

The Nashoba Regional High School faculty are deeply concerned that a very small but very vocal minority of district parents are trying to hijack the operational decisions made by the educational professionals of the school district and the high school.

The professional staff of the district spent weeks in serious deliberation with input from all parties to choose the best learning model for the high school under these very trying circumstances. The professional staff in conjunction with the duly elected school committee made an informed and rational decision that what is best for the education of our students is to be fully remote at the high school. That decision was not arbitrary or capricious or made in secret, but a fully informed and deliberate decision made in response to a complex set of variables.

This small minority disagrees with the remote decision. Rather than accept it, they have gone to lengths to apply political pressure to have their way. They have badgered district administration. When they didn't get their way with the school district, they went to the town selectmen which led to the awful tri-town meeting Oct. 14. The social media pages they post on are full of stretched and distorted information and outright incorrect information. They couch their demands in other terms: lack of transparency, lack of communication, just wanting a plan to move forward. But these are all red herrings; there has been full transparency and communication. Their message is loud and clear: we think hybrid is better, so you must too. Never mind that with hybrid, hundreds of high school students will elect to opt out. Never mind that hundreds of families are satisfied with remote.

Just so that we are clear: the hybrid model is not a magic bullet. Every model has pros and cons and the hybrid model has serious cons. It is not a given that hybrid model is superior; in fact we think that full remote is best for learning as it maximizes instructional time for students. Switching to hybrid will create a major lurch in instruction just as we are gaining our stride with remote learning.

This statement is not really meant to debate the merits of a full-remote vs. a hybrid model, although this is today's hot issue. This statement is to support a professional process for decision making in the school district. This small parent group wants to hijack the process for their own ends. We can't have this.

To the selectmen of the three towns: You have a responsibility to all your constituents, not just this one small parent group. Your lack of due diligence in preparation for the tri-town meeting was appalling. Taking the words of this vocal minority parent group as gospel, presuming as fact that hybrid is superior to full remote without any pre-discussion with the school district administration was poor governing at best, cheap political grandstanding at worst. The same goes for couching your attempt to ambush in terms of lack of communication and fact-finding. If you have time to engage this parent group and get their version of facts before the meeting, then you have time to engage with the school committee and district administration before the meeting. To insinuate throughout tri town meeting that the district professional staff was not working with all due diligence and transparency was at best terribly disrespectful and at worst intellectually dishonest. Aren't we obviously in a situation that no matter what decisions are made, there are bound to be disgruntled minorities? Why was there no acknowledgement at all of the parents in the tri town meeting chat that were supportive of remote?

To the families and members of the community: Thank you for your unwavering support of the schools. We are dedicated to making Nashoba a place of excellence.

To this vocal group of parents: While we value parent input, we won't always agree. The operational decisions of the district need to be made by the educational professionals of the district. We are all invested in giving the children of the district the best education possible. Right now, you are not helping, you are disrupting. You are creating an atmosphere of chaos and intimidation where people are unable to do their jobs. This is not the way to do business if you want a strong and stable school system.

To the School Committee: you have statutory rights and responsibilities. Of course community input is important, but the educational decisions which run our district cannot be made by a small minority of disgruntled parents or by political grandstanding. The only result of that is chaos. Please do not let the small but extremely vocal minority of citizens have undue influence and strong-arm the decisions you make.

To the District Administration: Thank you for all your hard work to manage the district through these times. We know it is a difficult environment to work in when no matter what decision is made, someone will be unhappy. We are all working hard together to do the best that we can for the children in the district.

Kate Abruzzese
Stravos Andreopoulos
Maura Bailey
Sean Bailey
Nicole Barr
Heidi Beigel
Chris Berthiaume
Dan Berube
Lauren Bullard
Pat Clark
Peter Connery
Ross Cormier
Corinne Cressman
Greg Denson
Jenn d'Entremont
Nuria Diaz Canales
Kristen Diggins
Sarah Dodd
Maureen Dumais
Diana Durr
Sarah Egan
Matt Ettinger
Melissa Foley-Procko
Al Fordiani

David Form
Jonathan French
Judy French
Emily Frisch
Cheryl Gallaughier
Rob Gendron
Katie Giannetti
Rachel Glenister
Dan Glover
Samantha Good
Robert Griffith
Taryn Grigas
Kristin Hera
Katherine Jankun
Rhonda Jardine-Yeats
Rick Kempeskie
Andrew LeBlanc
Elspeth Macdonald
Danielle MadDowell
Lauren Mahoney
Jessica Martel
Joe McCarthy
Laurie McDonald
Beth McNamara

Owen Murphy
Joya Mutti
Diane O'Neil
Kyle Owens
Jennifer Panarelli
Linda Peer
Athena Polymeros
Nathan Prichard
Kim Rocha
Trevor Short
Melissa Snediker
Jodi Specht
Jaana Thorarensen
Michael Tollefson
Susan Triantafillou
Jamie Tucker
Eric Weiss
Loretta Williams
Andrew Zercie