



TOWN OF LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND TOWN ADMINSTRATOR

MARCH 19, 2015

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS
REPRESENTING TOWN OF LANCASTER:

JULIE FAY
CATHLEEN THEIR
KARA KEITH

RE: LANCASTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN DISCUSSION OF FY-16 NRSD SCHOOL BUDGET

DEAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS,

AT THE MARCH 16, 2015 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN A DISCUSSION WAS HELD REGARDING THE TOWN'S POSTURE ON THE PROPOSED NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FY – 2016 BUDGET.

THE CURRENTLY PROPOSED 6.7 PERCENT ASSESSMENT (\$722,000) TO THE TOWN OF LANCASTER, NOT INCLUDING THE ADDITIONAL \$131,000 CAPITAL ASSESSMENT, IS UNSUSTAINABLE AND WOULD HARM THE ABILITY OF THE TOWN TO FUND A BUDGET FOR OPERATIONS AND WOULD PREVENT THE TOWN FROM ADDRESSING ITS LONG-STANDING CAPITAL NEEDS.

THE TOWN BUDGET WITH THE CURRENT SCHOOL BUDGET AS PROPOSED WOULD RESULT IN A DEFICIT OF \$671,000. EVEN IF THE TOWN HAD THE ABILITY TO PASS A LEVEL BUDGET WITHOUT CONTRACTUALLY OBLIGATED INCREASES THE CURRENT PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET WOULD RESULT IN A \$200,000 DEFICIT.

CONSIDERING THAT THE NRSD HAS RETAINED AND RECERTIFIED EACH YEAR A SIGNIFICANT AND HIGH AMOUNT OF EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY FUNDS AND GIVEN THE SUBSTANTIAL GAP IN THE TOWN'S ABILITY TO ADDRESS ITS OPERATIONAL AND CAPITAL NEEDS, IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REDUCE THE NRSD BUDGET AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND SEEK TO RETAIN NO MORE THAN \$500,000 IN EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY.

THE LANCASTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN APPRECIATE YOUR SERVICE ON THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND UNDERSTAND THE HARD CHOICES WE ALL ARE FACED WITH IN THE FY – 2016 BUDGET PROCESS.

RESPECTFULLY,
RYAN McNUTT
LANCASTER TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

CC: NANCY FEDERSPIEL, CHAIR OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MICHAEL WOOD, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
GEORGE KING, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT