

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, June 9, 2025

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

Mayor Christenson called the meeting to order and opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the Malden School Committee's hearing on the school budget and leading the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Roll Call

The following attendance was taken:

Mayor Christenson - Present

Mr. Drummey - Present

Mr. McCarthy - Present

Ms. Spadafora - Present

Ms. Macklin - Present

Ms. Hortie - Present

Mr. Gray - Absent

Mr. Bernard - Absent

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg - Present

Mayor Christenson opened the floor for public comments on the proposed budget, allowing 3 minutes per speaker.

Public Comment

Bonnie Littlejohn, 127 Emerald St. Malden

Ms. Littlejohn raised concerns about the imbalance in the number of ELA director positions compared to STEM director positions, questioning the effectiveness of having only one STEM director for all K-12 grades and questioning how one person could manage all K-12 grades in science, technology, engineering, and math. Ms. Littlejohn questioned the adequacy of the district's staffing for coordination and specialized services, noting the extensive responsibilities assigned to a single coordinator and the lack of clarity on how these tasks would be managed; noting that the new posting for a district specialized services coordinator, indicates that they will be responsible for 504 coordination, liaison with DCF, and support for homeless students.

Dawn O'Toole, 130 Adams St. Malden

Ms. O'Toole asked the School Committee if she could yield her 3 minutes to Bonnie Littlejohn, to allow her to finish her thoughts and Ms. Littlejohn continued. Ms. Littlejohn then shared that she noticed the presence of five system-wide school psychologist positions and one .5 position for the high school, expressing concerns about the efficacy of these numbers given the legal

timeframes for evaluations. Ms. Littlejohn also shared a concern for the lack of media specialists, world language teachers, and math specialists in certain schools, as well as inconsistencies in the number of building monitors and their salaries.

Deb Gesualdo, 77 Exchange St. - MEA President

Ms. Gesualdo raised concerns that had been shared with her about the lack of a program manager budgeted for the Early Learning Center, noting the high number of IEPs and the need for proper management.

Mayor Christenson acknowledged and thanked Ms. Spadafora and her team on the budget, highlighting the financial challenges faced by the district. The Chair wanted to be sure to note that Malden is using \$8 million in one-time reserves to balance the operating budget, emphasizing that this approach is not sustainable.

Adjournment

Mr. Drummey made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing on the FY26 Proposed School Budget at 5:15 p.m.. Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion and it was VOTED. The 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.

Ariana Langston

Ariana Langston, Clerk