



Dear Residents and Members of the Nashoba Regional School District Community,

We are sharing this letter as part of our ongoing mission to bring you the highest levels of clarity, understanding and School Committee accountability for the work we do on your behalf. The purpose of this letter is to clarify questions we have received regarding the executive session provisions of the Open Meeting Law (OML).

As a public body, the School Committee is governed by rules and laws including the Open Meeting Law (OML). The OML recognizes that, while most of a public body's discussions should take place in open session, there are special circumstances when private discussions are necessary. In those cases, the OML allows public bodies, like the School Committee, to meet in executive session for specific reasons (defined by the law) including the preparation for, and conducting of, contract negotiations. Executive sessions allow the School Committee to hold private meetings with the discussion strictly limited to one of the 10 reasons stated within the OML.

The OML requires that when the reason to hold an executive session has been completed or resolved, the minutes of the meeting are approved and released. For instance, in the case of recent executive sessions regarding the Superintendent's contract, the reason to hold the executive sessions has been completed. As a result, on December 2nd, the School Committee unanimously voted to release all executive session minutes dating back to August, 2015. These minutes may be obtained by contacting Aleta Masterson in the NRSD District Office at amasterson@nrsd.net.

The current School Committee works on your behalf for the students and staff of our District. We strongly believe that information which can be legally distributed should be made public. One of our four overarching goals is to ensure the public is properly informed of our efforts. Since June 2015, we have adopted several best practice methods of communication and made substantial changes in the way we report to the public including detailed minutes, subcommittee minutes, topical reports and consistent documentation. We hope this explanation of the Open Meeting Law and executive sessions provides a better understanding of the School Committee's responsibilities.

Your School Committee is committed to open, productive discussion. We encourage you to attend and watch our meetings, follow our meeting minutes, review the materials in our meeting packets and reach out to your town representatives if you have questions.

In the meantime, we are moving forward with our plans to hire an interim Superintendent while undertaking the important work of searching for a permanent Superintendent. We will continue to uphold our commitment to keep you informed on our progress as we move along.

Thank you,

Lorraine Romasco
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Chair, Nashoba Regional School District