

Open Commonwealth
8 Marvin Street
Malden, MA. 02148
(617) 952-3183
info@opencommonwealth.org

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Russell D. Johnston
Acting Commissioner of
Elementary and Secondary Education

BoardofEducation@mass.gov;
audit@doe.mass.edu; esea@doe.mass.edu; compliance@doe.mass.edu

Greetings:

OpenCommonwealth would like to draw your attention to several key indicators in the Malden Public Schools, in Malden, Massachusetts.

1. The amount of monies expended by the district for legal fees as declared in their audited filings with the Massachusetts Department of Education do not comport with the documents and public records produced by the district over the past two weeks. On average, Malden Public Schools underreported their legal expenses by at least \$230,000.00 from 2019-2023.
2. The Special Education department appears to be paying for public records litigation of the Malden Public Schools, Public Records released by the District last week indicate that the Special Education Superintendent (Ms. Pam MacDonald) receives and approves these payments. These suits include a suit filed by Malden Public Schools against a parent seeking public records about his special needs student at Malden.

The amount of documentation is voluminous, a link to the data detailing and demonstrating items #1 and 2 above can be found here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/ytr96dgrbjveg4y41q175/h?rlkey=556p16vcojbek9f61tqe8vmo3&dl=0>

OpenCommonwealth is requesting that DESE investigate these matters and perform a detailed financial audit of the Malden Public Schools, and specifically the Special Education programs of the Malden Public Schools.

Additionally, please reach out at any time if you wish to discuss this matter at the above contacts.

Kindest Regards,

_____/s/_____.

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By Bruce Friedman