

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Wednesday, June 24, 2026
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. Piazza - Present

Mr. Bernard - Present

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg - Present

Superintendent Sippel - Present

Consent Agenda

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the adoption of minutes for the Approval of June 1, 2026 regular meeting minutes. Mr. Bernard made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion. And so it was VOTED. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the June 2026 Warrants. Mr. Bernard made a motion to place the June 2026 Warrants on file and authorize the Chair to sign. Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion and so it was VOTED. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Christenson brought forth the matter of the June 2026 Grants. Mr. Bernard made a motion to place the June 2026 Grants on file and authorize the Chair to sign. Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion and so it was VOTED. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Evaluation

Vice Chair Bernard began by explaining the Superintendent's Evaluation process. The Superintendent evaluation process consists of the Superintendent establishing goals and focus indicators and the School Committee approving those goals. The Superintendent will then complete a self-evaluation followed by the School Committee members submitting individual evaluations. These together complete the creation of a composite evaluation, and ultimately the Committee's review and approval of the final report.

The Vice Chair then shared the ratings from the School Committee members and shared comments the Members had shared with him in regards to the Superintendent's work with the district so far.. Superintendent Sippel's overall Superintendent Evaluation Rating was: Proficient.

Ms. Macklin requested that the Committee return to the Step 2 results, stating that the ratings for Family and Community Engagement did not appear to align with the scoring.

Discussion focused on the third and fourth categories noting that the overall distribution reflected 5 proficient ratings and 4 exemplary ratings but an overall rating of Exemplary. Questions were raised regarding the numerical basis for assigning an Exemplary rating rather than a Proficient rating.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to revise the ratings for the third and fourth categories from Exemplary to Proficient for clarification and consistency with the scoring as there was an error in scoring the ratings.

Mr. Piazza noted that the Committee's ratings were generally consistent with the Superintendent's self-assessment ratings for Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Mr. Piazza expressed interest in hearing more about plans to move current performance thresholds toward the target thresholds. He also noted that the committee had not fully discussed certain aspects of the goals, citing Goal 2 as an example, including the original goal objectives and key action steps.

The Superintendent responded that there are additional actions and initiatives related to the goals that will be developed and implemented over the course of the summer.

Discussion arose regarding the missing rating from Ward 3 for District Improvement Goal 3. Ms. Spadafora explained that the rating was absent because the Superintendent evaluation form she obtained from DESE, and which MASC uses, did not include a second district improvement goal. She stated that she believed this evaluation form was the correct version.

Ms. Spadafora further indicated that she believed the rubric distributed to committee members was the incorrect version. As a result, her ratings and votes were based on the evaluation form she obtained from DESE.

Ms. Spadafora requested that the record reflect her position that as she understood the distributed form to be incorrect; she does not agree with all of the ratings that were reported.

Mr. Bernard made a motion to approve and accept the Superintendent's Evaluation and a roll call vote was taken as follows:

Roll Call

Mr. Drummey - Absent

Mr. McCarthy - Yes

Ms. Spadafora - No

Ms. Macklin - Yes

Ms. Hortie - Yes

Mr. Piazza - Yes

Mr. Bernard - Yes

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg - Absent

Mayor Christenson - Yes

The vote passed 6/1

Subcommittee Reports and Discussions

The Chair turned the discussion over to Member Spadafora to give an update on the Finance Subcommittee and Policy Subcommittee on Ms. Rose-Zeiberg's behalf. Ms. Spadafora reflected on the passing of the SY27 Budget followed by the Early Learning Center tuition proposal and an update on the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan.

Motions and Resolutions

Tuition Increase for Early Learning Center

Member Spadafora explains that the ELC has required approximately \$2,000,000 from the public schools revolving fund this year to continue operations. The proposed tuition increase would still leave the ELC's tuition comparatively low among surrounding districts that offer pre-K programs. Two proposals were shared from the Superintendent. Proposal B, as presented in the Superintendent's memorandum, was recommended favorably and unanimously.

The Superintendent explained that there had been no tuition increase at the ELC for at least seven years, despite the significant increase in operating costs during that time. Students with disabilities who qualify for services at the ELC are not charged tuition. The district receives funding from DESE for students identified with disabilities who receive at least two hours of

services per week; however, that funding is approximately half of the amount received for K–12 students. The remaining costs must be supported through other sources, including the revolving fund and the district's general fund.

The full-day tuition will increase from \$4,950 to approximately \$5,200 in the first year. The half-day tuition will increase from \$20.50 to \$23.00, with the increases over the three-year period intended to bring the half-day rate to approximately one-half of the full-day rate. The Superintendent clarified that the increase will not affect students with disabilities whose attendance is required as part of their educational plans. It also will not affect students attending beyond what their plans require or students attending the ELC as typical peers for students with disabilities. The majority of students in the program will therefore not be affected by the increase.

A motion was made by Ms. Spatafora and seconded by Mr. McCarthy to approve the tuition proposal. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Roll Call

Mr. Drummey - Absent

Mr. McCarthy - Yes

Ms. Spadafora - Yes

Ms. Macklin - Yes

Ms. Hortie - Yes

Mr. Piazza - Yes

Mr. Bernard - Yes

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg - Absent

Mayor Christenson - Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

New Job Descriptions

The Committee then considered three new job descriptions associated with positions included in the finalized FY 2026–2027 budget. The positions are a district-wide STEM Coach/Program Manager, a Program Manager for Special Education Specialized Instruction, and an Instructional Coach for Special Education. The Committee reviewed the requirements of Policy GCA, which provides that all professional staff positions are initially created by the School Committee and that, when a new position is established, the Superintendent presents a job description specifying the position's qualifications and responsibilities.

Ms. Spadafora made a motion to approve the new job descriptions and Ms. Hortie seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Roll Call

Mr. Drummey - Absent

Mr. McCarthy - Yes

Ms. Spadafora - Yes

Ms. Macklin - Yes

Ms. Hortie - Yes

Mr. Piazza - Yes

Mr. Bernard - Yes

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg - Absent

Mayor Christenson - Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

The Superintendent confirmed that the proposed job descriptions had been shared with the teachers' union. The positions had also been posted provisionally to allow the district to begin recruiting candidates while final approval was pending. The motion was carried following a roll-call vote.

Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan Update

The Committee next discussed the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan. The plan had been referred to the Policy Subcommittee following the previous Committee meeting, where members reviewed and discussed the document. Questions raised during the review prompted the Subcommittee to seek additional information from legal counsel. The Subcommittee also determined that public comment was required before the plan could be approved. Because public comment could not be provided at the current meeting, the plan was tabled. The Committee anticipates holding a special meeting to consider and approve the plan prior to the August 26 student start date. No action was taken at this meeting.

Mr. Bernard made a motion to enter into executive session, Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken as follows:

Roll Call

Mr. Drummey - Absent

Mr. McCarthy - Yes

Ms. Spadafora - Yes

Ms. Macklin - Yes

Ms. Hortie - Yes

Mr. Piazza - Yes

Mr. Bernard - Yes

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg - Absent

Mayor Christenson - Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee returns to regular session. Vice Chair Bernard will now serve as the Clerk for this portion of the meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Bernard to approve the salary changes for (Assistant Superintendent of Student Services; Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning; Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Director of Finance and Operations). The motion was seconded by Mr. McCarthy and a roll call vote was taken as follows:

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Drummey - Absent

Mr. McCarthy - Yes

Ms. Spadafora - Yes

Ms. Macklin - Yes

Ms. Hortie - Yes

Mr. Piazza - Yes

Mr. Bernard - Yes

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg - Absent

Mayor Christenson - Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. McCarthy to approve the salary changes for (Accounts Receivable Coordinator; Asst. Business Manager; Data Analyst; System Administrator/Manager; Admin Attendance Supervisor SYSWD; Human Resources Coordinator; Confidential Administrative Assistant; Executive Assistant & School Committee Clerk; Communications Coordinator; Welcome Center Manager; Facilities Manager; CPPI Grant Administrator), the motion was seconded by Mr. Bernard and a roll call vote was taken as follows:

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Drummey - Absent

Mr. McCarthy - Yes

Ms. Spadafora - Yes

Ms. Macklin - Yes

Ms. Hortie - Yes

Mr. Piazza - Yes

Mr. Bernard - Yes

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg - Absent

Mayor Christenson - Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Bernard to approve the salary changes for (Principal BE; Principal ELC; Principal FE; Principal FO; Principal LI; Principal SA;) the motion was seconded by Mr. McCarthy and a roll call vote was taken as follows:

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Drummey - Absent
Mr. McCarthy - Yes
Ms. Spadafora - Yes
Ms. Macklin - Yes
Ms. Hortie - Yes
Mr. Piazza - Yes
Mr. Bernard - Yes
Ms. Rose-Zeiberg - Absent
Mayor Christenson - Yes
The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Spadafora to approve the salary changes for (Communications Specialist/Building Monitor; HS Building Monitors (x5)), the motion was seconded by Ms. Rose-Zeiberg and a roll call vote was taken as follows:

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Drummey - Absent
Mr. McCarthy - Yes
Ms. Spadafora - Yes
Ms. Macklin - Yes
Ms. Hortie - Yes
Mr. Piazza - Yes
Mr. Bernard - Yes
Ms. Rose-Zeiberg - Absent
Mayor Christenson - Yes
The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Bernard for the contract extension of Assistant Superintendent Sarah McLaughlin and Assistant Superintendent Komal Bhasin. Mr. Bernard made the motion and Mr. McCarthy seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Drummey - Absent
Mr. McCarthy - Yes
Ms. Spadafora - Yes

Ms. Macklin - Yes

Ms. Hortie - Yes

Mr. Piazza - Yes

Mr. Bernard - Yes

Ms. Rose-Zeiberg - Absent

Mayor Christenson - Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bernard made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion. And so it was VOTED. The regular session meeting was adjourned.

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