January 11, 2023

Newton School Committee 100 Walnut Street Newton, MA 02460



RE: Academic Principles Advisory Committee Request

Dear Newton School Committee Members,

Newton Public Schools (NPS) has long held teachers and students to high standards with outstanding results, but in the last several years NPS has shifted away from a focus on academic excellence. Recognizing the change, only 31% of NPS parents/guardians believed that the district is heading in the right direction in a November 2022 NPS survey*.

With the superintendent search underway, NPS is at a critical moment, and we, the undersigned registered voters of Newton, Massachusetts, qualified to vote at the next general election or special election, hereby petition the Newton School Committee, pursuant to the Charter of the City of Newton, section 10-2, to create an Academic Principles Advisory Committee (the "Advisory Committee") to serve the citizens of this City regarding establishment of core principles for NPS.

The Advisory Committee will review and recommend revisions to the systemwide goals, NPS Mission Statement and any other documents guiding development and implementation of NPS curriculum, classroom instruction, and teacher professional development, and will advise on the "Portrait of a Graduate" if that process continues.

The Advisory Committee shall be composed of parents of current NPS students (who shall constitute a majority of the Advisory Committee), NPS teachers and members of the community at large. Other than NPS teacher members, no Advisory Committee members shall be otherwise affiliated with NPS (other than as parents of current students or members or officers of school PTOs) At least 5 members of the Advisory Committee shall be signatories of this petition. Recommendation, revisions, and advice of the Advisory Committee will not be binding on NPS or the School Committee, provided that the School Committee shall hold an open vote on all recommendations of the Advisory Committee and provide a written response to any of the Advisory Committee system are updated promptly, and the School Committee so any recommended changes to NPS documents are updated promptly, and the School Committee ensures that the incoming superintendent understands and is able to champion NPS' core values.

* Newton Public Schools Survey for Superintendent Search

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Each of the undersigned requests that the Newton School and the pass this measure to create an Academic Principles Advisory Committee pursuant to petition dated January 11, 2023. Each of the undersigned certifies that the signer is a registered voter of the dity of Newton and that the signer has not signed this petition more than once. NEWTON. MA. 02459

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Printed NAME	Signature	Present Address in Full
ELI HAMILTON	AK Hilt	53 LIGH ST., NEW TON, MA \$2464
Stephanic Hamilton	Sth	53 High St. Newton 02464
Trace Herbaugh	THE	69 Thurston Newton, MA 08104
Mark Peacock	Nackfeaced	69 Thurston, Newton, MA 02464
DORAN RUBINSON	SMM	57 HIGH STIRLET, NEWTON, MA 02464
Alan Shapiro	Ellan Shapin	99 High St Newton MG 02464
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Anna Mikusheva	Allery	170 Country Club Rd, New Hon, M.
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