



**MALDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Superintendent Search Committee**

Minutes of April 30, 2024

Executive Session

Members of the Search Committee participated in executive session remotely through Zoom.

Attendance:

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

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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

Co-Chair Jennifer Spadafora opened the meeting and explained that tonight’s focus would be on discussing the candidates interviewed and determining who to move forward to the School Committee. Maria Luise conducted roll call and members of the Screening Committee that were present are noted in the Attendance Chart above.

2. Deliberation Process

Ms. Spadafora facilitated the deliberation process. Alicia Mallon (MASC) shared the straw poll of everyone’s top three preferences which resulted in three (3) of the candidates being tied with 9 votes each. Glenn Koocher explained that the next steps were up to the group as to whether to discuss each candidate one at a time or whether each member would share their rationale on the candidates they had chosen as a top three.

The Committee engaged in a robust discussion of the candidates and an in-depth review of each one. Each member had the opportunity to discuss the strengths of each candidate as well as weaknesses. Members also voiced specific concerns and Kashawna Harling (DEI Officer), who will not be voting on the finalists, gave her point of view through a diversity, equity and inclusion lens.

Following the deliberation, the Committee conducted another poll and discussed the option of putting forth four (4) candidates. Alicia Mallon explained that four candidates would not delay the process and that there was no right number except that there shouldn’t be only two.

After further discussion, the Committee reached consensus on four finalists. Upon motion of Adam Weldai, which was seconded by Heather Segal, the Committee voted by a roll call vote to submit the following four candidates to the School Committee as finalists for the position of Superintendent of Schools:

- **Brent Conway, M.Ed** (currently Assistant Superintendent for the Pentucket Regional School District, West Newbury, MA)
- **Robin Desmond, M.Ed** (currently Chief Academic Officer for Lowell Public Schools)
- **Timothy Sippel, ED.LD** (currently Executive Director of Schools in the Worcester Public Schools)
- **Paul Teixeira MA, CAGS** (currently Director of English Language Education and Title III, Medford Public Schools)

Roll Call Vote:

NAME	Present
Jennifer Spadafora, Co-Chair	Yes
Sharyn Rose-Zeiberg, Co-Chair	Yes
Adam Weldai, Forestdale	Yes
Jane Wright, Salemwood	Yes
Todd Cole, MHS	Yes
Sonia Miller, Linden	Yes
Dr. Brian Sheehan, Salemwood	Yes
Cara Hovhanessian, District Wide Stem Director K-5	Yes
Stephanie Scalese, District Wide SpED Program Mgr.	Yes
Sammantha Dorazio, District Wide Subs. School Nurse	No
Dawn Marie O’Toole, Beebe ESP	Yes
Ashanafi Befekadu, parent	Yes
Joshua Gold, parent	Yes
Heather Segal, parent	Yes
Amanda Ceide, SEPAC	Yes
Meklit “Meki” Abel, student	Absent
Kashawna Harling, DEI Officer	Not a voting member

The motion passed with (14) Yes votes and (1) No vote.

The four candidates will be contacted and informed they are finalists.

(Please note that the name of any candidate that does not accept the offer to be a finalist and whose name is not forwarded to the School Committee for public consideration should be redacted before public distribution of these minutes).

Next steps were discussed. Mr. Koocher will prepare a report for the School Committee announcing the finalists for the May 6th School Committee meeting. A public engagement process will follow, and then final interviews will be conducted by the School Committee.

Ms. Spadafora thanked the Committee and asked if they could attend the School Committee meeting next week so that they can be acknowledged for all their work.

Upon motion of Adam Weldai, seconded by Sonia Miller, the Committee voted unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn executive session at 9:42PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maria Luise".

Maria Luise