

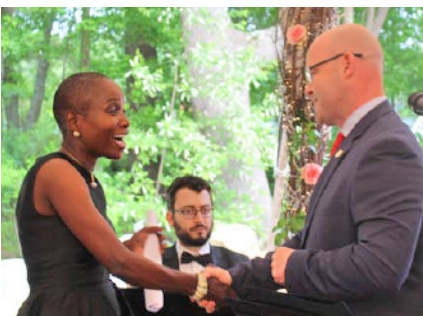
Teamsters president, Celtics legend attend Bilingual Montessori Spring Recital

Staff Writer | Wicked Local



Teamsters Local 25 President Sean M. O'Brien and former Boston Celtics player Cedric Maxwell turned out to support autism research and services at the Bilingual Montessori School of Sharon Spring Recital.

O'Brien and Maxwell appeared as guest speakers as the school held its annual student musical performance as a fundraiser to support Autism Speaks New England. O'Brien spoke about how he realized the impact autism was having on Teamsters Local 25 members and families about 12 years ago, and decided to make supporting people living with autism a top priority for his organization. Since then, Teamsters Local 25 has raised millions of dollars



for nonprofits that support people with autism and developmental delays through its Teamsters Local 25 Autism Fund and annual Autism Gala, which has grown to become the largest annual autism fundraiser in Boston. O'Brien surprised BMSS Deputy Head of School Linda Chery-Valentin by pledging a \$5,000 donation to the school from the Teamsters Local 25 Autism Fund. O'Brien was introduced by Massachusetts State Sen. Paul Feeney, D-Foxborough, and Massachusetts State Sen. Walter Timilty, D-Quincy, who applauded the union work in the fight for better services for people living with autism, and presented a proclamation honoring BMSS for its support as well.

The crowd then heard from Maxwell, who spoke of how compassion and understanding is needed for people living with autism, noting its impact on his own family.

The students of the Bilingual Montessori School of Sharon, ranging in age from 18-months to 6-years-old, took the stage for a classical musical performance.