

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Communication Advisory Meeting**

Emerson School
50 Mechanic Street, Bolton, Ma
Former Teaching and Learning Room
Second Floor

February 8, 2019

SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE : Alise Crossland, Elaine Sanfilippo

ABSENT: Lorraine Romasco

ADMINISTRATION IN ATTENDANCE: None

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Crossland called the meeting to order at 9:32 am

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Reviewed Communications section of proposed School Committee Manual, as requested by Personnel Subcommittee.

MOTION: Ms. Crossland moved to recommend no changes to the Communications section of the School Committee Manual, with the addition of 2 FAQs from MASC:

“What is the best way to clearly articulate the school committee’s official position regarding matters they have voted on?”

- The committee should have a written communication policy that outlines the procedures for communicating with the public, media, parents, staff and students. Many committees delegate this responsibility to the chair of the committee. It is important that official positions be clear and consistent to avoid confusion or misunderstandings.”

“Involving parents and the public has become more and more critical in order to reinforce credibility in our schools. While schools have benefited from more involvement, there are some matters that must be left in the hands of the staff or committee. How can a school committee explain that to the public?”

- Openly, honestly and respectfully. Most people do not object to playing by the rules if they know what the rules are. School committees should always be prepared to explain why a particular matter is outside of the public domain. References to the law, regulations, policies or collective bargaining agreements usually clarify issues. There are always those who will not accept the information provided, but in those instances the committee will be assured they have handled the matter appropriately.”

Seconded by Ms. Sanfilippo. IN FAVOR: Ms. Crossland, Ms. Sanfilippo **VOTE AND PASSED (2-0-0)**.

Discussed creating a chart for the School Committee portion of the website that would clarify what topics should be directed to the School Committee vs. the District. Advisory will review specific language from MASC at next meeting.

Discussed overall charge, specifically which levers School Committee actually has power over.
Discussion will continue at next meeting.

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES

Ms. Crossland moved to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2018 meeting. Seconded by Ms. Sanfilippo.
IN FAVOR: Ms. Crossland, Ms. Sanfilippo . **VOTE AND PASSED (2-0-0)**

ITEMS TO CONSIDER FOR NEXT AGENDA

- Review chart, for website, with information about when to contact School Committee vs. District
- Continue to review charge and determine scope of future work

ADJOURN

MOTION: Ms. Sanfilippo moved to adjourn the Communication Advisory meeting at 10:56am. Seconded by Ms. Crossland. IN FAVOR: Ms. Crossland, Ms. Sanfilippo **VOTE AND PASSED (2-0-0).**

Next meeting date not yet determined.