



November 12, 2020

Dear Members of the Selectboards of Bolton, Lancaster and Stow,

The intent of this letter is to ask that we collectively reflect on the definition, purpose and structure of Tri-Town meetings. The School Committee will continue to participate in these meetings once there are substantive changes made.

After the October meeting, there seemed to be general agreement that future meetings would have to be conducted differently. The School Committee would like to propose the creation of an ad hoc committee consisting of member(s) from each of the three communities' select boards and school committee members, with the goal of evaluating the current Tri-Town meeting format, establishing norms for moving forward or considering a different approach or vehicle for supporting its intended purpose. Specific items that the School Committee would like to see developed include:

- a concrete definition of the purpose and goals of the tri-town meetings and topics that are appropriate for that venue,
- a specific meeting structure, including protocols for conduct and participation at the meeting,
- a specific agenda with questions or requests for information posted in advance, giving each group time to gather the needed information.

Town Administrators and Select Board members from each town may have additional ideas to support a robust and productive meeting. Through our combined efforts there is an opportunity to make the Tri-Town meeting uniquely valuable in sharing of information and community building. If you would be interested in being part of such a committee, please let one of your Town's School Committee representatives know and we will be in touch to coordinate a meeting ASAP. If there is no interest in participating in such an endeavor, perhaps each Town's Select Board would like to propose their own system for connecting with their School Committee representatives.

We see value in the three towns being able to come together with the School Committee to collaborate and share information on various issues that fall under the purview of both representative government structures, such as the budget, and the MSBA project. We note that there are other existing channels of communication between the Town Administrators and the Superintendent that allow information to be shared about specific school building or district-wide issues. Any member of the public, including a Selectboard member, is able to email school committee members or the Superintendent at any time. We encourage use of these existing channels to get specific answers to information that falls within the purview of the school committee, rather than using the Tri-Town meeting to obtain this information.

We look forward to your response and to a collaborative solution.

Sincerely,

The Nashoba Regional School Committee:

Kathy Codianne - Lancaster Representative
Amy Cohen – Bolton Representative
Brett Collins – Lancaster Representative
Rich Eckel – Stow Representative
Joseph Gleason – Lancaster Representative
Mike Horesh – Bolton Representative

Dr. Mary McCarthy – Bolton Representative
Sharon Poch– Lancaster Representative
Stephen Rubinstein – Stow Representative
Elaine Sanfilippo - Stow Representative
Leah Vivirito – Stow Representative

