



Patricia O'Neil <poneil@natickma.org>

Fwd: Update

2 messages

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nolin, Anna** <annolin@natickps.org>

Date: Fri, Mar 15, 2019 at 5:59 PM

Subject: Update

To: Amy Mistrot <amistrot@natickma.org>, Melissa Malone <mmalone@natickma.org>, Michael Hickey <mhickey@natickma.org>, Patrick Hayes <phayes.fincom@natickma.org>, Tabenkin, Lisa <ltabenkin@natickps.org>

To: Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Finance Committee
From: Anna Nolin, Superintendent and Melissa Malone, Town Administrator
Re: Audit of Tuition Reimbursements and Payroll / Taxation Procedures
Date: March 14, 2019

Ms. Malone and Dr. Nolin would like to update the community on the scope, timing and reporting regarding the independent financial audit proposed in January of this year.

Within 30 days after the budget season concludes at Town Meeting, we will direct an independent auditor (different from our annual retained auditors, Clifton, Larsen, Allen), to explore the following: (1) whether all remuneration has been appropriately classified for the Town of Natick employees for tax purposes (e.g. the difference between taxable income and individuals' tuition reimbursement); and (2) whether there are best practices to be shared with the Town of Natick relative to accounting transparency relative to process/procedures between town and school. There remains one outstanding question of scope related to third-party payments to higher education credit-granting institutions; it is not yet clear to us, given the way accounts are structured, how to approach this part of the study.

We will, of course, provide all needed documents requested by the appointed auditor along with access to our accounting system MUNIS. This will include five years' of contracts, tax documents, copies of respective policies, and other related documents within our control, including but not limited to meeting minutes and administrative files.

We will present the findings of this exploration to our boards and to finance committee. If there are identified issues, we will work together to contact the appropriate affected parties and rectify the situation.

No matter the findings, we need to put together an education program so that town and school employees understand the workings of the other. Differences in operations do not indicate issues or oversights, and, in the age of MEPA, we may need to combine or revise procedures anyway. Reviewing our operations is a strong way to build capacity, understanding and relationships. In doing this, we will better serve the Town of Natick.

We also recognize there are other platforms where discussions of how Town resources have been utilized, and want to ensure integrity of our Town's finances. Further, we remain committed to being responsive to Town of Natick's residents, elected and appointed boards, and our many other stakeholders.



Anna P. Nolin, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new. – Socrates

Natick Public Schools

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