

NAOMI R. STONBERG

Attorney At Law

57 River Street, Suite 106
Wellesley Hills, MA 02481

Tel (781) 239-3337
Fax (781) 235-9440
naomi@stonberglaw.com

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

April 27, 2011

George LaMontagne
8 Appaloosa Lane
Hamilton, MA 01982

Dear Mr. LaMontagne:

This letter is in response to your Open Meeting Law Complaint dated April 18, 2011. Enclosed please find copies of the Minutes for the Finance Working Group meetings dated March 1, March 10, March 17, March 24, March 30, and April 4, 2011. Portions of the Executive Session Minutes have been redacted because the publication would defeat the lawful purpose of the Executive Session, which related to collective bargaining strategy. There was no regular full School Committee meeting on March 30th.

The School District recognizes that it violated the Open Meeting Law because a quorum of the full School Committee attended and deliberated at the Finance Working Group subcommittee meetings and a meeting of the School Committee was not posted in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20. The School Committee regrets this error and fully understands that in the future, whenever there is a quorum of the full School Committee attending a subcommittee meeting, both the subcommittee and the School Committee meetings will be posted. In addition, the School Committee recognizes that it should have listed on the Agenda "Executive Session for collective bargaining purposes."

As I indicated to you, the School Committee received training on the Open Meeting Law in July 2010 and will have additional training in July 2011. I have noticed that the Finance Working Group Meeting Minutes are very brief and should contain more information. The School Committee understands that it needs to take more detailed minutes of School Committee meetings and will comply in the future.

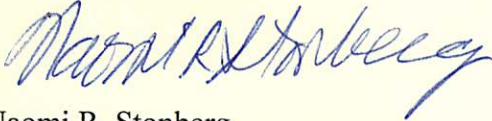
At its next regularly scheduled meeting, the School Committee Chairperson will acknowledge in public session that the School Committee violated the Open Meeting Law by not posting the meeting of the full School Committee when a quorum of the full School Committee attended the Finance Working Group subcommittee meeting. In addition, the School Committee understands that if it has reason to believe that it will be going into Executive Session, the agenda should reflect an anticipated Executive Session. In the future, the School Committee will be very

careful in posting all meeting of the full School Committee meetings if there is reason to believe that a quorum of the School Committee may attend a subcommittee meeting.

Finally as indicated above, a training session will be held in July 2011 for all School Committee members and you are welcome to attend this session.

I hope this letter addresses all the issues you raised in your Complaint.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Naomi R. Stonberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "N" and "S".

Naomi R. Stonberg
Attorney for the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee

Enclosures

cc: Alexa McCloughan