



Dr. Matthew C. Stahl  
Principal

MALDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Ferryway School

Erin Bennett, Assistant Principal  
Erika Israelson, Assistant Principal  
Erin O'Brien, Assistant Principal

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## Ferryway School Site Council

April 14, 2026  
6:00 PM, Virtual (Google Meets)

**Organization: Ferryway School Site Council**

**Meeting Date: 4/14/2026 Time: 6:00 pm**

**Meeting Location: Google Meets**

**Requested By: Dr. Matthew C. Stahl, Ferryway School Principal**

**Topic: Ferryway School Site Council**

### Agenda

- Upcoming MCAS testing:
  - May 6th & 7th - Math MCAS (Grade 8)
  - May 12th & 13th - Math MCAS (Grades 5, 6, & 7)
  - May 14th & 15th - Math MCAS (Grade 3)
  - May 19th & 20th - Math MCAS (Grade 4)
  - May 19th & 20th - STE MCAS (Grades 5 & 8)
  - May 27th & 28th - Civics MCAS (Grade 8)
    - Reviewed testing schedule and confirmed the importance of maintaining calm, consistent routines leading into testing days.
    - Discussed the need for continued communication with families regarding attendance, punctuality, Chromebook readiness, sleep routines, and breakfast.
    - Grade-level teams were reminded to review testing groupings, accommodations, and room assignments prior to testing windows.
    - Emphasized the importance of maintaining instructional momentum and avoiding an atmosphere where the school “shuts down” around MCAS.
    - Discussed continuing to reinforce student confidence and reducing anxiety through positive messaging and familiarity with testing tools and expectations.
- Teacher Appreciation Week
  - Plans & Collaboration with PTO
    - Discussed appreciation activities planned in collaboration with PTO throughout the week.
    - Reviewed ideas for staff recognition, snacks/meals, raffle items, and opportunities for

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*Strong Past...Proud Future*



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students/families to participate.

- Discussed the importance of ensuring appreciation efforts feel meaningful and visible while maintaining a positive atmosphere throughout the building.
  - Recognized the continued hard work of staff during a demanding portion of the school year that includes MCAS administration and end-of-year responsibilities.
  - Discussed continued strong collaboration with PTO and appreciation for their support throughout the school year.
  - Reviewed upcoming end-of-year events and areas where PTO support may be needed.
  - Discussed maintaining consistent communication between school leadership and PTO regarding volunteer needs, logistics, and event planning.
  - Highlighted the positive impact PTO involvement has had on overall school culture and family engagement.
- Budget & SIP Planning
    - Where do we stand?
      - Reviewed current progress connected to School Improvement Plan priorities and instructional initiatives.
      - Discussed areas of growth observed this year, particularly around student discourse, instructional engagement, and teacher use of real-time feedback.
      - Recognized that while progress has been made, consistency across classrooms and grade-levels remains an area for continued focus.
      - Discussed budget limitations and the importance of prioritizing resources that directly support instructional goals and student outcomes.
    - What are the next steps?
      - What will we need from families?
        - Continued support with student attendance and punctuality, especially during MCAS and end-of-year instructional periods.
        - Ongoing communication between families and school staff regarding student needs and supports.
        - Encouragement for families to reinforce productive academic habits and positive attitudes toward learning at home.
        - Continued participation in school events, PTO activities, and family engagement opportunities.
    - School “leverage” points so far
      - *The teacher provides real time feedback for students as they are engaged in learning*



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- *There is evidence of student sense-making during lessons (this might look different for ILP than for other classes- i.e. students are actively demonstrating their knowledge in non-verbal ways or ways that don't necessarily involve writing)*
  - *Students engage in risk-taking during lessons*
  - *Getting students to connect to each other more when sharing out vs isolated thoughts. This is something I notice in my own classroom a lot and is something I am going to be working on.*
  - *Students ARE talking in groups a lot of the time but also sometimes they are told to and it goes silent...what to do then*
  - *Teachers are checking in with some of the groups for understanding.*
  - *Balance teacher talk with student talk, prioritizing time for student talk*
  - *Structure lessons to provide opportunities for students to process independently before processing with peers; could be paired with utilizing instructional strategies (ex turn and talk, think pair share, write-pair-share) to promote student processing*
  - *Prioritize higher-order thinking questions for students to discuss/grapple with vs surface level questions*

### Official SSC Members for 2025-26 (all present for this meeting)

- Michele Ferguson (Parent)
- Audrey Chee-Read (Parent)
- Katherine Agate (Parent)
- Matthew Stahl (Principal)
- Stephanie Stratford (Teacher)
- Danielle Senopoulos (Teacher)

 Date: April 14th

 Time: 6:00 PM

 Location: [Google Meets Link](#)

To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/yhs-ebge-obh>