

Malden Public Schools

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

October 14, 2022

Dear Malden Public Schools Parents and Guardians:

It has come to our attention that members of the Malden Education Association (MEA) – representing teachers, education support personnel, nurses, coaches, counselors, and other staff – took a vote this afternoon that may affect school operations on Monday, October 17. MEA leaders have not contacted any Malden Public Schools officials about their plans, so the situation remains unclear, but we wanted to provide some information today so that parents and guardians can begin to make alternate plans for their children, if necessary.

Our understanding at this hour is that the MEA membership authorized the MEA Board to issue a strike order – potentially as late as 12:00 midnight on Sunday, if the union and the School Committee do not reach agreement over the weekend on a new collective bargaining agreement. IF an illegal strike by the MEA appears likely, the School Committee and the Superintendent will have no choice but to close schools for students only on Monday, October 17, including all after-school programs, extracurricular activities, and athletics. As of today, we intend to open schools as usual on Monday, but we wanted to alert you to the possibility that there could be a change over the weekend, depending on progress of negotiations and the tactics that the MEA leadership decides to pursue.

We realize this uncertainty presents significant challenges for families, and we share your frustration. We encourage you to begin making alternate plans for your child – just in case we have to cancel any school days for students. We will keep families informed of any developments, and we encourage you to visit the district's website, www.maldenps.org, for the latest updates.

It is important for families to know that our collective bargaining team has been meeting regularly with MEA leaders since May. The School Committee is committed to negotiating a new three-year contract with the MEA that is fair to our employees, is in line with the economic realities facing the City, and meets the needs of our students and families. If both parties continue to negotiate in good faith, we will reach consensus. We

are hopeful that the leaders of the MEA will remain at the bargaining table and not resort to organizing a strike that would disrupt the education of our more than 6,000 students.

Thank you for your patience.

Sincerely,

Ligia Noriega-Murphy
Superintendent