

# **WESTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**24 School Road**

**Weston, Connecticut 06883**

**203-221-6551**

## **Weston Board of Education**

Anthony Pesco, Chairperson

Melissa Walker, Vice-Chairperson

Ruby Hedge, Secretary/Treasurer

Gina Albert

Taffy Miller

Hillary Koyner

Victor Escandon

May 25, 2021

To the Weston Community:

During our Board of Education meeting on May 17, 2021, the Board issued a statement which was supported by the full Board and read by Melissa Walker. The statement was in response to a public comment which the individual who submitted the comment had shared with the Board in advance of the meeting. The statement also addressed the Board's concerns about personalized character attacks on members of the Board.

Following the May 17 Board meeting, it came to our attention that there were concerns about the process by which the Board had prepared the statement that Melissa read. The process was this: the Board communicated in written form about the statement. The Board did not come together in a virtual or in-person meeting to discuss the statement. The Board did not take any votes regarding the statement. The Board did not expend public funds in connection with its communications about the statement. The Board had no intention of hiding the statement from the public, and in fact shared the statement during its May 17 meeting. In the interest of transparency, a copy of the statement is attached to this communication for those who did not attend the meeting and therefore did not hear it read aloud.

Upon review of this matter and the applicable provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, the Board now understands that its written communications regarding the statement were not consistent with the Act's open meeting requirements. We take our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act seriously and we accept full responsibility for our actions in these circumstances. We have always acted in good faith. We remain committed to compliance with our legal obligations, transparency, and our responsibilities to the Weston Public Schools.

Thank you,

Tony Pesco

Attachment: Board Statement