

## City Council

2024-2025

City of Newton



To: City Council  
From: President Marc C. Laredo and Vice President David Kalis  
Cc: City Clerk Carol Moore, Mayor Ruthanne Fuller, School Committee Members  
Re: Administrative Matters  
Date: February 5, 2024

We are relieved and excited to have our children are back in the classroom. However, we have a lot of work to do to help heal our community. Therefore, we have formed a working group, led by Councilor Oliver, who will be joined by Councilors Bixby, Krintzman, Lobovits, and Micley, to examine how the City Council can contribute to the recovery after the strike. The working group will be charged with developing a set of specific recommendations as to how the City Council can help our community better understand city finances and, working with other city leaders, engage in efforts to create greater trust and civility in the city. We have asked the working group to report back to the full City Council by no later than March 15 with its recommendations.

We also want to thank Councilors Albright, Bixby, Gentile, Grossman, Krintzman, Leary, Micley, and Oliver, who joined us in the informal working group that helped guide our collective communications and decision-making over the last two weeks, and everyone who attended one of the many meetings that we had with parent groups, particularly Councilors Grossman and Lipof, who helped lead multiple meetings and provided clear, thoughtful explanations of complicated financial issues.

Turning to other City Council matters, thank you to everyone who expressed interest in serving on a committee or working group. There will be many more opportunities to be involved! Here is whom we have selected for the current openings:

Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust – Councilor Grossman

Financial Audit Advisory Committee - Councilors Malakie (chair), Micley, and Oliver

Northland Liaison Committee – Councilors Getz and Farrell

School Transportation Steering Group - Councilors Downs and Bixby

Riverside Liaison Committee - Gentile (chair), Krintzman, and Block

Chamber of Commerce's N-Squared Innovation District group - Councilors Lipof and Getz

Double Poles Working Group – Councilor Lucas

Newton Coalition for Community Wellness – To be determined

Some other items to note:

- Our chairs meeting will be held tonight at 6:30 pm in Room 204. We will be discussing the recently circulated Best Practices guides, possible changes to the City Council meeting time, and how Committee reports are written. *All Councilors are encouraged to attend this and all other chairs meetings!*
- We will reschedule our city and school buildings tours in the near future.
- We intend to reschedule our joint School Committee/City Council meeting within the next few weeks.
- We will keep you updated on the proposed evening meeting of the full City Council, acting as a Committee of the Whole, at which the Mayor and her team will provide a brief overview of the city's finances and allow us to give our input before the Administration completes its detailed budget planning.

Thanks for your attention to these matters.