

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Thursday, June 1, 2023
Herbert L. Jackson Council Chamber Room #106 - 215 Pleasant Street
And Virtual Meeting

The Vice-Chair of the School Committee, Ms. Spadafora called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Weldai provided instructions to the attendees on how to make comments during the “Public Comment” part of the meeting.

Roll Call

The following attendance was taken:

Mayor Christenson	Present
Mr. Drummey	Present
Mr. McCarthy	Present
Ms. Spadafora	Present
Ms. Macklin	Present
Mr. Weldai	Present
Mr. Gray	Present
Mr. Bernard	Present
Ms. Rose-Zeiberg	Present
Superintendent Noriega-Murphy	Present
Clerk	Present

A brief recess was called at 6:02 p.m. so that participants can attend the Pride flag raising in the courtyard. The meeting resumed at 6:20 p.m.

Mr. Bernard joined the meeting via Zoom.

Budget Public Hearing

Mr. Weldai thanked everyone involved with the budget process as well as the public for their questions and thoughts. The public was informed that the Central Office team is working collaboratively with the Malden Education Association (MEA) to work on job descriptions for the K-8 Media Centers/Libraries and that after the meeting on June 12, a plan will be announced.

Mr. Weldai opened the invitation for anyone in the audience or on Zoom to provide comments. Mr. Weldai added that members of the public can always email or reach out with comments or questions even after the meeting.

Mayor Christenson joined the meeting at this point.

Public Comment

Ms. Bonnie Littlejohn, 127 Emerald Street, Malden

Ms. Littlejohn raised questions about the inequities for STEM teacher positions at the K-8 schools; missing Instructional Technology Coach positions; exploratory teacher positions; funds for supplies at the K-8 schools which are the same regardless of the size of the student population; 504 coordinator positions which are missing from the budget; building monitors; admin technical tuition; and administrator salaries.

Superintendent Noriega-Murphy responded to the questions raised. Mr. Weldai added that the budget highlights only new positions that were added but confirmed that the other positions still exist. Director of Finance and Operations, Ms. Mertz said that many of the positions are coded differently to follow reporting requirements for the state. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy confirmed that although the title has not been finalized yet, the computer specialist positions at the schools are in the budget. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy said that although the budget has the same amount of funds allocated for supplies at all the schools, central office provides more funds whenever the larger schools request for more supplies. Building monitors were added to Malden High School (MHS) and Salemwood because they are bigger schools. The job descriptions are being worked on. Dean of Students is another new position that is being added to MHS. Ms. Mertz said that the technical tuition is for students who go to school districts other than the vocational school for the courses that they need. The vocational school expense is under the city budget. As for the administrator salaries, they are noted in the budget under Central. Ms. Mertz added that with ESSER II funding ending, the salaries that were funded by ESSER II have now been shifted to the main budget.

Ms. Imene Bouziane Saidi, 30 Parkside Place, Malden

Ms. Saidi said the Occupational Therapist at Forestdale is retiring this year but the budget for next year is \$38,000.

Ms. Mertz said that due to the challenges in hiring, many of the speech, language, OT and PT positions have been moved to contracted services. So, the cost is in another line item. In response to Mayor Christenson, Ms. Mertz said that if a suitable candidate is found at any point, the contracted service will be stopped for the position and the funds allocated to the new hire.

Ms. Dawn O'Toole, 130 Adams Street, Malden

Ms. O'Toole asked about the 504 coordinator position. Ms. Mertz said the 504 coordinator positions are part-time positions that are paid out of ESSER III.

Ms. Spadafora announced to the audience that the next School Committee meeting has been postponed from Monday, June 5 to June 12 because the MHS graduation might be postponed to June 5 due to inclement weather.

Adjournment

Mr. Weldai made a motion to adjourn at 6:46 p.m. Ms. Spadafora seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Drummey voted YES

Mr. McCarthy voted YES


Ms. Spadafora voted YES

Ms. Macklin voted YES

Mr. Weldai voted YES

Mr. Gray voted YES
Mr. Bernard voted YES
Ms. Rose-Zeiberg voted YES
Mayor Christenson voted YES
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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shirley Dorai", is written over a horizontal line.

Shirley Dorai, Clerk