



**MALDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Superintendent Search Committee**

**City Hall, 215 Pleasant Street, Room #105  
March 27, 2024**

**Attendance:**

| <b>NAME</b>   | <b>Present</b> |        |
|---|----------------|--------|
| Jennifer Spadafora,                                 | √              |        |
| Sharyn Rose-Zeiberg,                                | √              |        |
| Adam Weldai, Forestdale                             | √              |        |
| Jane Wright, Salemwood                              | √              |        |
| Todd Cole, MHS                                      | √              |        |
| Sonia Miller, Linden                                | √              |        |
| Dr. Brian Sheehan, Salemwood                        | √              |        |
| Cara Hovhanessian, District Wide Stem Director K-5  | √              | Remote |
| Stephanie Scalese, District Wide SpED Program Mgr.  | √              | Remote |
| Sammantha Dorazio, District Wide Subs. School Nurse | √              |        |
| Dawn Marie O’Toole, Beebe ESP                       | √              |        |
| Ashanafi Befekadu                                   | √              |        |
| Joshua Gold   | √              |        |
| Heather Segal                                       | √              |        |
| Amanda Ceide  | √              |        |
| Meklit “Meki” Abel                                  | A              |        |
| Kashawna Harling, DEI Officer                       | A              |        |

**Also Present:** Maria Luise of the Mayor’s Office serving as Clerk of the Committee and consultant, Glenn Koocher, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC).

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call:**

Co-Chair Jennifer Spadafora called the meeting to order at 6:03PM and stated that there was a quorum present to conduct business. Maria Luise conducted roll call and the members of the Committee present are noted in the Attendance Chart. As also noted above some members participated in the meeting remotely and a zoom link was also provided for members of the public who wished to attend.

**2. Approval of Minutes:**

Ms. Spadafora asked if there were any comments or changes to the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes which the group had received prior for review. Upon motion of Adam Weldai which was seconded by Heather Segal, it was voted unanimously by roll call vote to approve the minutes.

### **3. Review of Potential Questions:**

Mr. Koocher explained that he had received 31 proposed questions from Committee members prior to the meeting which were distributed to the group in memo form (*See Attachment A*). All comments from question writers along with any rationale were included in the memo. The goal for this meeting is to determine which questions are most important to ask.

Mr. Koocher also explained that any questions that are not used will be forwarded to the School Committee for their consideration at the public interviews.

As the group discussed each question, the following categories (or “buckets”) were formed for organizational purposes: opening questions (background), communications, DEI, leadership style, student-centered questions, community and stakeholders, staff retention, curriculum, English Language Learners and Special Education.

Each question included in *Attachment A* was reviewed and discussed by the group. The author of the question had the opportunity to explain and expand on the rationale for including the particular question. The goal was to narrow it down to around 15 to 17 questions for the interviews. Everyone will have a question to ask. Follow-up questions can be asked.

After discussion, each question was put into a category. Some were revised, consolidated with another question or set aside for the School Committee.

The final tally was as follows:

1. Opening questions (background): to address why Malden, how did you prepare and how would you describe yourself.
2. Communications: (3 questions)
3. DEI: (3 questions)
4. Leadership style: (5 questions)
5. Student-centered questions: (6 questions)
6. Community and stakeholders: (3 questions)
7. Staff retention: (1 question)
8. Student Achievement/  
Accountability: (1 question)
9. Curriculum: (3 Questions)
10. English Language Learners  
/faculty: (3 Questions)
11. Special Education: (1 Question)

It was discussed that all financial questions should be referred to the School Committee as well as those focused on collective bargaining.

Mr. Koocher recommended that for the most part, there should not be more than 2 questions per category or “bucket,” and he suggested that members volunteer to work on a category that needs to be whittled down. Some of the questions can be combined. Jane Wright and Brian Sheehan offered to work on the Leadership bucket and Todd Cole offered to tackle DEI. Koocher explained that he would provide a document organizing the questions by category within the next day or so. This document will be incorporated in these minutes as *Attachment B*. Members that want to work on a category can let Ms. Spadafora know. All updated questions should be returned by April 2nd.

**4. Schedule and planning next steps:**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9th at 6:00 PM at the Forestdale School. The main topics for discussion will be finalizing the interview questions and considering who to interview.

**5. Adjournment:**

On a motion by Ms. Dorazio, seconded by Ms. Wright, it was voted unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Maria Luise*