

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION  
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 6, 2024

Herbert L. Jackson Council Chamber Room #106 - 215 Pleasant Street  
And Virtual Meeting

Mayor Christenson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Mayor Christenson read the docket items for the meeting.

Mayor Christenson led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence for those who have served our country and for those who continue to do so. A moment of silence was also observed for Officer Kevin McKenna, Ms. Jean Condon (late wife of City Councillor Paul Condon), Mr. Robert Rotondi, President of the Babe Ruth Association and Coach, and D-Day.

**Roll Call**

The following attendance was taken:

Mayor Christenson	Present
Mr. Drummey	Absent
Mr. McCarthy	Present
Ms. Spadafora	Present
Ms. Macklin	Absent
Ms. Hortie	Present
Mr. Gray	Present
Mr. Bernard	Present
Ms. Rose-Zeiberg	Present
Superintendent Noriega-Murphy	Present
Student Representative Abel	Absent
Clerk	Present

**Approval of Minutes**

**1. Regular Session Minutes of May 6, 2024**

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the adoption of minutes for the May 6<sup>st</sup>, 2024 Regular Session of the School Committee. Mr. McCarthy made the motion to adopt the minutes. Mr. Bernard seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

**2. Special Session Minutes of May 13, 2024**

Mr. Bernard made the motion to adopt the minutes of May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Special Session of the School Committee. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Special Session Minutes of May 16, 2024**

Mr. Bernard made the motion to adopt the minutes of May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Special Session of the School Committee. Ms. Rose-Zeiberg seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

**4. Special Session Minutes of May 29, 2024**

Ms. Spadafora made the motion to adopt the minutes of May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Special Session of the School Committee. Mr. Bernard seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Chris Giordano, MHS Educator

Mr. Giordano was thankful for the paid parental leave policy which he was able to utilize this year. Mr. Giordano hoped that discussions would be held on how to improve the paid parental leave and support our schools in dealing with the challenges that occur in light of these leaves, at the upcoming contract negotiations with the Malden Education Association (MEA). Mr. Giordano continued that there are serious flaws with the current system that can and should be addressed during the upcoming bargaining cycle which includes developing a systematic plan for hiring long-term substitutes. Mr. Giordano said that many of the coverage plans at Malden High School (MHS) require up to five other classroom teachers in the department to sacrifice their prep time to cover an additional class. Mr. Giordano added that teachers expected to get an additional fifth of their salary for this coverage but are paid only half the amount.

Ms. Meaghan Johnson, 100 Neal Street, Malden

Ms. Johnson advocated for the before school care program. Ms. Johnson said that it is really unfair not to offer this service especially when surrounding communities provide this service. Ms. Johnson also voiced disappointment with the after-school care program because it does not accommodate the needs of families. Ms. Johnson said that for right now, she is advocating for the before school care program because not all the schools offer the program and that it is not being discussed for next year.

Mayor Christenson said that this matter will be discussed with the incoming Superintendent to make something happen and that Ms. Johnson can expect some feedback in July.

Ms. Heather Barry, 10 Hudson Terrace, Malden and Malden SEPAC Vice-President

On behalf of Malden Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC), Ms. Barry thanked Superintendent Noriega-Murphy for everything she has done for the special needs students in Malden and wished her well.

**Superintendent's Report**

**1. Malden 375 Essay Contest**

Superintendent Noriega-Murphy introduced Malden Public Library Director, Ms. Dora St. Martin, Director of History/Social Studies, Visual and Performing Arts, Mr. Gerard Tanetta and Malden Historical Society Vice-President, Mr. John Parcellin.

Mr. Tanetta spoke about all the work done together for the last two years and the work done this year for the Malden 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Mr. Tanetta said the topic that was chosen for the essay content was industrialization which also aligns with the curriculum for grades 9-11. Over 40 essay entries were received. The essays received were reviewed by a committee and with the financial support of the Adelaide Breed Bayrd Foundation, six awards were given to students: First Place - Andy Liu; Second Place - Sophie LeBlanc; Honorable

Mentions - Raphael Orcino, Kelly Ye, Dagny Boswell, and Thuy Duong Pham. Andy Liu read an excerpt of his essay for the School Committee and audience.

Mayor Christenson called for a recess at 6:18 p.m. to congratulate the students and take photographs. The meeting resumed at 6:23 p.m.

## **2. District Updates and Highlights**

Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that she was happy to help with the transition process for the success of the students. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy proceeded to provide updates on celebrations; Special Olympics; program of studies; handbook; school improvement plans; cross functional teams; last day of school - June 13<sup>th</sup>; summer programs; courage award at Salemwood School; Nature's Classroom; MHS Class of 2024; enrollment data; licensure update; Malden-Out-Of-School-Time (MOST) update presented by Data Analyst, Dr. Pam Stazesky; Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy presented by Director of English Language Arts (ELA)/World Language, Ms. Heather Castonguay; Honors Pathway; graduation rate; dropout rate; end-of-year growth update presented by Data Analyst, Dr. Pam Stazesky; mission and vision; instructional framework; and recap of all the projects in the district. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy concluded her report with a video of Nature's Classroom. There was a standing ovation for Superintendent Noriega-Murphy at the end of her report.

In response to Ms. Hortie, Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that some educators have already submitted their application for the SEI endorsements. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy also said that the district is unable to offer SEI endorsement classes because it has to be offered by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Superintendent Noriega-Murphy continued that information about the classes offered by DESE has been provided to the educators. In response to another question, Dr. Stazesky said that assessment data is available to principals based on individual schools.

Ms. Hortie highlighted that if IXL data is going to be used as benchmarks for students, then there needs to be support at each school. Ms. Hortie said that the Forestdale School does not have a Math Coach for next year. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy concurred that the schools will need support. Mr. Gray noted that he would be convening a Technology and Student Resources Subcommittee meeting in the fall and involve Dr. Sippel to discuss the matter of the website.

In response to Ms. Rose-Zeiberg, Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that for educators who need licenses, the district has been emailing vouchers so that they can take the necessary tests and classes. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy added that there is also a partnership with one of the colleges for this purpose. Waivers are filed every year for educators without licenses who work as long-term substitutes.

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg noted that the after-school program run at the Ferryway School by an outside agency has almost double the number of students enrolled compared to other programs at the schools. Ms. Rose-Zeiberg requested more information about what enabled this program to have higher enrollment numbers. In response to Ms. Rose-Zeiberg about the after-school program survey, Dr. Stazesky said that the question about vacation and summer school needs were grouped as one question. Ms. Rose-Zeiberg said that she received feedback from families that they would like to see it separated for future surveys. Ms. Rose-Zeiberg also asked if there

was a question about how many students each family had and Dr. Stazesky said there was a question that addressed this matter.

### **Subcommittee Reports and Discussions**

**1. Budget Subcommittee Update – Ms. Spadafora**

Ms. Spadafora said that the 2024-2025 Budget Public Hearing was held earlier in the evening and that the budget process began as early as September or October of 2023. Ms. Spadafora continued that although the Chapter 70 funding only saw an increase of a little over a million dollars, the team has put forth a budget that ensures the integrity of the classrooms and places teachers in front of every single student. Ms. Spadafora added that the proposed budget was approved unanimously at the Budget Subcommittee level. Mayor Christenson commended Ms. Spadafora's efforts with the budget.

**2. Policy and Procedures Subcommittee – Ms. Rose-Zeiberg**

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg said that the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee met on May 30<sup>th</sup> and discussed the handbook including safety measures, and program of studies. Ms. Rose-Zeiberg added that these documents will be continuously updated.

### **Motions and Resolutions**

**1. Superintendent-Elect, Dr. Timothy Sippel, 2024-2027 Contract – Ms. Spadafora**

Ms. Spadafora said that together with Ms. Rose-Zeiberg, who co-chaired the Superintendent Search Committee, they are excited about the results.

Ms. Spadafora made the motion to approve the contract for Superintendent-Elect, Dr. Timothy Sippel, and authorize the Chair, Mayor Christenson to sign on behalf of the School Committee.

Mr. Gray seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey ABSENT

Mr. McCarthy voted YES

Ms. Spadafora voted YES

Ms. Macklin ABSENT

Ms. Hortie voted YES

Mr. Gray voted YES

Mr. Bernard voted YES

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg voted YES

Mayor Christenson voted YES

Motion passed with 6 votes in favor and 2 absent.

Ms. Spadafora invited Dr. Timothy Sippel to the podium to officially extend a welcome. Dr. Sippel thanked everyone and looked forward to working together.

**2. Malden Public Schools Budget 2024-2025 – Ms. Spadafora**

Ms. Spadafora made the motion to approve the 2024-2025 Malden Public Schools budget. Mr. McCarthy seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey ABSENT  
Mr. McCarthy voted YES  
Ms. Spadafora voted YES  
Ms. Macklin ABSENT  
Ms. Hortie voted YES  
Mr. Gray voted YES  
Mr. Bernard voted YES  
Ms. Rose-Zeiberg voted YES  
Mayor Christenson voted YES  
Motion passed with 6 votes in favor and 2 absent.

**3. School Improvement Plans – Ms. Spadafora**

Ms. Spadafora said that every school has a School Improvement Plan that they work on throughout the year with their School Councils.

Ms. Spadafora made the motion to approve the School Improvement Plans. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

**4. Student and Family Handbook PreK-12 – Ms. Rose-Zeiberg**

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg the motion to approve the Student and Family Handbook 2024-2025 PreK-12. Ms. Spadafora seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. Program of Studies PreK-12 – Ms. Rose-Zeiberg**

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg made the motion to approve the Program of Studies 2024-2025 PreK-12. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. Resolution in Support of the Senate Amendment to Create a Chapter 70 Task Force – Ms. Rose-Zeiberg**

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg said Senator Lewis included an amendment in the Senate budget to form a Chapter 70 Task Force which was passed in the Senate which calls for the task force to study and make recommendations about the calculations for local contributions and to update the education funding formula. Ms. Rose-Zeiberg continued that this amendment was not in the House budget and the next step is for it to go to the Budget Conference Committee. Ms. Rose-Zeiberg noted that now is the time to advocate for this matter to be included in the FY 2025 Budget. When Ms. Rose-Zeiberg met with Senator Lewis, he said that he is committed to continuing efforts to help Malden but that this process will take time. Ms. Rose-Zeiberg said that the House delegation also needs to hear from Malden and encouraged everyone to contact Senator Lewis, Representative Paul Donato, Representative Kate Lipper-Garabedian, and Representative Steven Ultrino to urge them to advocate for the Chapter 70 Task Force amendment. Ms. Rose-Zeiberg thanked Malden City Council who already passed their own resolution to support the amendment. Ms. Rose-Zeiberg read the resolution as follows:

*Whereas the Malden School Committee supports the city of Malden's efforts to educate every student enrolled in the Malden Public Schools, let it be resolved that we support the Chapter 70 Task Force included in the Senate budget and urge that it be included in the final FY 2025 State budget. The creation of the Chapter 70 Task Force is a necessary step in reviewing and revising the calculations for determining a city's required local contribution for school funding.*

Ms. Spadafora said that upon adopted, the resolution should be sent to the State delegation as well as the Education Committee, Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Mr. Bernard said that funding is restricting us from providing more for the district and that is why the formula needs to be reviewed. Mr. Bernard encouraged everyone to contact the State representatives and volunteered his time to accompany them to make phone calls or meet with the representatives.

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg made the motion to adopt the resolution in support of the Senate amendment to create a Chapter 70 Task Force. Mr. Bernard seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

**7. Student Enrollment of School Department Personnel – Ms. Spadafora**

Ms. Spadafora said that the School Committee has a policy for the school admission of children of school department personnel. Ms. Spadafora read the following request was received from an employee:

*I am writing to you to request an approval for my 4 year-old daughter to attend the ELC preschool program for the schoolyear 2024-2025 as a non-resident of Malden. My husband and I were both born and raised in Malden and went through the Malden school systems ourselves. Our parents all still live here in Malden. I am going into my 10<sup>th</sup> year as a teacher here in Malden and am currently an ILP teacher at the ELC. We are currently looking for a home in Malden. Due to transportation difficulties, it would be far too challenging for her to attend preschool in a different city. Thank you for your time.*

Ms. Spadafora said there is currently space for enrollment but that the May 15<sup>th</sup> cut-off date has passed. Ms. Spadafora also added that Malden is not a School Choice district. Mr. Bernard said that he understands that the teacher's situation but is also aware of the policy restrictions. In response to Ms. Hortie, Ms. Spadafora said that according to the policy, once a student is approved, the student can stay for the duration of their schooling and that the request did not specify if they only wanted to enroll for one year. Ms. Spadafora also mentioned that the employee can apply again for the following year and that there is also a hardship clause which can be granted by the Superintendent if they can prove that it with documentation.

Ms. Spadafora made the motion to deny the request. Mr. Bernard seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey ABSENT

Mr. McCarthy voted YES

Ms. Spadafora voted YES

Ms. Macklin ABSENT

Ms. Hortie ABSTAIN

Mr. Gray voted YES

Mr. Bernard voted YES

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg ABSTAIN

Mayor Christenson voted YES

Motion passed with 5 votes in favor, 2 abstentions and 2 absent.

**Personal Privilege**

**Executive Session**

Mr. Bernard made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. Ms. Rose-Zeiberg seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey ABSENT

Mr. McCarthy voted YES

Ms. Spadafora voted YES

Ms. Macklin ABSENT

Ms. Hortie voted YES

Mr. Gray voted YES

Mr. Bernard voted YES

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg voted YES

Mayor Christenson voted YES

Motion passed with 6 votes in favor and 2 absent.

The committee reconvened to the Regular Session at 8:39 p.m.

Mr. Bernard made the motion to approve a 3% COLA increase for 2023-2024 for Superintendent Noriega-Murphy which will be retroactive from July 1, 2023. Ms. Hortie seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey ABSENT

Mr. McCarthy voted YES

Ms. Spadafora voted NO

Ms. Macklin ABSENT

Ms. Hortie voted YES

Mr. Gray voted YES

Mr. Bernard voted YES

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg voted YES

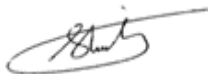
Mayor Christenson voted YES

Motion passed with 6 votes in favor, 1 vote against and 2 absent.

**Adjournment**

Ms. Spadafora made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Ms. Rose-Zeiberg seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

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.



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Shirley Dorai, Clerk