

TOWN OF LINCOLN

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

James Craig, Chair
Jonathan Dwyer
Jennifer Glass

February 26, 2018

Board of Selectmen
Town Hall
278 Old Sudbury Road
Sudbury, MA. 01776

To the Sudbury Board of Selectmen:

The Lincoln Board of Selectmen acknowledges your letter dated February 14, 2018, and is sincerely appreciative of your interest in discussing topics related to the education of students from our respective towns. We believe that open communication between our boards is beneficial to us all.

We also strongly believe in collaboration between town government and our schools -- they are mutually beneficial civic institutions, and should work in concert to the fullest extent. It is also true that they are co-equals, and that each entity has its own, distinct jurisdiction.

Using that set of principles, at our February 26th meeting our Board discussed your request to create a joint committee to consider educational supports, shared services, or changes to administrative structure. Looking at the areas of interest you delineated, they seemed to us to fall squarely within the purview of the three School Committees, and we believe that a request to create a task force should originate with them. If the School Committees determine, through public votes, that it would be beneficial to have the Boards of Selectmen involved in their educational planning, we would then be willing to engage in a conversation about goals and our appropriate roles.

Again, we thank you for your transparency and outreach, and will stay informed as the conversations between and among the School Committees move forward.

Respectfully, and on behalf of the Board,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Glass", is written over the typed name.

Jennifer Glass
Lincoln Board of Selectmen

CC: School Committee, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School
School Committee, Lincoln Public Schools
School Committee, Sudbury Public Schools

To: Lincoln Board of Selectmen
From: Sudbury Board of Selectmen
CC: Lincoln-Sudbury RHS School Committee, Lincoln Public Schools School Committee, and Sudbury Public Schools School Committee

The Sudbury Board of Selectmen seeks to work with the Lincoln Board of Selectmen and our three collective school districts to advance our joint interest in improving the education of all our students. The Sudbury BOS proposes the establishment of a joint committee to explore options that may include better supports for coordination across the districts, shared services or positions across the districts, changes in district administrative structures, or changes in district governance structures.

The Sudbury BOS requests the opportunity to discuss the potential for creating a committee that would conduct a collaborative, informed, and long-term exploration of these issues. Together, our boards may consider a joint mission, committee composition, and plans for the gathering of data and public input.

We in Sudbury are very proud of our schools, which provide an excellent education to our students. Nonetheless, especially in a challenging time for all municipalities, we feel compelled to find creative and forward-thinking ways to improve these services.

We see potential opportunities to move our districts forward as follows:

- *To enhance the education of all students through better alignment of curriculum and instructional practices.* Examples might include increased harmonization of curriculum mapping and shared professional development to strengthen the preK-12 educational experience.
- *To improve special education services including programming, planning, and budgeting.* Our most vulnerable students would benefit from more intensive long-term planning and smoother transitions.
- *To better facilitate successful student transitions for all students across all grade levels.*
- *To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of school district operations supporting students, families, and staff.* Examples might include stronger coordination of school calendars, schedules, and communications or increased sharing of purchases or contracted services.
- *To provide a better informed and cohesive budget process rooted in recommendations by educators and school committee members.*
- *To assist both towns in planning and prioritizing capital projects for the school districts.*
- *To enhance the recruitment and retention of robust district leadership.*

Accordingly, we ask that you arrange for a convenient time for Sudbury Selectmen Dan Carty and Susan Iuliano to attend one of your meetings to address this proposal. They can be reached at cartyd@sudbury.ma.us and iulianos@sudbury.ma.us.