

Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, November 24th, 2020

Via Zoom Remote Conferencing*

Robert Czekanski, Chair
Stanley Wysocki
Jonathan Keep
Don Lowe, Town Administrator
Jenny Jacobsen, Town Secretary

Approved via Zoom
by RC, JK, SW
at 12/10/20 mtg.
JB

Ms. Jacobsen announced that the meeting is recorded.

Chairman Czekanski called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

ROLE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Each of the Board members shared their thoughts on the role of the Board of Selectmen in the education of our children. Mr. Wysocki voiced a concern that the school committee and district are not listening to concerns of parents and therefore the Board of Selectmen needs to take a more active role in the education of our children.

Mr. Keep noted that the number of comments he's been hearing is a symptom of a problem and that the Board of Selectmen does have a role in the process. Mr. Keep voiced his opinion that the school committee can do a better job of hearing the public comments and contributions in their meeting process. Mr. Czekanski voiced his opinion that the Board of Selectmen has a role in the process but there is a limit their role in offering prescriptive solutions.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND THE NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS UNION (UNIT A)

Mr. Lowe explained the difference between impact bargaining and collective bargaining.

Mr. Wysocki commented that item #2 in the MOU signed on September 22, 2020 precluded any type of hybrid solution at the high school. Bolton school committee representative Michael Horesh informed the Board that the district needed to submit both a remote and hybrid plan to the state. Mr. Keep compared the Nashoba Regional School district with several other comparable towns who also sent surveys to students who all elected a hybrid model and inquired why we are different from other schools in our cohort. Mr. Horesh noted that the vote was 8 -2 in favor of full remote with both dissenting votes coming from Bolton representatives.

Mr. Wysocki noted that until the MOU is amended he doesn't see how the school committee could move to a hybrid option.

LETTER SIGNED BY THE NASHOBA REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS READ AT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING ON NOVEMBER 4TH, 2020.

Mr. Czekanski noted that the letter was not sent to the Boards of Selectmen, from his understanding wasn't sent to individual school committee members, local newspapers and the text of the letter is not addressed to anyone. Mr. Czekanski voiced his opinion that it was a mistake to read the letter in the school committee meeting as it is divisive.

Mr. Wysocki added that the letter is filled with mistruths and commented that the letter to the editor in response to this letter that was published in The Independent was a great response. Board noted that there was no mention of teachers at the TriTown meeting. Mr. Keep concurred that this letter was very defensive. He noted that both the school committee and the school administration need to open up to comments from the public.

Michael Tollefson, a resident of Bolton and a teacher. Mr. Tollefson was part of the negotiations for the MOU and voiced a correction to a misstatement. Item #2 in the MOU only states the conditions when it was negotiated. It does not prevent the high school from going remote to hybrid. On #16 the intent was not to split a teachers attention with both a remote and live teaching simultaneously but it does not prevent a teacher from teaching those sessions at different times of the day.

Justin Cameron of Powder Hill Road and principal in the Town of Concord. Mr. Cameron feels that the letter is the result from a lack of leadership within the district.

Al Fordiani addressed the parents in the community stating that no teacher in the district would ever retaliate against a student for any action done by a parent. Mr. Fordiani explained that there advantages to full remote.

Mr. Horesh and Mr. Wysocki disagreed on the point that the MOU would prevent a pivot from one model to the next.

DISCUSSION AND RESPONSE TO NOVEMBER 13, 2020 LETTER FROM NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mr. Wysocki read the letter into the record. He stated the school committee was in violation of open meeting law by sending the letter outside the constraints of a public meeting. Mr. Wysocki relayed the history of the Tri-Town meeting and opined that he sees no need to change the format. Mr. Keep commented that the letter gets at the preconditions for participation and reiterated that they need to have an ability to take live questions and comments in the public meeting venue.

Mr. Czekanski noted that the letter was sent out a day after the agenda was posted. He objected to the assertion that there was a general agreement about the need for changes and the need to form an ad hoc agreement.. Mr. Wysocki and Mr. Keep agreed.

Mr. Lowe commented that the Board of Selectmen set a great example tonight for how to conduct a public meeting.

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Keep, the Board of Selectmen voted by roll call 3-0 to authorize the Chairman to write and submit a letter of response to the School Committee after review of the letter by the Town Administrator. (Wysocki-yes, Keep-yes, Czekanski-yes)

Mr. Cameron respectfully requested that the Board focus the letter on the administration and not the teachers. Mr. Czekanski clarified that the letter the Board of Selectmen are responding to was not the letter from the teachers, but the letter from the school committee dated November 13^h, 2020 and requested that the letter and response be posted on the Town's website.

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Keep the Board voted by roll call 3-0 to adjourn at 8:19pm. (Wysocki-yes, Keep-yes, Czekanski-yes)

Respectfully submitted by J. Jacobsen.

**All attendees participated remotely via Zoom Remote Conferencing pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A Section 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place.*