

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, November 23, 2020
Online Meeting

Mayor Christenson called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

Roll Call

The following attendance was taken:

Mayor Christenson	Present
Mr. Drummey	Absent
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
Clerk	Present

1. Collective Bargaining - Unit A, Unit B and Unit C

Superintendent Oteri said that about 200 highest needs students have been successfully receiving in-person instruction at all seven school buildings since October 13th, 2020. No students tested positive for COVID-19 although six personnel and contact persons tested positive. Superintendent Oteri continued that safety guidelines were always followed closely.

At the last meeting with the Joint Labor Management Committee (JLMC), the topic of bringing back teachers and certain grade levels was discussed. Superintendent Oteri said the Malden Education Association (MEA) wanted to postpone in-person instruction for 2 weeks after Thanksgiving but Superintendent Oteri said he was not in favor as the COVID-19 situation has seemed manageable. Another suggestion raised at the JLMC meeting was to place all students in one school, but Superintendent Oteri said that Board of Health Director, Mr. Chris Webb was not in favor for safety reasons.

Mayor Christenson agreed that there was no need to postpone in-person learning for two weeks after Thanksgiving. Other School Committee members echoed that it was not necessary to postpone in-person learning for two weeks after Thanksgiving.

Mr. Weldai said that at the last JLMC meeting, the MEA was informed that teachers were expected to be back in the buildings by December 7th and K-2 students would begin a hybrid learning plan on December 14th. The JLMC were to re-convene on December 3rd to further discuss this next phase. Some School Committee members were disappointed that they were not presented with a plan regarding the next step before it was discussed at the JLMC. Ms. Spadafora commented that the student cohorts could be brought back to school in January

rather than December so that the winter break would not disrupt the transition. Ms. Spadafora also mentioned that the survey to families to gauge how many would be interested in returning to hybrid or in-person learning lacked a lot of information and clarifications. Assistant Superintendent MacDonald said that the December dates that were identified were just start dates but that they could backtrack and set new dates if the situation called for it. Ms. Luong said that the teachers should come back into the buildings in December.

Attorney Greenspan said that the existing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) spelled out different stages of learning with the next stage being Stage 4. Stage 4 includes all the highest needs students from Stage 3 to continue with in-person learning up to four (4) days a week in Stage 4. Stage 4 also adds youngest learners, additional learners in need of support participate onsite with in-person instruction two (2) days a week. Attorney Howard continued that if any proposed plan going forward is different from the existing MOA, then the negotiation committee needs to be engaged. When questions arose about why there has been a shift about bringing back K-2 students as well as a few grades in the high school instead of the English Learners (ELs), Assistant Superintendent Chase said that most of the ELs were in integrated classrooms and they only had EL instruction as a push in or pull out program. This would mean the entire grade or cohort would need to be doing in-person learning to accommodate them. As for the high school, some students are required to take standardized tests and therefore would need in-person instruction.

Attorney Greenspan said that a clear plan needs to be formulated and presented to the School Committee prior to the December 7th School Committee meeting, taking into account all the different factors.

Mayor Christenson said the School Committee will be meeting again for a Special Meeting and Executive Session on November 30th.

Adjournment

Ms. Spadafora made the motion to adjourn Executive Session at 7:32 p.m. Mr. McCarthy seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey ABSENT

Mr. Froio voted YES

Mr. Gray voted YES

Mr. Iovino voted YES

Ms. Luong voted YES

Mr. McCarthy voted YES

Ms. Spadafora voted YES

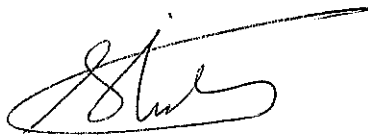
Mr. Weldai voted YES

Mayor Christenson voted YES

Motion passed with 8 votes in favor and 1 absent.

The committee reconvened to the Regular Session at 7:35 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.

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

Shirley Dorai, Clerk