



City of Malden

Malden City Hall
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Meeting Minutes - Final Finance Committee

Councillor McDonald, Chair
Councillor Condon, Vice-Chair
Councillor Colon-Hayes
Councillor Spadafora
Councillor Taylor
Councillor Winslow

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

5:30 PM

City Hall, Room #105
215 Pleasant Street

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

[https://cityofmalden.zoom.us/j/96741157849?](https://cityofmalden.zoom.us/j/96741157849?pwd=UjJZbXZ2RGRmcmtBbmRwNWFMFR2I3UT09)

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Roll Call

Present: 4 - Councillor Carey McDonald, Craig Spadafora, Ari Taylor and Stephen Winslow

Absent: 2 - Councillor Paul Condon and Karen Colon Hayes

Also Present: Councillors Crowe, Linehan

Councillor Spadafora joined via Zoom.

Zaheer Samee-Assistant City Solicitor

Ron Hogan-Chief Strategy Officer

Maria Luise-Mayor's Office

Carol Ann Desiderio-City Clerk

Toni Mertz-Business Director MPS

Jen Spadafora-Vice Chair School Committee

Councillor McDonald called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM.

This meeting is being recorded by zoom.

Minutes to be Approved

[261-24](#) Minutes of May 28, 2024 to be approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Winslow, that the Committee Minutes from May 28, 2024 to be tabled. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Yea: 4 - McDonald, Councillor Spadafora, Councillor Taylor and Councillor Winslow

Business

[244-24](#) Order: Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Appropriation Order

Sponsors: Carey McDonald

Attachments: [Mayor's Transmittal Letter on FY25 Proposed Budget](#)

[FY25 Proposed Budget](#)

[FY2025 Appropriation Orders](#)

[Controller Handout 52124 FY25 Budget](#)

[Hogan Handout FY25 Budget Expenditures](#)

[Hogan Handout FY25 Budget Revenue Source](#)

[Organizational Structure OSPCD](#)

[OSPDCD Grants FY24](#)

The Finance Committee will continue with discussions on the proposed FY25 Budget and any other business which comes before them. The following departments will be in attendance to discuss their proposed FY25 Budget:
Ligia Noriega-Murphy-Superintendent of Schools
Toni Mertz-Business Manager School Department

The committee began the discussion with Superintendent Ligia Noriega-Murphy. She thanked Toni and Jen Spadafora and the principals for all their hard work to gather information to balance the budget. They thanked all the school leaders for making sure everything is possible and look forward to the next school year to be able to provide everything that the students need.

Toni Mertz explained that the School does have a balanced budget and the schools are staffed. She mentions they had big increases with students out of district which have gone from 10-20% of an increase in some cases. This essentially takes away what we can add for additional staff for our schools. Most of the balancing came from open positions that weren't filled in order to close the gap.

Jen explained when the Budget Subcommittee looked at the recommendation we talk about keeping the core of the classroom intact, making sure there are teachers for the students. It made sense if we had open positions unfilled for a significant amount of time we made the decision to not fill until funds became available once the state budget was approved we could re-open those positions.

Toni explained that Senator Lewis and the Governor have commissioned to put a committee together to look at the cities share of this SOA. Ron added at least this year you have the benefit of the tailwinds of ESSER. If what we saw this year goes on for a couple of years in a row it will be very difficult for these people to balance their budget

without layoffs.

Councillor McDonald clarified Special Education Services and private tuition looks like a \$4mill dollar increase relative to last year. We also talked about transportation last year which we saw a big jump but not at the base as it was last year.

Toni explained we have signed a five year deal with incremental increases not the drastic jump that we originally saw.

Councillor Winslow asked about enrollment and if we expect it to be relatively stable or do we expect any jumps or decreases what are the projections

Toni said on a year over year basis which are some of the things we have talked to Senator Lewis, when we certify on October 1st our numbers have been around 6,200 as of right now we are at 6,543. We have had approximately 343 kids move into our district non-funded and then when we certify again in October it goes back down and for whatever reason the enrollment gets lower in October.

Jen said please advocate for a change in enrollment dates. If we could certify January 1 the funding would be a little better.

Councillor Winslow has raised this to Senator Lewis and we have to keep at it to advocate for a change. We are being under funded by this dynamic.

Councillor McDonald asked if the cherry sheets are based on the estimated enrollment or do they base it on the prior year enrollment

Toni said it is based on our October 1st enrollment. We submit our October 1st enrollment and that's what drives the Chapter 70 funding. Our classrooms start at a decent size then they get larger.

Councillor McDonald asked Toni in terms of the conditions of the buildings what is the priority in the schools and what do you see in the next three to five years

Toni said within the next three to five years the roofs are the priorities at this point. We have two schools that are in high need of getting roofs and have looked to see if we can overlay it to get us by for a few years.

Ron said it is a liquid applied coating if the roof is sound enough it will get us 15 or 20 years and we are trying to get to the schools and prioritize the two schools that are the worst which is an option.

Councillor McDonald asked about the out of school time program and how it is going and how many kids are in this program.

Toni said it is going good and they are trying to get better at it. They are doing active recruiting to be able to enroll more kids. There are 489 in the program at the present time.

Councillor Spadafora asked if school lunches are covered by the state

Toni replied they are covered by the state because we are a CEP(Community Eligibility Program) state. We went forward before COVID. Breakfast and Lunches are covered and she does not see any change with that. We serve over 900 breakfasts everyday.

Councillor McDonald thanks the Superintendent for her service she has always been helpful in answering any questions he has had.

Superintendent thanked the Council and said they have a great staff also.

Other Business

Tabled Papers

Motion to take Paper #256-24: minutes of May 21, 2024 off the table was made by Councillor Winslow seconded by Councillor Taylor. Roll Call Vote: Spadafora-yes, Taylor-yes, Winslow-yes, McDonald-yes. All were in favor.

[256-24](#)

Minutes of May 21, 2024 to be approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Winslow, that the Committee Minutes of May 21, 2024 be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yea: 4 - McDonald, Councillor Spadafora, Councillor Taylor and Councillor Winslow

Adjournment

Motion was made by Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Winslow, that this meeting be adjourned at 6:25 PM. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yea: 4 - McDonald, Councillor Spadafora, Councillor Taylor and Councillor Winslow