

**Whereas**, under Policy IJ, the Natick School Committee is responsible for ensuring that instructional materials:

- Present a **balanced view** of international, national, and local issues—past, present, and future; and
- Provide an effective basic education for **all students**, free from discrimination based on race, age, color, religion, national origin, sex, physical disability, gender identity, or sexual orientation;

**Whereas**, the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) has disseminated curricular resources related to the Israel-Gaza conflict and its historical context that rely predominantly on Palestinian perspectives and sources, resulting in a presentation that lacks balance and does not reflect the complexity or diversity of views on this sensitive international issue;

**Whereas**, concerns about the content and tone of these materials have been raised by community leaders, educators, Natick parents, the Education Association of Natick (EAN), and the Massachusetts Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism;

**Whereas**, there is **no evidence** that any of the MTA materials in question have been used in Natick classrooms;

**Whereas**, such one-sided portrayals risk fostering misunderstanding and could contribute to bias, including negative stereotyping of Israelis, Jews, and others who identify with or support the state of Israel;

**Whereas**, unfair and unbalanced portrayals of Israel and its supporters have historically contributed to, and have the potential to continue to lead to, the rise and exacerbation of antisemitism;

**Whereas**, the use of materials that do not reflect multiple perspectives may conflict with Natick Public Schools' commitment to inclusive, respectful, and fact-based instruction;

**Whereas**, the Natick School Committee deeply values and respects the expertise, judgment, and dedication of our educators and administrators, and affirms our confidence in their ability to thoughtfully engage with complex instructional materials while fostering inclusive, respectful, and balanced learning environments for all students;

**Whereas**, on February 24, in response to concerns raised about the potential use of MTA materials in Natick classrooms, the leadership of the Education Association of Natick (EAN) issued a statement affirming that, while the EAN is affiliated with the MTA, Natick educators do not receive curriculum or lesson plans from the MTA, and emphasized their commitment to presenting political topics in ways that are fair, unbiased, and respectful of all students' identities;

**Whereas**, our schools must remain safe and welcoming environments for all students, including Jewish and Israeli students, and support their right to learn without fear of discrimination or exclusion;

**Whereas**, under Policies IJ, IJM and KEC, the School Committee provides a process by which any instructional material deemed “questionable” may be **formally reviewed** by the Superintendent for alignment with student interests, with decisions **appealable to the School Committee**;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Natick School Committee strongly encourages district staff to continue to critically review and exercise caution when considering the use of any externally developed resources, including those related to the Israel-Gaza conflict;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Natick School Committee reaffirms its commitment to instructional materials that align with district policies—including policies IJ, IJJ, IJM, and KEC, which states that educational content must provide an effective, inclusive education free from discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Natick School Committee urges continued adherence to federal guidelines, including those outlined by the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights in its May 25, 2023 letter, which affirms schools’ obligation under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to ensure that all students—including Jewish students—have access to a learning environment free from discrimination based on shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics.