



MALDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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John Oteri, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools

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September 24, 2019

Dear Linden Families,

I am regretfully writing to inform you that earlier today it was reported to us by several students that a substitute teacher in a fifth grade classroom used racially insensitive and inappropriate language during class. I am highly offended by such language and incredibly angry that our Malden students were subjected to this behavior by an adult in our learning community. We have taken / will take the following action steps to ensure the emotional safety of our students:

1. Effective immediately, the substitute teacher will no longer be employed by Malden Public Schools.
2. We will have appropriate staff members hold a restorative circle with the class affected so that they may voice their feelings and begin the healing process.
3. We will work even more closely with individual students who express a need.

Malden Public Schools is no place for hateful language and we will continue to work together to build a community that not only celebrates diversity, equity, and inclusion, but also actively works to protect these ideals. In the coming weeks I will be communicating our active efforts in our cultural proficiency work and will be inviting the whole school community to take part in a Town Hall style discussion on our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Oteri".

John Oteri, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools