

MOST Program vendor selection

mccluskey.lindsay@ [REDACTED] Lindsay McCluskey
To: PPiazza@maldenps.org

Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 12:01:45 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Hi Peter,

Hope you are having a good week. I'm reaching out in response to the email that the Superintendent sent last night about the MOST program being outsourced to an external vendor starting next year.

We rely on the MOST program, and next year will be relying on it for both our kids. There have been some real challenges with the program this year at Linden (director turnover, many staff leaving, and program quality suffering), so I am not opposed to this change, but I am interested in understanding more about how the decision will be made— will the School Committee be involved and will there be any opportunity for families to have input?

Program quality is important to me but also affordability. I am interested in engaging in this process more if there are opportunities to do so. Thanks for any insight you have!

Thanks,

Lindsay McCluskey
[REDACTED]

ppiazza@maldenps.org Piazza, Peter
To: mccluskey.lindsay@ [REDACTED] Lindsay McCluskey

Friday, March 20, 2026 at 7:53:39 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Hi Lindsay,

Appreciate you reaching out about this. Definitely interesting/useful for me to hear about your experience with the program at Linden, especially since it sounds like there are some differences between how the program has operated there vs at Salemwood.

I haven't gotten a clear sense of how families will be involved in reviewing the potential new vendors. And, tbh, I haven't gotten a clear sense of how the district will be approaching the process- is it only about cost? Are they prioritizing certain kinds of programs? Etc. I'll email the superintendent and will get back to you as soon as I have more details.

Hope you and your family have been well.

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Lindsay McCluskey
[REDACTED]

mccluskey.lindsay@ [REDACTED] Lindsay McCluskey
To: ppiazza@maldenps.org Piazza, Peter

Saturday, March 21, 2026 at 8:48:45 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Thanks so much, Peter.

Lindsay

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ppiazza@maldenps.org Piazza, Peter
To: tsippel@maldenps.org Timothy Sippel

Monday, March 23, 2026 at 7:00:15 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Hi Tim,

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Please let me know what next steps make sense. I'm happy to help organize a parent review or info session, for example.

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██████████

tsippel@maldenps.org Timothy Sippel
To: ppiazza@maldenps.org Peter Piazza

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 12:38:09 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Hi, Peter.

Toni Mertz will be back on Monday, March 30 and can respond to this question far better than me.

However, my understanding is that the RFP process has fairly strict legal and procedural guidelines that we need to follow. I am not sure about having any community/stakeholder participation in reviewing proposals.

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Sent from my iPhone

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Superintendent
Malden Public Schools

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To: tsippel@maldenps.org Timothy Sippel

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 2:19:10 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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[REDACTED]

tsippel@maldenps.org Sippel, Timothy
To: tmertz@maldenps.org Toni Mertz

Saturday, March 28, 2026 at 8:00:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time

FYI Let's check in about this on Monday. :-)

Tim

Timothy Sippel, Ed.L.D.
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Malden Public Schools

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ppiazza@maldenps.org Piazza, Peter
To: tsippel@maldenps.org Timothy Sippel

Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 3:59:49 PM

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- What are the district's priorities for vendor selection, both in terms of programming content and price structure?
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Full FAQ:

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ppiazza@maldenps.org Piazza, Peter

To: mccluskey.lindsay@maldenps.org Lindsay McCluskey

Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 3:54:33 PM

Hi Lindsay,

I'm circling back to this bc I've been able to devote more attention to it now that YfM is (sadly!) in the rearview. I had a good conversation with the superintendent yesterday, and he's planning discussion sessions about this, and he'll also invite parents to be a part of a committee that'll select the new vendor. If you're interested in the committee, lmk; but no worries if not- I know these days.

In the meantime, I'm planning to ask a few questions at the school committee meeting on Monday, and I'm providing the list below to the supt so that he can prepare. (I don't want it to come a Lmk if you have anything you'd add to the list.

Hope you and your fam have been well.

Peter

MOST Questions 4/6:

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To: ppiazza@maldenps.org Piazza, Peter

Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 5:23:15 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Thank you, Peter. I will be adding information about our plans for stakeholder input and collaboration in the process in my Friday Update so that everyone on the Committee is up to speed with what we have discussed.

The Mayor thought it would be great for you to serve on the committee that reviews proposals; I will ask if any other members of the Committee are also interested and then we can move forward from there.

Thanks!

Tim

--

Timothy Sippel, Ed.L.D.
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Sent from my iPhone

Timothy Sippel, Ed.L.D.
Superintendent
Malden Public Schools

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From: **Lindsay McCluskey** <mcccluskey.lindsay>
Date: Thu, Mar 19, 2026 at 12:01 PM
Subject: MOST Program vendor selection
To: <PPiazza@maldenps.org>

Hi Peter,

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Program quality is important to me but also affordability. I am interested in engaging in this process more if there are opportunities to do so. Thanks for any insight you have!

Thanks,

Lindsay McCluskey

mcccluskey.lindsay <mcccluskey.lindsay> **Lindsay McCluskey**
To: ppiazza@maldenps.org Piazza, Peter

Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 5:02:40 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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Overall, I am hoping that the vendor selected will approach after school time as important time for kids to be with their friends and have a mix of structured activities, but also free time to play with a ball or have some choice to do what they please (within reason). There are other things that are important to me as well, like how the program communicates with families, but mostly I want it to continue to be a place where my kids like to go and hang out with their friends with some fun activities organized by the grown ups :)

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MOST Questions 4/6:

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Lindsay McCluskey
[REDACTED]

tsippel@maldenps.org Sippel, Timothy

To: smclaughlin@maldenps.org Sarah McLaughlin, tmertz@maldenps.org Toni Mertz, tmeagher@maldenps.org Tess Meagher

Friday, April 3, 2026 at 12:45:13 PM Eastern Daylight Time

FYI

--

Timothy Sippel, Ed.L.D.

Superintendent of Schools
Malden Public Schools

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sippel, Timothy** <tsippel@maldenps.org>
Date: Thu, Apr 2, 2026 at 5:23 PM
Subject: Re: MOST Program vendor selection
To: Piazza, Peter <ppiazza@maldenps.org>

Thank you, Peter. I will be adding information about our plans for stakeholder input and collaboration in the process in my Friday Update so that everyone on the Committee is up to speed with what we have discussed.

The Mayor thought it would be great for you to serve on the committee that reviews proposals; I will ask if any other members of the Committee are also interested and then we can move forward from there.

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MOST SC Questions:

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What are the district's priorities for vendor selection, both in terms of programming content and price structure?

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What is the timeline for proposal review and, ultimately, the final decision? Will there be opportunities for parents to provide feedback and/or otherwise weigh in on the final decision?

Full FAQ:

- Is it possible that MOST could remain in place next year?
- Do we have a sense of family need/interest in after school programming at the middle school level?

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Do you have any time tomorrow morning for a phone call?

Thank you!

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ppiazza@maldenps.org Piazza, Peter
To: tsippel@maldenps.org Sippel, Timothy

Friday, April 3, 2026 at 1:05:48 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Outstanding- appreciate your attention to this!

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[REDACTED]

ppiazza@maldenps.org Piazza, Peter
To: mccluskey.lindsay@ Lindsay McCluskey

Friday, April 3, 2026 at 1:12:17 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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mccluskey.lindsay@malenps.org Lindsay McCluskey
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Monday, April 6, 2026 at 8:23:22 AM Eastern Daylight Time

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mclcluskey.lindsay@... Lindsay McCluskey
To: ppiazza@maldenps.org Piazza, Peter

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 1:00:23 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Hi Peter,

Thanks again for raising the discussion about the MOST Program last night. I watched that portion of the meeting from home so I did hear the Superintendent's brief remarks on why they are looking to do this, though I still have questions. Regardless, I am potentially interested in serving on the committee to select the new vendor. If there are many other parents who want to participate, I'm also happy to defer knowing that you will also be on that committee. If you have more information about that, please let me know. I'll look out for information from the district about the parent survey and the meeting they plan to hold next week.

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Overall, I am hoping that the vendor selected will approach after school time as important time for kids to be with their friends and have a mix of structured activities, but also free time to play with a ball or have some choice to do what they please (within reason). There are other things that are important to me as well, like how the program communicates with families, but mostly I want it to continue to be a place where my kids like to go and hang out with their friends with some fun activities organized by the grown ups :)

Thanks again Peter-- feeling very fortunate to have your voice on the School Committee. I plan to attend Monday night's meeting, so I will see you then.

Lindsay

On Thu, Apr 2, 2026 at 3:54 PM Piazza, Peter <ppiazza@maldenps.org> wrote:
Hi Lindsay,

I'm circling back to this bc I've been able to devote more attention to it now that YfM is (sadly!) in the rearview. I had a good conversation with the superintendent yesterday, and he's planning a series of parent discussion sessions about this, and he'll also invite parents to be a part of a committee that'll select the new vendor. If you're interested in the committee, lmk; but no worries if not- I know there's a lot to balance these days.

In the meantime, I'm planning to ask a few questions at the school committee meeting on Monday, and I'm providing the list below to the supt so that he can prepare. (I don't want it to come across as a gotcha.) Lmk if you have anything you'd add to the list.

Hope you and your fam have been well.

Peter

MOST Questions 4/6:

- What led to the decision to seek an external vendor? Was it related to city budget concerns?
- What are the district's priorities for vendor selection, both in terms of programming content and price structure?
- What is the timeline for proposal review and, ultimately, the final decision? Will there be opportunities for parents to provide feedback and/or otherwise weigh in on the final decision?

On Sat, Mar 21, 2026 at 8:48 AM Lindsay McCluskey <mccluskey.lindsay@lindenps.org> wrote:
Thanks so much, Peter.

Lindsay

On Fri, Mar 20, 2026 at 7:53 PM Piazza, Peter <ppiazza@maldenps.org> wrote:
Hi Lindsay,

Appreciate you reaching out about this. Definitely interesting/useful for me to hear about your experience with the program at Linden, especially since it sounds like there are some differences between how the program has operated there vs at Salemwood.

I haven't gotten a clear sense of how families will be involved in reviewing the potential new vendors. And, tbh, I haven't gotten a clear sense of how the district will be approaching the process- is it only about cost? Are they prioritizing certain kinds of programs? Etc. I'll email the superintendent and will get back to you as soon as I have more details.

Hope you and your family have been well.

Peter

On Thu, Mar 19, 2026 at 12:01 PM Lindsay McCluskey <mccluskey.lindsay@lindenps.org> wrote:
Hi Peter,

Hope you are having a good week. I'm reaching out in response to the email that the Superintendent sent last night about the MOST program being outsourced to an external vendor starting next year.

We rely on the MOST program, and next year will be relying on it for both our kids. There have been some real challenges with the program this year at Linden (director turnover, many staff leaving, and program quality suffering), so I am not opposed to this change, but I am interested in understanding more about how the decision will be made-- will the School Committee be involved and will there be any opportunity for families to have input?

Program quality is important to me but also affordability. I am interested in engaging in this process more if there are opportunities to do so. Thanks for any insight you have!

Thanks,

Lindsay McCluskey

ppiazza@maldenps.org Piazza, Peter

To: mccluskey.lindsay@lindenps.org Lindsay McCluskey

Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 8:29:08 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Thanks, Lindsay. Really appreciate you speaking at public comment- I know it can be weird and maybe intimidating. It really helps me to push on things internally. And, I hear you on getting the district to improve communication about things like this. I know that the district has decent reasons for pursuing a new vendor (e.g., they want to open up spots for families that can't afford weekly tuition), and I'm not sure why the supt didn't say more about that at the meeting on Mon or on the FAQ page. Anyway, I'll keep you posted on plans for that committee. All the best!

On Tue, Apr 7, 2026 at 1:00 PM Lindsay McCluskey <mccluskey.lindsay@lindenps.org> wrote:
Hi Peter,

Thanks again for raising the discussion about the MOST Program last night. I watched that portion of the meeting from home so I did hear the Superintendent's brief remarks on why they are looking to do this, though I still have questions. Regardless, I am potentially interested in serving on the committee to select the new vendor. If there are many other parents who want to participate, I'm also happy to defer knowing that you will also be on that committee. If you have more information about that, please let me know. I'll look out for information from the district about the parent survey and the meeting they plan to hold next week.

Lindsay

On Mon, Apr 6, 2026 at 8:23 AM Lindsay McCluskey <mccluskey.lindsay@lindenps.org> wrote:
I am planning on being there to testify tonight. See you then.

Lindsay

On Fri, Apr 3, 2026 at 1:12 PM Piazza, Peter <ppiazza@maldenps.org> wrote:

Thanks, Lindsay- your support means a lot, especially after a tough week in Malden politics. Awesome that you're able to attend on Monday. Are you planning to testify? If not, feel free to email the clerk (Ariana Langston, alangston@maldenps.org) so that your comment can be part of the public record. It can be super informal, even just copy/pasting from your email. In the meantime, have a great weekend!

On Thu, Apr 2, 2026 at 5:02 PM Lindsay McCluskey <mccluskey.lindsay@lindenps.org> wrote:
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Lindsay McCluskey
[REDACTED]