th, 2021.

Attorney Greenspan said that Ms. Keenan claimed \$69,000 in her original filing but on February 10th proposed a settlement of \$85,000. Attorney Greenspan added that the presentation was well received by the judge but there is no telling which way the ruling might go. When questioned, Attorney Greenspan said that even if Ms. Keenan's case prevailed, the demand is over the amount referenced in the complaint. Attorney Greenspan said that the matter is under advisement. The School Committee did not authorize a counter offer.

2. Collective Bargaining - Units A, B and C

Attorney Greenspan said Governor Baker and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Commissioner Riley have informed districts that they need to facilitate full in-person 5 days a week return of elementary students in April. Attorney Greenspan added that the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Malden Education Association

(MEA) has several items that is in direct conflict with this new guidance. Both Attorney Greenspan and Superintendent Oteri commented that there are more questions than answers at the moment and that many are waiting for the Board of Education to provide more guidance.

Discussion ensued about preparation for the reopening of schools and potential staffing issues that may arise as well as means to address these issues.

Adjournment

Ms. Spadafora made the motion to adjourn Executive Session at 9:47 p.m. Ms. Luong 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

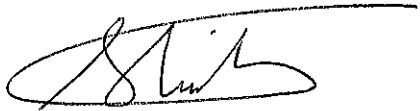
Mr. Weldai voted YES

Mayor Christenson voted YES

Motion passed unanimously.

The committee reconvened to the Regular Session at 9:48 p.m.

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