

Malden

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Malden School Committee accepts provisions for new competency determination policy

Local initial policy must be in place by end of calendar year in conjunction with new state requirements, which replace MCAS testing mark

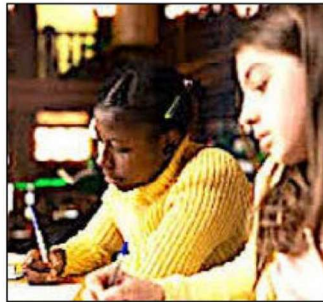
By Steve Freker

The Malden School Committee voted unanimously Monday night to accept the guidelines for a new competency determination policy for students in their graduation year. The members unanimously accepted the report of the Policy & Procedure Subcommittee. Voting in favor were members Michael Drummey, remotely (Ward 1), Robert McCarthy Jr. (Ward 2), Dawn Macklin, remotely (Ward 4), Elizabeth Hortie (Ward 5), Joseph Gray, remotely (Ward 6), Keith Bernard (Ward 7) and Sharyn Rose-Zeiberg (Ward 8).

Rose-Zeiberg led the Policy & Procedure Subcommittee, which came up with the policy particulars, with local reviews mandated to be in place by the end of this month according to the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

The DESE Competency Determination is Mas-

PROVISIONS | SEE PAGE 12



The Malden School Committee on Monday night approved initial steps for a framework of a competency determination plan, which will be used in conjunction with guidelines established by the Mass. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for high school graduation requirements. (Courtesy Photo)

Winter Concert Celebrates the Spirit of the Season in Malden

Performances by Mystic Side Opera Company had Something for Everyone

Local residents came together at the Malden Public Library's Ryder Galley last Sunday for a shared holiday tradition – the annual winter concert – which celebrates the magic of the season and the

diversity of the local community. Malden's Mystic Side Opera Company performed winter-themed arias and duets from classic operas and oper-

CONCERT | SEE PAGE 8



Mezzo/Soprano Natalja Sticco and tenor Brian Landry are shown performing during the Winter Concert at the Malden Public Library's Ryder Galley last Sunday.

Santa Claus is coming to town – he's moved to "Santa's Barn" at Pine Banks



(Courtesy photo)

Come and visit Santa's new location at Pine Banks Park! Santa Claus will once again take time out of his busy schedule at the North Pole to visit Pine Banks

Park, tomorrow, Saturday, December 13 from 1-4:30 p.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus are excited to welcome the children of Malden and Melrose for his 76th an-

nual visit in his new larger "barn" location adjacent to the baseball field.

SANTA CLAUS | SEE PAGE 5

Celebrating a Century!

Special to The Advocate

Former longtime Malden resident Beverly McMillan recently celebrated 100 years young! Mayor Gary Christenson surprised her with a Citation in rec-

ognition of her milestone birthday. Beverly is extremely proud of her two children, four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Beverly credits "always having good thoughts" for her long, happy and healthy life.



Beverly McMillan and Mayor Gary Christenson (Courtesy photo)

CONCERT | FROM PAGE 1

ettas that were performed in Italian, French, and Spanish, in recognition of the diverse languages spoken in town.

The free concert – hosted by the Friends of the Malden Public Library (MPL) and the Malden Historical Society – drew more than 70 people. Mystic Side Opera Company performers captivated the audience with selections from popular operas including Tosca, Samson and Delilah, Pagliacci, Rigoletto and Carmen. Among the performers was renowned mezzo-soprano Natalja Sticco – a Malden resident who performs worldwide – as well as tenor Brian Landry, flutist Susan Thorne Gagnon and pianist Eleena Gelfgatt.

"The Winter Concert is a special, meaningful way to celebrate the holiday season and showcase Malden's cultural richness," said Mary Ellen O'Meara, president of the Friends of the Malden Public Library. "The audience was thrilled by the joyous music, performed by an extraordinarily talented group of local artists. It was our sincere pleasure to host this event at the Library for all to enjoy."

"I want to extend huge appreciation to the Friends of the Malden Public Library and the Malden Historical Society for hosting such a magnificent winter concert. This is one of our most popular events of the holiday season, and many community members look forward to it all year," said Malden Public Library Director Dora St. Martin. "The Library's breathtakingly beautiful Ryder Gallery was the perfect setting for this festive event that ushers in the holiday season and brings neighbors together."

The Malden Public Library has several seasonal events on the calendar this month, including a Holiday Book Sale on Dec. 13, with complimentary gift wrapping and beverages sold by the Traveling Acofecaary. On Dec. 16, people are invited to wear their most festive sweater to the Library for a holiday movie and a seasonal singalong. For the children, the Library is hosting holiday-themed story time and crafts. All events and pro-



Shown from left to right, are: Susan Thorne Gagnon on flute, tenor Brian Landry, mezzo/soprano Natalja Sticco and pianist Eleena Gelfgatt during Sunday's Winter Concert inside the Malden Public Library.



Shown from left to right, are: Historical Society Hospitality Committee Member Linda Glover, President Linda Thorsen, Curator/Past President John Taramozzi, Secretary Marilyn Glover and member John Paracellini. (Advocate photos by Tara Vocino)

gramming are free and open to the public. For more information about upcoming events, please visit the Events & Programs page of the Library's website: <https://maldenpubliclibrary.org/>.

Located at 36 Salem Street, the Malden Public Library provides an assortment of free resources, items, and programming to meet the needs of the diverse Malden community. The Library is a private, non-profit corporation that was established with a trust fund from Elisha and Mary Diana Converse in 1885. The building's maintenance, renovations, artwork, books, special programs, and more are funded by the historic Trust, with help from generous donations from individuals and private foundations. Compared to other Massachusetts libraries, the Malden Public Library costs taxpayers less while providing the same essential services.



Shown from left to right, are: Friends of the Malden Public Library Treasurer Marion Browning, Incoming Friends of the Malden Public Library President Huy Nguyen, Tenor Brian Landry, Friends of the Malden Public Library President Mary Ellen O'Meara, Mezzo/Soprano Natalja Sticco, Pianist Eleena Gelfgatt, Flutist Susan Thorne Gagnon and Friends of the Malden Public Library Secretary Glynn Crum.



Friends of the Malden Public Library President Mary Ellen O'Meara with Historical Society President Linda Thorsen.



Outgoing Friends of the Malden Public Library President Mary Ellen O'Meara with Incoming Friends of the Malden Public Library President Huy Nguyen.



Shown from left to right, are: Janet Spindler, Eileen Locke and Ward 4 City Councillor Ryan O'Malley.



Shown from left to right, are: Barbara Gavin, Wagner Menezes and Sarah Alves.



Malden Public Library Director Dora Saint Martin welcomed everyone.



Pianist Eleena Gelfgatt performed "Franz Liszt-Rigoletto Concert Paraphrase After Verdi."

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