

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, October 5, 2020
Online Meeting

Mayor Christenson called the meeting to order at 7:31 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
Assistant Superintendent Chase	Present
Assistant Superintendent MacDonald	Present
Attorney Greenspan	Present
Clerk	Present

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

Superintendent Oteri said that as agreed upon in the Memorandum of Agreement and affirmed with the vote of 5 to 4 of the Joint Labor Management Committee (JLMC) on Health and Safety, Hybrid Stage 3 where high-needs Special Education students will be brought into the buildings will begin on Tuesday, October 13th. All Unit A and C members who are assigned to sub-separate classrooms or who are deemed essential to facilitate a safe transition for the high needs students will also report to work in-person on October 13th.

Superintendent Oteri continued that in an effort to keep up morale, the district extended the flexibility to the remaining unit A and C members, whose students remain in the remote/distance model and are not required to be in the buildings on October 13th, to use their professional discretion to choose to work from home or in-person in the buildings throughout Hybrid Stage 3.

Stage 4 of the MOA includes youngest learners, English learners and homeless students. Superintendent Oteri sought input from the School Committee as the union has not been adhering to the terms set forth in the MOA, in terms of all teachers reporting to work in-person at their respective school buildings.

Mr. Weldai and Ms. Spadafora were present at the JLMC meetings. Mr. Weldai said that since the teachers were able to teach satisfactorily from home, he was in favor of allowing them to continue to do so. Mr. Weldai added that this will also be safer for the special needs students who can come back to school buildings that have fewer people.

Ms. Spadafora and Ms. Luong voiced that the MOA and JLMC decision should be followed by both parties and were disappointed that the unit members were not in the buildings beginning on September 28th. Mr. Iovino agreed that the union should adhere to the agreement.

Mayor Christenson said that we are living in an unprecedented situation and that the focus should be on bringing the high needs students back into the buildings. Mr. Froio said that he agrees with Mr. Weldai that the teachers should be allowed to continue working from home. In response to the Superintendent's question as to when all other unit members would be expected to work from the school buildings, Mayor Christenson said that the district should proceed according to the circumstances.

Ms. Spadafora commented that the district might seem to be not equitable with all staff if only certain staff members are expected to report to the buildings. Ms. Spadafora and Ms. Luong raised the question as to what date should be set for all staff to come back into the school buildings. Superintendent Oteri said that the September 28th date was set by both parties but it was not followed. Superintendent Oteri further commented that all staff should be asked to work at their respective buildings before Stage 4 begins in order to avoid equity issues.

Mayor Christenson said that plans for the subsequent stages can be decided later after October 13th. Attorney Greenspan suggested that Superintendent Oteri send a letter to staff extending the flexibility to the remaining unit A and C members, whose students remain in the remote/distance model and are not required to be in on October 13th, to use their professional discretion to choose to work from home or in-person in the buildings throughout Hybrid Stage 3. After further discussions, the School Committee came to the conclusion that Superintendent Oteri will continue working with the JLMC to determine how to best support all staff coming back to the buildings before entering Hybrid Stage 4.

Adjournment

Ms. Spadafora made the motion to adjourn Executive Session at 8:23 p.m. Ms. Luong 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

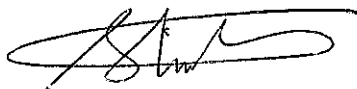
Mr. Weldai voted YES

Mayor Christenson voted YES

Motion passed with 8 votes in favor and 1 absent.

The committee reconvened to the Regular Session at 8:23 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