



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

TOWN COUNCIL

Ann Santos, Chair
Julie Smith-Galvin, Vice Chair

Mehreen N. Butt
Jonathan P. Chines

Paul R. DiNocco
Edward F. Dombroski, Jr.

Peter J. May
Sherri Dalton, Clerk

NOTICE OF MEETING

January 11th, 2021 | 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85813248252>

Consistent with the Governor's orders suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law and banning gatherings of more than 10 people, this meeting will be conducted by remote participation to the greatest extent possible. The public may not physically attend this meeting, but every effort will be made to allow the public to view and/or listen to the meeting in real time. Persons who wish to do so are invited to click on the following link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85813248252>. If you do not have a camera or microphone on your computer you may use the following dial in number: 1-301-715-8592 Meeting ID 858 1324 8252. Please only use dial in or computer and not both, as audio feedback will distort the meeting. This meeting will be audio and video recorded.

Item 1 | Call to Order

Item 2 | Pledge of Allegiance

Item 3 | Attendance

Item 4 | Public Engagement

Any member of the public who wishes to address the Town Council is asked to submit any comments or concerns to <https://www.wakefield.ma.us/public-participation> at least two hours prior to the start of the meeting. Alternatively, members of the public are invited to participate via the Zoom virtual meeting, using the instructions listed above.

In the event further deliberation or action is warranted, any issues raised may be included as an item on a future Town Council Agenda.

Item 5 | Businesses Recognition

Batten Brothers and Carol's Café received recognition and awards at the 17th Annual MassEcon (the State's private sector partner in promoting business growth in Massachusetts) event for their assistance in combating COVID-19.

Item 6 | Approval of Minutes

Approval of December 07th, 2020 Town Council meeting minutes.



Item 7 | COVID-19 Update

Item 8 | Traffic Advisory Recommendations

- A. Stop sign be installed at the intersection of Nelly Street and Broadway Street.
- B. Stop sign be installed at the intersection of Plymouth Road and Broadway Street.

Item 9 | Sale of Town Owned Land – 94 Butler Avenue

- A. Acceptance of Deed.
- B. Determination of Uniqueness.

Item 10 | Fiscal Year 2022 Updates

- A. Budget procedure.
- B. Forecast.

Item 11 | Emergency Fund Update

Item 12 | License Application

Reaffirm Change of Manager for Oyes, Inc. d/b/a Feng's, 963 Main Street to Sarah Boyle vote taken at the November 23rd, 2020 meeting as requested by the ABCC for a discrepancy on the application that the applicant submitted.

Item 13 | Mystic Valley Charter School Discussion

Item 14 | Gift Acceptance

Request from the Library to accept and expend a gift or gifts in the amount of \$101.95 from various donors with thanks.

Item 15 | Warrants

Councilors to be updated on Warrant 16 dated October 20th, 2020 through Warrant 24 dated December 15th, 2020.

Item 16 | Matters Not Anticipated for Agenda

Any Voting matters not anticipated prior to the 48-hour public notice requirement but necessitating immediate action by the Council.

Item 17 | Adjournment

Next Regular Town Council Meeting: Monday, January 25th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.



WAKEFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

One Union Street, Wakefield, Massachusetts, 01880

Emergency: 911

Office: (339) 219-4525

Fax (781) 245-1299

Lt. Joseph Anderson

December 29, 2020

Town Council
Town of Wakefield
1 Lafayette Street
Wakefield, MA 01880

Dear Town Council,

The Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) held a meeting on Friday, December 18, 2020. A number of issues were discussed and we request your approval for the following recommendation.

The TAC recommends that two (2) stop signs be installed. One at the intersection of Nelly St. and Broadway and the other at the intersection of Plymouth Rd. and Broadway. There are no traffic controls at this intersection and driver's unfamiliar with the area may be unaware that Broadway has the right of way. Residents report numerous near-miss crashes in recent months.

Attached is a street view of both sides of the intersection and the proposed stop signs or your review.

Happy New Year!

Respectfully Submitted,

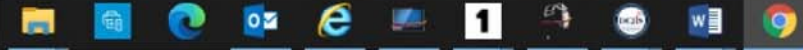
Lt. Joseph A. Anderson
Chairman
Traffic Advisory Committee



STOP

Google

Image capture: Aug 2012 © 2012





Plymouth

ACCEPTANCE OF DEED

The Town of Wakefield, a Massachusetts municipal corporation having a usual place of business at the William J. Lee Memorial Town Hall, One Lafayette Street, Wakefield, Massachusetts 01880, acting by and through its Town Council, hereby accepts for municipal purposes the foregoing deed from The Woods, LLC with respect to the land known and numbered as 94 Butler Avenue, Wakefield, MA. Authority for this acceptance was granted at the Regular Town Meeting of November 7, 2020 by action under Article 7 of the warrant thereof, by vote of more than two-thirds of persons present thereat and voting thereon.

TOWN OF WAKEFIELD
By and through its Town Council

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Middlesex, ss.

On this _____ day of _____, 202_, before me, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared

proved to me through satisfactory evidence of identification, which was my personal knowledge of the identity of the principals, to be the persons whose names are signed on the preceding or attached document, and acknowledged to me that they signed it voluntarily as their free act and deed for its stated purpose as the Town Council of the Town of Wakefield, or a majority thereof

Notary Public
My commission expires:

Determination of Uniqueness
Relating to Purchase of 94 Butler Avenue

Pursuant to G.L. c. 30B, § 16(e)(2), the Town Council hereby determines that advertising will not benefit the interests of the Town of Wakefield (the “Town”) in connection with the acquisition of 94 Butler Avenue, Wakefield, MA (the “Property”) because of the unique qualities and location of the Property. The Property consists of raw land which was the subject of litigation against the Town by the owner of the Property, who contended that the Town had caused environmental contamination thereof. The Town entered into a settlement agreement with the said owner to resolve the litigation by purchasing the Property. The Town intends to clean up and re-use the Property by applying an “activity use limitation” to the contaminated part and seeking Town Meeting approval in the future with respect to the disposition of the rest of it.

TOWN OF WAKEFIELD
By and through its Town Council

Charter school hit by NAACP charges

The following was submitted by the regional branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

MALDEN – The Mystic Valley Area Branch of the NAACP has expressed its profound concern about discrimination issues at Mystic Valley Regional Charter School (MVRCS).

MVRCS continues to resist pressure to implement actions to change its longstanding culture that discriminates against Black students and other students of color, LGBTQ+ students, and students with special needs, and that suppresses the whole school community from raising issues. Each year, the school has the very controversial John Rosemond speak to parents. Rosemond denies the existence of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and, in general, the value of special needs programs. The school forces its teachers to sign a nondisclosure agreement that prevents them from discussing occurrences at the school, and students and parents who raise issues report that they have suffered retaliation by the school.

The latest example of the school's resistance has been its failure to meet with alumni to discuss demands for changes to foster nondiscriminatory treatment of all students. These demands have received the written support of the Mystic Valley Area Branch NAACP and several state legislators who serve the cities and towns from which MVRCS draws its students

(Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Stoneham, and Wakefield). The school maintains that there are no serious issues and that it has implemented policies to prevent discrimination. However, the evidence indicates that the issues persist.

The school's discriminatory practices have been in the public eye before.

- In 2017, the Attorney General's Office intervened in a court case, requiring the school to change its discriminatory hairstyle policy.

- This year, a group of MVRCS alumni from the class of 2010 created a petition, which was signed by over 700 people, demanding structural and policy changes. Other alumni joined this effort and formed the MV Voices group, which collected 150 testimonials from students and parents that document the frequency and severity of discriminatory practices at the school over several years.

- In June, MV Voices and parents of MVRCS students attended an MVRCS Board of Trustees meeting, but the issues they raised were dismissed and the school did not acknowledge the need for any changes. The Board has been unwilling to meet with the alumni to discuss their demands.

- The Boston Globe published a July 7, 2020 article describing the frustration that alumni, parents, and the NAACP have experienced while trying to get the school to make long-needed changes.

The 'Ws' campaign is launched

WAKEFIELD — Residents and merchants can vie to win great prizes while promoting the Ws, the easy ways we can keep Wakefield healthy: wash your hands, wear a mask, watch your distance.... Wakefield pride! Complimentary window decals featuring these best practices are now available at locations throughout Wakefield.

In partnership with the Town of Wakefield, the Wakefield Lynnfield Chamber of Commerce is launching an interactive component to the town's Ws campaign. By snapping a photo of yourself displaying your decal, or a photo of yourself at a local business that features one, you can win a \$20 gift certificate valid at 30 local eateries.

Businesses can also participate by showcasing a decal in their establishments. They can enter to win a beautiful floral arrangement sourced locally.

How to participate
 Grab a complimentary window decal in the Town Hall lobby, the Wakefield Co-operative Bank, or the lobby of the Chamber's office at 5 Common Street. You can display one anywhere you'd like: your car window, your front door, or in your office.

Snap a photo of you with your decal or of you at a merchant who is displaying one. Send the photo to the Chamber, along with your name and contact information, in one of three ways:

- Post it to Facebook and tag @wakefieldlynnfieldchamberofcommerce with the hashtag

MVES gets \$5,000 award from bankers

MALDEN — Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES) was recently selected to be a recipient of a \$5,000 Community Grant Award from the Massachusetts Bankers Association (MBA) Charitable Foundation. The award was given by the MBA Charitable Foundation, along with the Massachusetts banking industry, to MVES for all its hard work and initiatives throughout the years in supporting the communities the agency serves.

Chief Executive Officer of Mystic Valley Elder Services. "This donation will be a tremendous benefit to helping those older adults and adults living with disabilities in need. I would also like to thank our community partner banks who nominated us for the grant award. They too are tremendous assets to the community."

"On behalf of the entire Massachusetts banking community, we are thrilled to bring our collective strength to supporting organi-

with the knowledge and renewed focus that our work continues."

Since its founding in 1996, the foundation has provided gifts totaling approximately \$2.8 million, symbolic of the more than \$106 million in individual donations banks make on an annual basis to charitable non-profits and social agencies in communities throughout the Commonwealth.

The Massachusetts Bankers Association

At the high-ranked Mystic Valley Regional Charter School, a troubling pattern on issues of race

By Hayley Kaufman Globe Staff. Updated July 7, 2020, 6:28 p.m.



Dewayne Henry, 14, held a sign as he protested outside of Mystic Valley Regional Charter School in Malden. JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

The questions came from parents, from alumni, from the president of the class of 2020. How would Mystic Valley Regional Charter School, known for rigorous academics and ranked a top high school in Massachusetts, address a long and alarming list of concerns about diversity, inclusion, and the treatment of students of color?

The questions came at a June 8 meeting with the Mystic Valley trustees, where 15 speakers raised the issues, describing a culture that penalized students who spoke out about inequities, while seeming to shrug off reports of bias. They also demanded to know why a series of controversial social media posts made by a cofounder of the Malden charter school hadn't been publicly denounced.

"It's going to take somebody to get their hands dirty, really going in and really, really, really looking this horrible situation in its eye," Alvin Buyinza, a 2015 graduate, told the board. "There is a conversation on race that needs to be addressed at the school level."

Amid a nationwide outcry on racial injustice, an urgent chorus of voices is calling for change at Mystic Valley, a K-12 charter school ranked in April as the sixth best high school in the state by U.S. News and World Report. One alumni group gathered hundreds of signatures on a [petition](#) demanding a more diverse faculty and a restructuring of the school's mission statement to "address issues of systemic discrimination." Another group said it has compiled more than 150 examples of alleged incidents of racism and LGBT bias. On June 25, parents and students held a protest, waving signs as drivers honked their horns.



Students held signs during a protest at Mystic Valley Regional Charter School. HAYLEY KAUFMAN

“The culture has to change at the school,” said Zane T. Crute, president of the Mystic Valley area branch of the NAACP, who sent a scathing letter to administrators endorsing the petitioners’ demands. For change to happen, he said, an independent evaluation of policies must be conducted “to keep the school honest — separate from the donors, separate from the board.”

Few would deny that Mystic Valley, which was founded in 1998 and enrolls more than 1,550 students from Malden and surrounding communities, provides strong education to a diverse student body. Sixty-one percent of seniors in 2019 earned the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship. While most schools in Massachusetts require 180 days of instruction, Mystic Valley tops out at 200.

But the school also has an unsettling track record on issues of race and inclusion. Recent data shows Mystic Valley disciplines Black and Latinx students at sharply higher rates than white students, and disabled students at a higher rate still.

In 2017, in a widely publicized move, Attorney General Maura Healey determined a school policy that banned hair extensions and other hairstyles discriminated against students of color, especially Black students, who’d been suspended and banned from activities. Two years earlier, regulators pushed back on efforts to increase enrollment because the school lacked proper services for non-English speakers. And when a student wanted to form a gay-straight alliance club in 2014, her efforts were stymied until the American Civil Liberties Union got involved.

A series of social media posts made by Neil Kinnon, a Mystic Valley cofounder and former Malden city councilor, has sparked the latest conflagration. As protests swelled after the killing of George Floyd, a Black man, by a white police officer, Kinnon posted a Wall Street Journal opinion piece titled “The Myth of Systemic Police Racism.”

“Please consider the real facts not the propaganda,” he wrote on his “Kinnon For Malden” Facebook page, a screenshot of which was obtained by the Globe before it was taken down. Systemic racism, he commented, is “a false narrative” and “the millions marching are indeed pawns.” Kinnon did not respond to e-mails and phone calls for this story.

The backlash to the Facebook post was swift. Students, alumni, even one of Kinnon’s neighbors blasted his statements. Meanwhile, screen shots of additional posts allegedly made by Kinnon on other Facebook pages triggered further outrage.

Long a divisive figure in Malden, Kinnon resigned from the charter school’s board of trustees in 2019 and no longer holds an official role there. But students say his influence is still felt. Petitioners asked that the school “further disaffiliate” from him by ending the Neil Kinnon Citizenship Award, presented annually to a graduating senior. And Alfie Tsang, 2020 class president, pushed trustees for clarity on Kinnon’s connection to the school, and why they hadn’t condemned the social media posts.

Chairman George Warren said at the June 8 meeting that the board was aware of Kinnon’s statements but needed time to “digest” things. “We will get back to you and the public,” he said, “if it’s deemed necessary.”

On June 16, Warren and Alexander Dan, the school’s superintendent/director, released a letter to parents. In it, they said Mystic Valley had undergone an “expansive internal investigation” in 2017 after the attorney general’s investigation. They’d “voluntarily implemented” suggestions from the review, which was conducted by a third party. Staffers received implicit bias training. Efforts to recruit more teachers of color were ongoing.

They also invoked George Floyd and condemned “the unacceptable tolerance of racism by sections of our society.” There was no mention of Kinnon.

In response to calls and e-mails from the Globe, Dan forwarded an annotated version of the letter to parents that was sent separately to the alumni behind the petition. There, Dan did refer to Kinnon: “Respectfully, we will not address the conduct of any person who is not a board member and not an employee at the school.”

Dan further noted: “Prior to your letter, Mr. Kinnon had already voluntarily determined to suspend his citizenship award at the school.”

Parents and students say the problems at Mystic Valley run much deeper than offensive social media posts. They say marginalization is baked into the foundation of the school, starting with its mission statement. It describes a “world class education characterized by a well-mannered, disciplined and structured academic climate” based in the “fundamental ideals of our American Culture.”

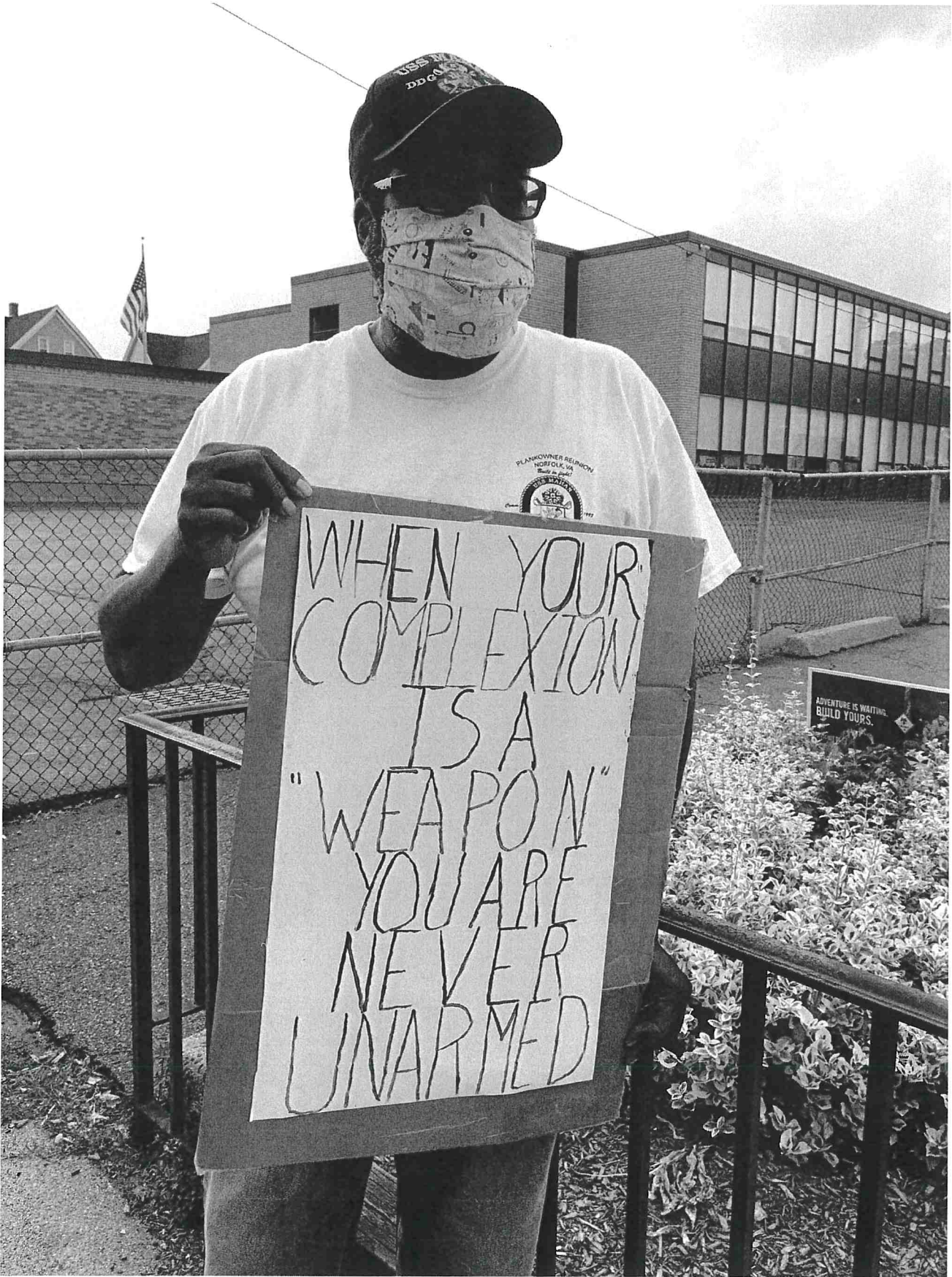


Christopher Hickey, Andrea Henry, and her daughter Thora, 14, protested outside of Mystic Valley Regional Charter School. JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

But how that discipline is delivered, and to whom, has left many frustrated, particularly when it comes to students of color.

“What they purport as discipline is essentially authoritarianism,” said Eric Henry, a retired Navy veteran and father of triplets going into ninth grade. Henry, who is Black, described several encounters his children have had, ranging from microaggressions to disciplinary incidents. In one, his daughter Thora was pulled out of class and reprimanded by a white teacher she did not know because she had dropped off a book in a classroom without knocking.

“She’s experiencing harassment and conflict resolution at way too young an age,” said Henry, who served on the PTO for several years. If parents complain about the way their children are treated, “They say, ‘Don’t forget, you asked to come here.’”



Eric Henry held a sign during a demonstration next to the school on June 25. HAYLEY KAUFMAN

Thora added: "If you're a student of color, you won't get the benefit of the doubt."

Indeed, data provided to the Department of Education showed that of the 289 Black students enrolled at Mystic Valley in 2018-19, 34, or 11.8 percent, received some sort of disciplinary action. Of 151 Latinx students, 17, or 11.3 percent, were disciplined. By comparison, 49 of 762 white students were disciplined, or 6.4 percent. Dan could not be reached for comment on the DOE numbers.

By far the highest percentage of disciplinary action was taken against students with disabilities. Of 221 students identified as having disabilities that year, 44, or 20 percent, were disciplined.

Parents and students also raised concerns about what they see as a pervasive insensitivity toward students with multicultural backgrounds.

Vanessa Santos described a situation in which her daughter, a rising eighth-grader, was chastised by a teacher who told her to stop "speaking Spanish." When the girl noted that she was speaking Portuguese, she said, the teacher waved her off, saying, "It's all the same."

Kedisha Clerger, a 2019 graduate who now attends Howard University, described a painful experience from her senior year. One day on her way to class, she was speaking to a friend about college applications, confiding that she'd thought about writing an essay "comparing Mystic Valley to slavery."

A teacher who'd been eavesdropping broke into the conversation. "I guess you could compare me to a plantation owner," she recalled him saying.

Stunned, Clerger reported what had happened to administrators. And there began a head-spinning series of events. She was told the teacher was "just making a joke." She was told she bore responsibility, that if she hadn't made the slavery comment, the teacher wouldn't have responded that way. Dan could not be reached for comment on the incident.

When all was said and done, Clerger said, she was accused of being "rude and disrespectful" and was suspended for a day.

"You report stuff at the school and they try to silence you," she said. "I just felt hopeless."

Clerger recently wrote about the experience, posting it to the Mystic Valley Parents Facebook page. She said God has been a source of strength as she looks back on her time at the school. And she urged the community to take action.

"Black kids at MV go through so much that is unknown to people," she wrote. "Fight for change."

Hayley Kaufman can be reached at hayley.kaufman@globe.com.



Lucius Beebe Memorial Library

345 Main Street
Wakefield, MA 01880
cmcdonald@noblenet.org

January 4, 2021

Town Council
Lee Memorial Town Hall
Lafayette Street
Wakefield, MA 01880

Dear Councilors,

In accordance with Chapter 44, Section 53A of Massachusetts General Laws, the Board of Library Trustees requests approval to accept and expend a gift or gifts to the library as indicated on the attached form bearing the above date.

Very truly yours,

Catherine McDonald

LUCIUS BEEBE MEMORIAL LIBRARY
LIBRARY GIFTS RECEIVED FOR DEPOSIT
ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT USE

1/4/2021				
SOURCE	DONOR INTENT	DETAIL	AMOUNT	ACCOUNT TOTAL
VARIOUS GIFTS - ORG 20610290, OBJECT 483000				80.00
Kathleen Fowler Volney	Donation	Christmas donation for Andrew Newton	\$ 30.00	
Marianne Quartello	Donation	Donation in memory of Mary Souay	\$ 50.00	
MAGAZINE GIFTS - ORG 20610295, OBJECT 483000				0.00
FRIENDS OF BEEBE LIBRARY GIFTS - ORG 20610291, OBJECT 483000				0.00
GIFT BOOKS - ORG 20610296, OBJECT 483000				21.95
Wakefield Arts & Crafts Society	In memory of F. Marianne Whitney	Restricted-Arts & Crafts book	21.95	
AMERICAN CREED GRANT - ORG 20610902, OBJECT 483000				0.00
TOTAL DONATIONS				101.95

