



From the Desk of the Superintendent

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Town Hall for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Malden Public Schools successful, informative



Dr. Darnisa Amante-Jackson, a nationally-recognized educational and cultural equity strategist, led a Town Hall-style meeting for Malden residents on Nov. 20. Stakeholders from different groups attended and questions were answered. **P.4 Malden Public Schools**



Gov. Baker signs heralded Student Opportunity Act championed by Malden state Senator Jason Lewis

After passing both the Mass. House and Senate, Governor Charlie Baker signed into law the landmark Student Opportunity Act, which calls for an additional, \$1.5 billion investment in public education over the next seven years. **P.2**



VOTES ARE IN!— Students and staff at the Beebe School have named their Bulldog mascot... "BRUCE". Welcome to MPS!

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all,

This past month was a busy and exciting one for all of us. November was particularly momentous in the Malden Public Schools and beyond, in matters of education and in terms of how we are addressing the key issues of diversity and cultural equity. We are thrilled with the passage and subsequent signing of the landmark Student Opportunity Act by Governor Baker recently. Our state Sen. Jason Lewis, a true friend and strong supporter of Malden Public Schools, was chief author of the new law, which will directly benefit Malden and many other urban districts by providing \$1.5 billion in new education funding over the next seven years. We were honored to welcome back Dr. Darnisa Amante-Jackson for a town hall-style **See P.6**



Superintendent John Oteri

Historic \$1.5 billion Student Opportunity Act is signed into law by Governor Baker

Malden Senator Lewis: 'Massachusetts will have the most progressive funding formula for education in the nation'

Massachusetts will invest an additional \$1.5 billion in K-12 public education over the next seven years after Gov. Charlie Baker signed a funding reform bill, touted by supporters as a generational change, into law on November 26. The legislation directs the bulk of new funding toward districts weighed down by cost drivers, aiming to close opportunity gaps that for years have led to disparate educational outcomes across the state.

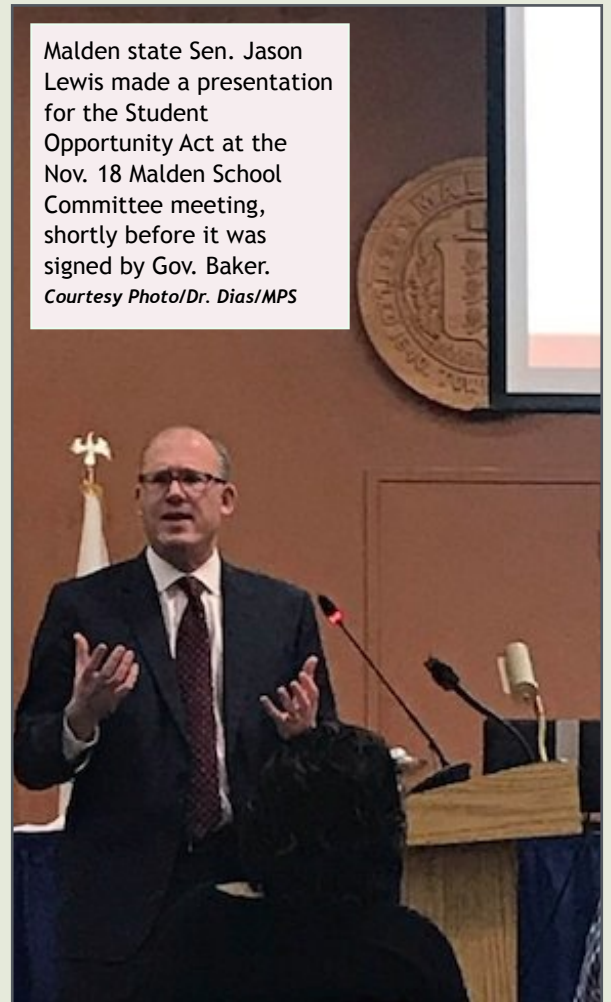
The law comes four years after a commission warned that Massachusetts was underestimating the actual cost of education by \$1 billion annually and more than a year after the last attempt to update the system fell short. Now the focus shifts to a different challenge: following through on the commitment to ramp up funding for schools starting next year.

"If there's one thing I've learned in my 63 years, it's that talent is evenly distributed. What's not evenly distributed is opportunity, and there's a reason why this is the Student Opportunity Act," Baker said at a bill-signing ceremony hosted at English High School. "This legislation is about making sure every kid in the commonwealth of Mass., regardless of where they live or where they're from or where they go to school, has the opportunity to get the education they need to be great."

The law requires the state to spend an additional \$1.4 billion — before inflation — on Chapter 70 aid paid to districts, another \$90 million on a special education circuit breaker and \$10 million for an education innovation trust fund. It does not outline a year-by-year funding schedule, but requires the full investment to be made by fiscal year 2027. Under the law, the state will also ramp up its reimbursement paid to communities to cover 100 percent of charter school tuition within three years. Charter school funding has been a divisive issue over the years.

Authors believe the updated formula will properly account for four areas of cost underestimated by the current system: employee health care, special education, and high numbers of both low-income students and English language learners. By properly funding those areas, officials hope to help close persistent gaps that exist between districts. "Every single child deserves access to an excellent public education," Sen. Jason Lewis, D-Malden, 5th Middlesex, co-chair of the Education Committee, said during the ceremony.

Malden state Sen. Jason Lewis made a presentation for the Student Opportunity Act at the Nov. 18 Malden School Committee meeting, shortly before it was signed by Gov. Baker.
Courtesy Photo/Dr. Dias/MPS



"Massachusetts will now have the most progressive school funding formula in the nation, designed to meaningfully address the troubling, very troubling, opportunity and achievement gaps that persist in our public education system," Sen. Lewis added. A commission headed by Sen. Lewis in 2015 identified the four major cost drivers and warned about the chronic underinvestment. Since then, lawmakers had been unable to get a compromise bill over the finish line, until last month. **State House News Service**

Early Learning Center receives books donation from Beebe School in Jaiden Chung's memory

The Early Learning Center (ELC) is the grateful recipient of over 64 books that were donated by the Beebe School and the book sale they held a few weeks ago. The books are given in memory of Jaiden



Chung, who passed away in May at age 9. Jaiden was a student first at the ELC, then the Linden S.T.E.A.M. and finally at the Beebe. He was an amazing young boy that made an impact on everyone he came in contact with. ELC staff said they are honored to receive these books in his name. They would also like to thank Sarah Goldfinch and everyone that was involved in this donation in recognition of Jaiden. The staff has put an inscription inside each of the books that reads: "This beautiful book was donated to the ELC by the Beebe School in memory of Jaiden Chung. Jaiden will forever continue to impact our school and students."

Malden High longtime PhysEd educator Julie Briggs was a true life superhero during pool class

Longtime Malden High School Physical Education educator Julie Briggs did not hesitate to jump into action — literally — on Friday, November 8, when one of her students needed her most. While she and another educator were instructing during a class being held in the Malden High



Julie Briggs

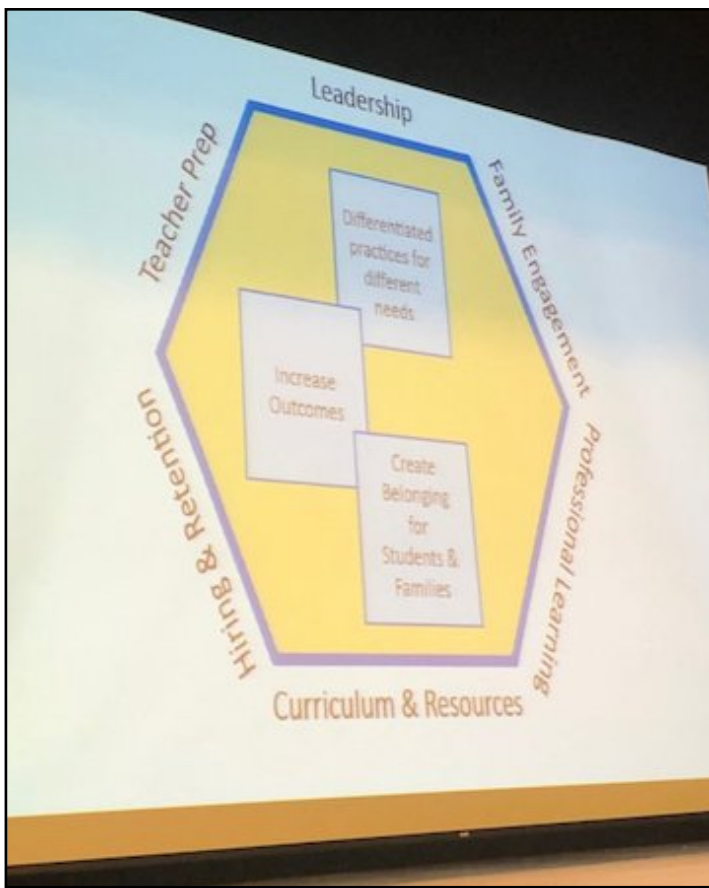
pool, she noticed a student struggling in the water. She continued to monitor the student and ultimately jumped into the water to assist the student and help him out of the pool. The Malden medical team of nurses was summoned and quickly

assisted the student as well, while

Ms. Briggs, completely drenched, was seen walking up the stairs to the gym's main floor after a real-life, superhero lifesaving event. She prevented a potentially tragic situation and did exactly what was needed without hesitation. We salute Ms. Briggs for a super job!

Malden Public Schools Mission Statement

Malden Public Schools is a place where students are encouraged to follow their dreams and become well rounded members of our community. The Malden Public Schools prepare students to be independent thinkers and enthusiastic learners who: Work hard; Respect others; Cherish our diversity; Seek challenges; Discover and Develop their individual talents; Strive for academic excellence; and look to Demonstrate personal and social responsibility. Malden Public Schools graduates are prepared to be active participants in our economy and democracy.



There are many facets to instilling and maintaining diversity, cultural equity and inclusion in a school environment, as was discussed by Dr. Darnisa-Amante Jackson at November's Town Hall. Courtesy Photo, Malden Public Schools

Malden Public Schools hosts town hall-style meeting on cultural proficiency in education

Nationally-recognized expert Dr. Amante Jackson leads event

**By STEVE FREKER
For the Malden Public Schools**

The Malden Public Schools has made it a primary objective to create a welcoming, inclusive and equitable educational environment for all students, staff and families for Malden Public Schools.

To that end, Superintendent John Oteri has led the district's participation in a number of programs and partnerships around the region and state. These have involved training, education and

information sharing between experts and Malden Public Schools staff and administrators in the fields of diversity, cultural proficiency and inclusion.

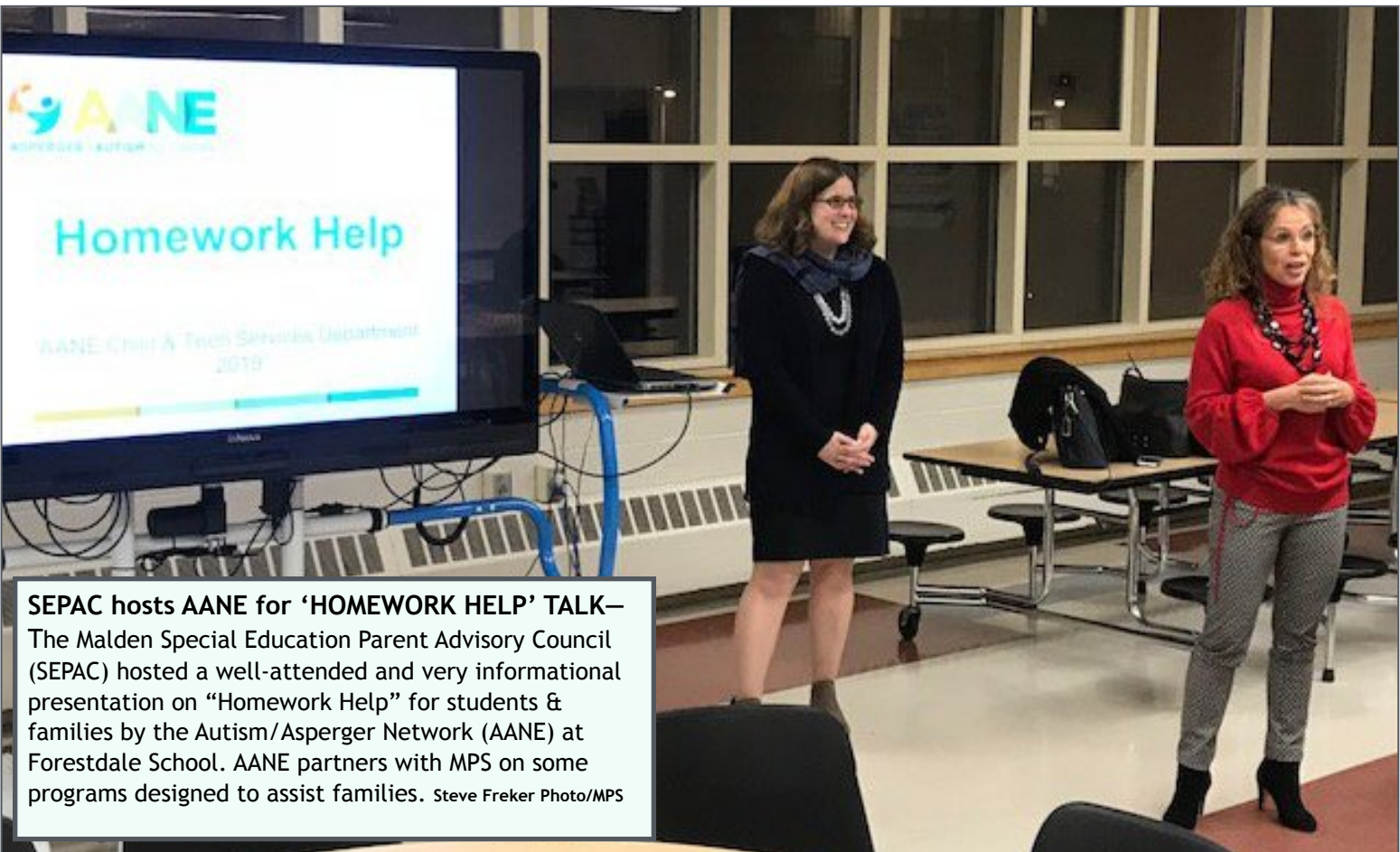
On November 20, the Malden Public Schools and Supt. Oteri welcomed one of these experts to the city, Dr. Darnisa Amante-Jackson, the CEO of the Disruptive Equity Education Project (DEEP). Dr. Amante-Jackson led Malden's first-ever town hall-style meeting on cultural proficiency and the role of race plus strategies on changing mindsets around equity.

Supt. Oteri introduced Dr. Darnisa Amante-Jackson, who has spoken in Malden in the past and noted, "Malden is the most diverse school district in Massachusetts. Some reports have us as the seventh most diverse high school in all of America. We are diverse in almost all aspects of our student body. So why are we going the extra mile for this work? In short, because Malden deserves this."

Dr. Amante-Jackson told those in attendance a key step to promoting achievement in a diverse school community such as Malden **Cont.P.6**

Stop & Shop says 'Happy Thanksgiving' to Malden Public Schools families with a generous donation

The local Malden Stop & Shop Store, located at 99 Charles St., recently made its generous, annual donations of full-course turkey dinners and all the fix ins for Malden Public School families in need this holiday season. Accepting the donation were Supt. Oteri, center, Ms. Motley, left, and Ms. Magras, right, who are both MPS counselors. *Courtesy Photo/Malden Public Schools*



SEPAC hosts AANE for 'HOMEWORK HELP' TALK— The Malden Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) hosted a well-attended and very informational presentation on "Homework Help" for students & families by the Autism/Asperger Network (AANE) at Forestdale School. AANE partners with MPS on some programs designed to assist families. *Steve Freker Photo/MPS*

Salemwood School represents on Multicultural Day in 'Spirit Week'

Students and staff at the Salemwood School represented their nations of origin with illustrative apparel on Multicultural Day during Spirit Week activities. *Courtesy Photo/ @Salemwoodmalden*



Malden Public Schools hosts town hall meeting on diversity, inclusion and the role of race in education *Continued from Page 4*

"build a sense of belonging" for students, staff and families. She also pointed to proven statistics that show achievement gaps along racial lines in standardized testing and the need to close those gaps and work toward creating better outcomes for all students. Supt. Oteri echoed those words in his remarks. "Every student and family needs connectedness. Connectedness is a component of belonging. When one feels like one belongs, there is a sense of ownership. When we are all connected full-on, we identify common goals." The event was a success due to the wealth and value of information shared on such important local topics, and the ability to interact. first-hand, with an expert like Dr. Amante-Jackson.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Cont. from Page One meeting where she addressed the issues of equity and inclusion as they pertain to the Malden Public Schools and the field of education. Earlier in the month, another nationally-known leader in professional learning, Erica Battle, also spoke on the topics of equity and inclusion when she gave the keynote address at Malden High School as part of the first-ever Five District District Partnership (SDP) Professional Development Day on November 5. I would like to commend Assistant Supt. Dr. Kelly Chase and District Instructional Technology Director Natalia Brennan for their fantastic work in planning, coordinating and monitoring this very important sharing of information and detail to both our own educators and those in the Five District Partnership. **—Superintendent John Oteri @MaldenPublic**

The Malden Public Schools: 'Our Diversity is Our Strength'

The Malden school district is ranked #1 as the most culturally diverse by *niche.com* in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with Malden High School rated the #1 most culturally diverse secondary education school overall. Throughout the district, all educators, administrators and students are unified in our stated mission to cherish and embrace our diversity, striving for excellence in the classroom and beyond.



Malden High Seniors ruled in Spirit Day competition! *Courtesy Photo/Malden HS*

A POSITIVE SCHOOL CULTURE

IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMON LANGUAGE
USED, EXEMPLIFYING THE BELIEFS, VALUES,
STRENGTH IN RELATIONSHIPS AND RESPECT FOR
DIVERSITY IN THE COMMUNITY.



EARLY ACCESS— Ferryway School first-graders get some online time with Title I literacy coaches. *Courtesy Photo*



Celebrate **THE HOLIDAYS WITH US!**



MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET

PLAYING NOW *through* **DEC 22**

Special Offer for Malden Public Schools employees!

The Greater Boston Stage Company in Stoneham, MA is pleased to extend a special offer of \$10 OFF tickets for their current holiday show, Miracle on 34th Street. The promo code for this offer is MALDEN10 and tickets are available online or at the Box Office in-person or by phone 781-279-2200. Information about the show may be found at <https://www.greaterbostonstage.org/>

TICKETS FROM \$47 | GREATERBOSTONSTAGE.ORG | 781-279-2200

MASS. TEACHERS ASSN. PROVIDES WARM WINTER COATS for OUR STUDENTS

From left, Malden Education Association (MEA) President Deb Gesualdo, Malden HS administrator Ron Janowicz and MHS Counselor Ms. Motley hold bags full of winter coats, purchased through the MassChild program by the MEA.

Courtesy Photo/MEA



READING... and PIZZA!: Malden's Pisa Pizza restaurant & owner donated over 4,000 pizzas to Malden Public Schools families

The Malden School Committee at its October meeting honored Pisa Pizza of Malden and its owner, Joe Crowley, front row, center, for donating over 4,000 pizzas to Malden Public School families whose children had successfully completed summer reading challenges Above, from left, Supt. Oteri. School Committee members Beardsley, Spadafora, McCarthy Jr., Joe Crowley, School Committeewoman Bordonaro, Mavor Christenson, School Committee members Leon, Drummev, Iovino and Froio. *Steve Freker Photo/MPS*



Congratulations to 110 Adams Scholars at Malden HS

Congratulations to the 110 Malden High School students who are members of the senior Class of 2020 that qualified for the Adams Scholar Program. The John and Abigail Adams Scholar Program is state-funded and provides a 100% tuition scholarship at any Mass. state college or university to students who achieve in the top 25% of their district in the MCAS testing program. *Courtesy Program*



Malden Blanks Medford in 132nd Thanksgiving Game

Congratulations to the Malden High School Varsity Football Team and Cheerleaders for their 29-0 win over Medford in the 132nd Thanksgiving Day Football Game, the second-oldest continuous high school football game in the nation. With the win, Malden made it five straight holiday victories and 9-out-of-10 in the 2010s to close out the decade as we head into the 2020s.