



# From the Desk of the Superintendent

Volume III No.7 JANUARY NEWSLETTER January 31, 2020

Twitter: @MaldenPublic

## Malden State Champion wrestler seeks repeat at MIAA Tournament



Defending MIAA State Wrestling Champion Yohanni Costa, right (shown with sister Hemmeni) is seeking a repeat title this year.

*Courtesy/Malden HS Athletics*

## Will history repeat itself?

By Steve Freker

It was a first in Malden High School history last year... and Tornado junior Yohanni Costa is seeking to do it all again this year. So far, it appears that the first female State Wrestling Champion *Cont. on P.9*



**BINGO, BOOKS...& BABIES!** A full house at the January "Books for Bingo" event at the Salemwood School, including this future Malden Public Schools student. *Steve Freker Photo/Malden Public Schools*



**BEEBE 'SUPERHEROES'** Beebe School educators took part in the fun on Storybook & Superhero Day. *Courtesy/Beebe School*

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

**Greetings to all,**

The new year always brings a sense of excitement for many reasons and the arrival of 2020 in January was no exception. We also welcomed a new decade, which carries its own cachet in terms of getting off to a fresh start and setting goals. After a well-deserved winter break our students and educators got right back to the classrooms and completed the coursework for the Second Quarter and then began the Third Quarter of our academic year. It may be hard to believe, but we are already halfway there to the conclusion of our school year. A lot has been accomplished and there is much more achievement in store for our students in the immediate future. *See P.6*



**Superintendent John Oteri**

# Linden S.T.E.A.M. Academy students make presentation @ Malden City Council urging action on Sustainable Development Goals



At a January Meeting of the Malden City Council, Malden Public Schools STEM Director Dr. Dias introduced students from the Linden S.T.E.A.M. Academy, who made an excellent presentation to the Council members, urging them to raise awareness of the 17 United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UN officials believe universal embracing of SDGS will transform the world. *courtesy/Ms. Leggett Photo/Linden STEAM Academy*

## ***The 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) to transform our world:***

GOAL 1: No Poverty

GOAL 2: Zero Hunger

GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being

GOAL 4: Quality Education

GOAL 5: Gender Equality

GOAL 6: Clean Water & Sanitation

GOAL 7: Affordable & Clean Energy

GOAL 8: Work & Economic Growth

GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality

GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

GOAL 13: Climate Action

GOAL 14: Life Below Water

GOAL 15: Life on Land

GOAL 16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions

GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

By Steve Freker

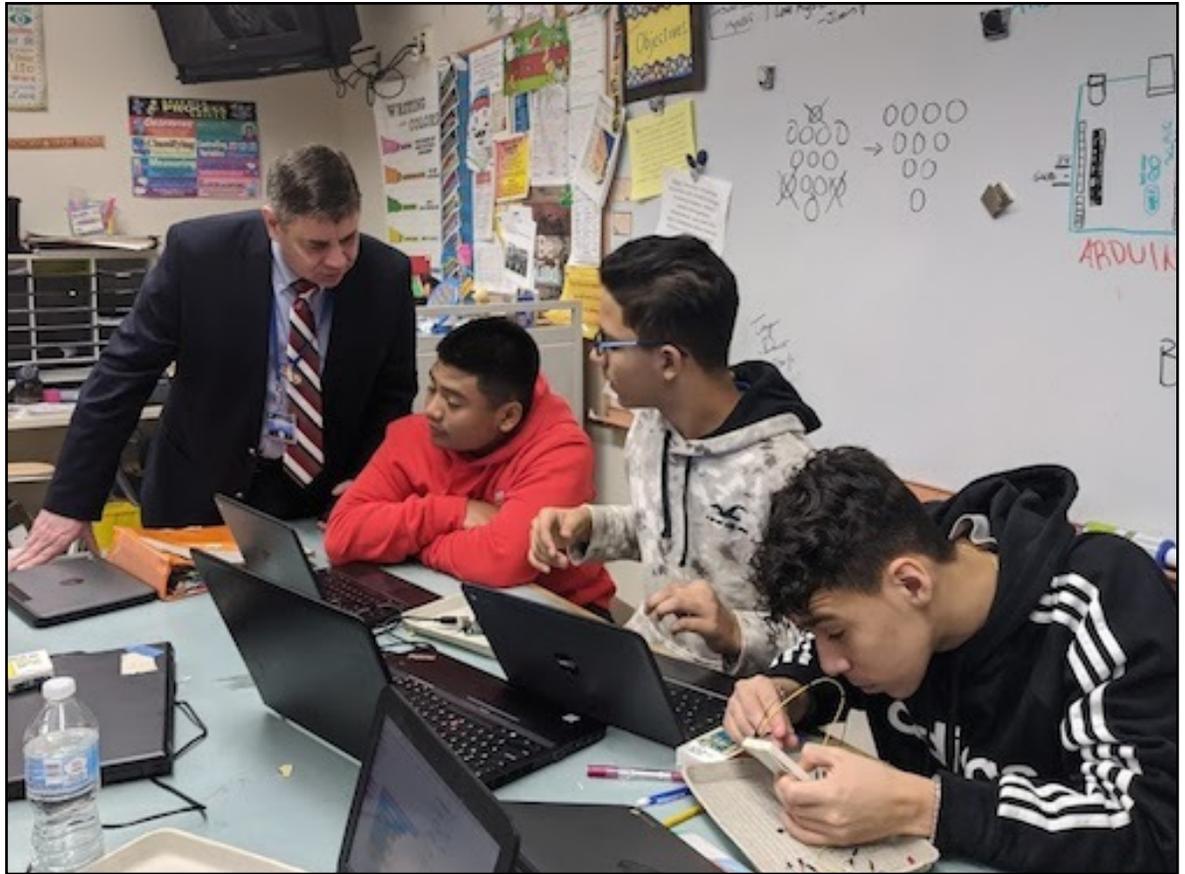
## **For the Malden Public Schools**

The time is now for everyone across the globe to unite and transform the world for the better by embracing a set of principles and goals set forth by the United Nations Dept. of Economics. That was the message delivered by a contingent of students and educators from the Linden S.T.E.A.M. Academy, who made a formal presentation to the Malden City Council at its Jan. 28 meeting. At the meeting, Malden Public Schools STEM Director Dr. Doug Dias introduced several students and Linden teachers, Christina Rosenthal and Lianne Mokfienski Ramos, who urged the members to actively work to increase awareness of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). ***SDGs shown in box on left***.

The Linden group asked the Council to take steps to spread the message of the SDGs by creating a citywide committee to discuss them. Also, they asked for the Councilors to consider planning public meetings where the Sustainable Goals could be discussed and formally set. Further down the road, assessing progress toward these goals would be the focus. The presentation was very well-received by the Councilors, who praised the students and staff for their diligence and efforts. They said the city had already made progress toward achieving some of the 17 goals, with programs like Malden River Works and Bike to the Sea. They agreed to take the Linden group's request under advisement for consideration.

# GE's FAB STEM Mobile Lab visits @ Ferryway

Superintendent Oteri was on hand for the General Electric (GE) FAB STEM Mobile Lab visit to the Ferryway School. Lead instructors accompanying the Mobile Lab tasked the participating Ferryway School students with mini-projects for the day. At right, the Superintendent checks in with some students hard at work. The Malden Public Schools have formed a strong and productive partnership with GE. *Courtesy Photos*



## 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.

# Malden Public Schools joins with the Malden Education Association in urging our families to take part in 2020 U.S. Census

## *Local district census results vital for school planning, funding decisions*

By Steve Freker

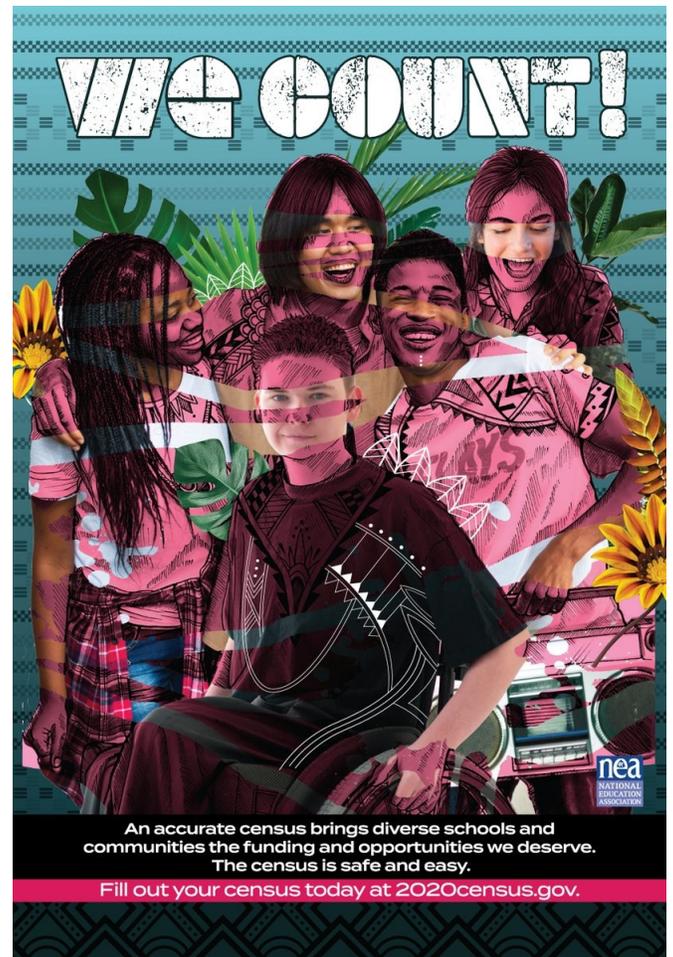
For the Malden Public Schools

Malden Public Schools has joined with the Malden Education Association (MEA) to urge all Malden district families to fully participate in the federal 2020 Census, which makes an accounting of all the residents of the city every 10 years.

Information obtained from the 2020 Census is of vital importance at the local, state and federal levels for many reasons, particularly for the public schools. Local results are of paramount importance since population numbers of the various age groups, from infant to senior citizens, are required by decision-makers at all three governmental levels to ascertain proper funding amounts for cities and towns.

The true Census numbers are vitally important at the local level for funding decisions as well as planning purposes, because responses to the census help schools plan for the resources they will need both for present-day school-aged students and when the new generation of children is ready for school.

The Malden Education Association, which represents educators and administrators in our district and President Deb Gesualdo are actively supporting the full participation of Malden Public Schools families in the 2020 Census. "An accurate census count is the critical first step to helping educators address the needs of every child who walks through their doors. The census count happens only once every 10 years; when we undercount young children, the



the consequences can last most of their childhood," according to Amanda Livinov, of the National Education Association (NEA), the national voice for educators and administrators in the U.S. According to the NEA, "Census data determine the distribution of more than \$800 billion, including to programs that help our students. Some of those programs provide supports for children with special needs and those from low-income families... These funds help schools reduce class sizes, hire specialists, continuously bolster teacher quality, offer preschool to low-income families, and ensure that hungry students can get breakfast or lunch to help them pay attention in class. To assure those who may be hesitant to provide information for the 2020 Census information, officials remind families the Census Bureau is required by law to protect any personal information we collect and keep it strictly confidential. ... Your answers cannot be used for law enforcement purposes or to determine your personal eligibility for government benefits.



# Boston Celtics & General Electric sponsor STEM lab & team member's visit to the Linden S.T.E.A.M. Academy



Boston Celtics standout Grant Williams sits down with Linden S.T.E.A.M. Academy students and assists them with a STEM project on Jan. 14. *Courtesy/Malden Public Schools*

Supt. of Schools Oteri welcomes General Electric's STEM Lab personnel and the Boston Celtics players to Malden. *Courtesy/Malden Public Schools*



Former Celtic great Cedric Maxwell, now a radio man for the team, right, joined Grant Williams at Linden for the STEM clinic. *Courtesy Photo*



MEA President Deb Gesualdo, left, greets Boston Celtic Grant Williams. *Courtesy Photo*

***The Malden Public Schools have had a great working relationship with the joint GE/Boston Celtics-sponsored STEM programs for the past several years***



**Reception held to honor Frank Stella and dedicate mural at Malden High School**

Superintendent Oteri, right, was on hand at the Malden Public Library (MPL) recently at a reception in honor of renowned international artist and sculptor Frank Stella, left, a Malden native. A beautiful mural replica of Mr. Stella's abstract artwork now adorns the facing of the Malden High School building along Eastern Avenue/Route 60, right before the connect with Centre Street. Mr. Stella in the past has donated several highly-valued original artworks which are now on display at MPL. *Courtesy/Malden Public Schools*

**SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE *Cont. from P.1***

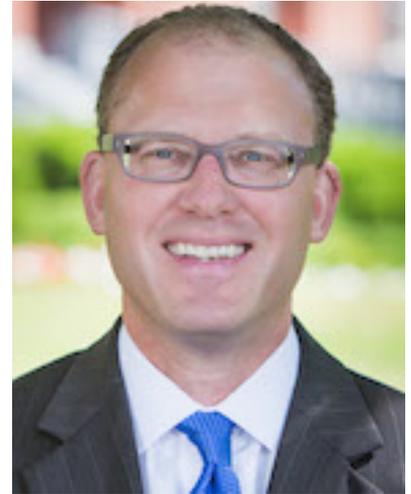
We had a very busy month which included some very valuable and productive Parent-Teacher conferences in all of our schools; a fun round of "Bingo for Books" in several of our K-8 schools hosted by Title 1; and a string of Greater Boston League Championship titles for our high school indoor track and swim teams. We delved into international issues with an inspired presentation before the City Council by Linden students on United Nations Sustainable Goals. Near the end of the month, our high school students interviewed a NASA astronaut. As part of our future planning, all members of the Malden Public Schools community are welcome to take part in an online Student Opportunity Act survey at [maldenps.org](http://maldenps.org) to express their opinions on our district's needs and to assist in goal-setting.

—Supt. John Oteri @MaldenPublic (twitter)

# Malden state Sen. Lewis is a co-sponsor of the Safe Communities Act

**Legislation promotes public safety & civil rights**

**Malden state Sen. Jason Lewis, has been a strong supporter of the Malden Public Schools since he first took office in 2014. He was instrumental in the recent passage of the new Educational Opportunity Act, which is due to increase state ed funding in Malden by more than \$2 million next year. Following is Sen. Lewis' editorial on the Safe Communities Act, of which he is a co-sponsor.**



**Malden Sen. Jason Lewis**

**By Senator Jason Lewis**

Every resident of Massachusetts has a constitutional right to be free and safe. The Massachusetts state constitution, the world's oldest functioning written constitution, declares that: *All people are born free and equal and have certain natural, essential and unalienable rights; among which may be reckoned the right of enjoying and defending their lives and liberties; that of acquiring, possessing and protecting property; in fine, that of seeking and obtaining their safety and happiness.* This means that every Massachusetts resident has a right to freedom and safety when dropping their kids off at school, visiting a government building like a courthouse or Town Hall, calling 911 for help in an emergency, or pulling over to ask a local police officer for assistance. It is simple to understand that our communities are more secure, more tightly knit, and more hospitable when every resident is safe and free in their interactions with the community and with their local government.

But because of cruel and draconian federal immigration policies, which indiscriminately target undocumented immigrants for deportation instead of focusing on violent offenders or recent border crossers, immigrants in our communities are justifiably frightened to answer civil court summons, attend parent-teacher conferences, or even to call the police when they are the victims of a crime. The Safe Communities Act is a bill before the state legislature that will guarantee that in Massachusetts, no one has to live in fear, and everyone's civil rights will be respected. It pursues this goal with a few key provisions.

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# 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.



Coach Melanie Philbrook & the Malden High Cheerleaders donated clothing & supplies to the Malden Warming Center. *Courtesy Photo*

## 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.



Jason Reynolds is an accomplished author in the Young Adult genre. *Courtesy Photo*

**Jason Reynolds is named National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature Says he will work to empower young students with enhanced literacy**

Award-winning novelist Jason Reynolds, who has produced some 15 books since 2014, has been appointed the newest National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature. Reynolds was sworn into the position at an inauguration ceremony on January 16 in the Coolidge Auditorium of the Library of Congress’s Thomas Jefferson Building, 10 First St. SE, Washington, D.C.

The national ambassador is selected by Carla Hayden, the Librarian of Congress, based on recommendations from an independent committee. The program was established in 2008 by the Library of Congress, the Children’s Book Council and its foundation, Every Child a Reader, to emphasize the importance of young people’s literature.

Mr. Reynolds has roots in this region, as he is an instructor in the MFA Creative Writing program at Lesley University in Boston. He has two books publishing in 2020, including *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* a young readers’ edition of Ibram X. Kendi’s 2016 National Book Award winner.

**Student Opportunity Act will provide increased funding & resources for Malden Public Schools**

***Everyone in Malden community urged to participate in online survey to give feedback and opinions on needs, additions & changes in MPS District***

**Dear Malden Public Schools Community Members,**



The Student Opportunity Act is a new bill that has been passed and will be enacted within the next seven years for Massachusetts public schools. Your feedback is valuable and we would love to hear from you about some of the things you would like to see more of or done differently within the Malden Public Schools in the coming years.

Thanks in advance for taking the time to complete this short survey. The survey will be available on the Malden Public Schools website, [maldenps.org](http://maldenps.org) until February 24.

**INFORMATIONAL MEETING SET FEBRUARY 13 on MALDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

**Malden Public School Before/After School Program Families,**

You are invited to attend the MPS Before/After School Programs Informational Meeting with a Question & Answer session at the end on Thursday, February 13, 2020 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Salemwood K-4 Cafeteria. We hope to see you there.



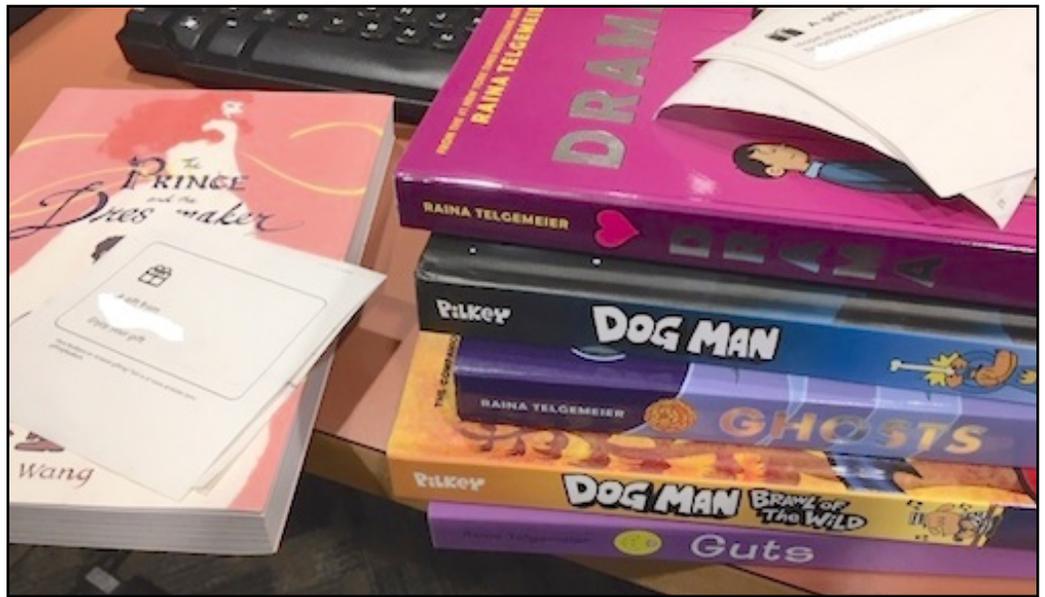
**John Oteri**

**Superintendent of Schools**

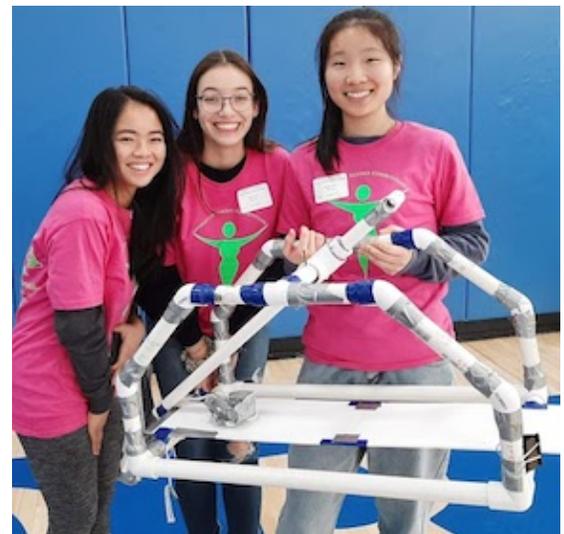
## HATS OFF to the FORESTDALE PTO!

Generosity of group provides new books for the school library

Malden Public Schools Traveling Librarian Marie Touet extends a big "thank you" from the students & staff at the Forestdale School. The PTO has shared the library's Amazon Wish List and these new books arrived in the month of January. *Courtesy Photo*



## MALDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS WELL-REPRESENTED @ THE 17th ANNUAL 'WOMEN of SCIENCE' COMPETITION



The Malden Public Schools were well-represented at the 17th Annual "Women of Science" competition held at Bedford H.S. Malden High science/tech educator Brian Morrison, left, guided a team of six students in a series of events.

**MALDEN HIGH WRESTLER** *Cont. from Page One* ever at MHS is well on her way to achieving that lofty goal. Costa competed in the recent Phillips Academy All-Girls Wrestling Tournament, which featured competitors from Massachusetts and other New England states.

For the second consecutive season, the MIAA will be hosting an All-State Girls Wrestling Tournament and will be awarding championship titles in all weight classes. It will be held Saturday, Feb. 29 at Methuen High School.

# Malden state Senator Lewis a co-sponsor of Safe Communities Act which is before Mass. legislators

## *Continued from Page 6*

First, the bill bars law enforcement and court personnel from asking people about their immigration status unless required by law. The Massachusetts State Police already employs a similar policy. Many immigrants fear that calling 911 or speaking to the police may lead to separation from family members – especially children – making them more vulnerable to domestic abuse, wage theft and other crimes. When crimes like that go unchecked, it hurts the entire community.

Second, the Safe Communities Act protects due process rights of detained immigrants by requiring Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers to obtain their consent using a form that explains their right to decline an interview or have their own attorney present.

Without these protections, people often make statements or sign documents jeopardizing their immigration cases. Everyone deserves legal representation and the opportunity to defend themselves in court.

Finally, the bill ends contracts with ICE that allow state and county law enforcement personnel to act as federal immigration agents at state taxpayers' expense.

Massachusetts is the only state in New England to have such agreements, which redirect already-scarce police resources to do the job of federal officials, instead of community policing and other local priorities.

The Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association supports the Safe Communities Act because police chiefs understand that it will help our local law enforcement officers to do their jobs and make our communities safer for all. Unfortunately, some opponents of the bill falsely claim that it will prevent immigrants from being arrested for committing a crime; in fact, any person who commits a crime-- including any documented or undocumented immigrant-- would continue to be held fully responsible under state and federal law.

Many residents from our communities have contacted me urging me to support the Safe Communities Act, and thanks to their advocacy, my personal experiences as an immigrant to the United States, and my deeply held conviction that all people deserve to be safe and treated with respect, I'm a proud co-sponsor of the Safe Communities Act.

*The Malden Education Association and Senator Jason Lewis Invite You To*

## *A Community Bill Signing of the Student Opportunity Act & Community Meeting*

*February 26, 2020 at 6:00pm  
Malden High School Gallery (Ferry St. entrance)  
77 Salem St., Malden, MA 02148*