

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, June 23, 2025
Herbert L. Jackson Council Chamber Room #106 - 215 Pleasant Street Malden, MA and
Virtual Meeting

Mayor Christenson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Christenson read 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.

Roll Call

The following attendance was taken:

Mayor Christenson - Present

Mr. Drummey - Absent

Mr. McCarthy - Present

Ms. Spadafora - Present

Ms. Macklin - Present

Ms. Hortie - Present

Mr. Gray - Present

Mr. Bernard - Absent

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg - Present

Superintendent Sippel - Present

Superintendent Evaluation

Ms. Spadafora led in reviewing the Superintendent's goals and self-assessment, which were established in November 2024. The goals included effective entry and direction setting, maintaining focus on continuous improvement, and completing the first year of the new Superintendent induction program. These goals were unanimously approved by the committee. Each member evaluated the Superintendent based on the established goals and the self-assessment provided. The Committee Members submitted individual evaluations, which were compiled into a composite evaluation.

Ms. Hortie highlighted the Superintendent's effort to understand the tradition and culture of the Malden Public Schools, attending multiple community events and school-related activities, and becoming a member of the Malden Community. Mr. Drummey praised the Superintendent's straightforward approach, noting that he set up his entry plan and accomplished his goals, allowing staff to do their jobs and only interjecting when necessary. Mayor Christensen commended the Superintendent's strong start, noting his instructional leadership, community

engagement, and effective collaboration with the School Committee. The Mayor also mentioned the Superintendent's role in leading to a three-year agreement with the MEA.

The Committee assessed the Superintendent's progress towards three main goals: effective entry and direction setting, maintaining focus on continuous improvement, and completing the first year of the new Superintendent induction program. Most members rated the Superintendent as meeting expectations. The committee evaluated the Superintendent's performance on standards, including instructional leadership, management and operations, family and community engagement, and professional culture. The Superintendent was rated proficient or exemplary in all areas based on the composite evaluation of individual committee member assessments.

Mr. McCarthy raised a concern about the lack of focus on student attendance in the Superintendent's goals, suggesting that it should have been highlighted more in the District improvement goal. The Committee agreed that student attendance should be a focus in the future, with the Superintendent acknowledging its importance and the need to address it in the upcoming year. The Superintendent explained that student attendance is included under the standard of data-informed decision making, which encompasses district and school culture and climate. He emphasized the importance of students feeling welcomed and excited about being in school.

Ms. Spadafora made a motion to approve the Superintendent's evaluation rating of "Proficient". Ms. Hortie seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken as follows:

Roll Call Vote

Mayor Christenson - Yes

Mr. Drummey - Absent

Mr. McCarthy - Yes

Ms. Spadafora - Yes

Ms. Macklin - Yes

Ms. Hortie - Yes

Mr. Gray - Yes

Mr. Bernard - Yes

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg - Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

School Year 2026 Handbook & Program of Studies

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg presented the Handbook and Program of Studies, noting that the documents are lengthy and have been reviewed for necessary changes and updates. Ms. Hortie raised a concern about the dress code in the Handbook. Pointing to where it lists specific items such as strapless tops and halter tops noting that such items are difficult to enforce and may

disproportionately affect female students. The committee agreed to revisit this issue and potentially make changes to the dress code policy.

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg turned to The Superintendent to speak to the Program of Studies. The Superintendent highlighted changes made to the documents, including the removal of content that was not necessary and ensuring consistency with School Committee policy. Dr. Sippel then explained that the inclusion of certain courses in the Program of Studies does not necessarily mean they will be offered every year. Some courses may be included based on student interest and demand.

The Committee voted to approve the Handbook and Program of Studies, with the understanding that the documents would be updated and refined throughout the year as needed. The approved documents will be made available on the school website clearly delineated for the school year 2025-2026.

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg made a motion to approve the SY26 Handbook and Program of Studies. Mr. Gray seconded the motion and roll call vote was taken as follows:

Roll Call Vote

Mayor Christenson - Yes

Mr. Drummey - Absent

Mr. McCarthy - Yes

Ms. Spadafora - Yes

Ms. Macklin - Yes

Ms. Hortie - Yes

Mr. Gray - Yes

Mr. Bernard - Yes

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg - Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

Mr. Bernard made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. Mr. McCarthy seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Roll Call Vote

Mayor Christenson - Yes

Mr. Drummey - Absent

Mr. McCarthy - Yes

Ms. Spadafora - Yes

Ms. Macklin - Yes

Ms. Hortie - Yes

Mr. Gray - Yes

Mr. Bernard - Yes

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg - Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

The committee reconvened to Regular Session at 7:04

Adjournment

Mr. Spadafora made a motion to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. Ms. Hortie seconded and so 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