

At their May 20, 2026 meeting, the Select Board voted 5-0 to approve the below statement:

#### SELECT BOARD STATEMENT: OPPOSITION TO ARTICLE 4

The Select Board voted 4 to 1 against Article 4.

While we deeply respect the right of every resident to voice their concerns and express their frustrations, the majority of the Select Board stands firmly against this proposed vote of no confidence.

A non-binding vote of no confidence is a blunt, divisive tool that does not solve local problems. We urge Town Meeting to vote against Article 4 for three very simple reasons:

**First, we must respect the democratic process.** The School Committee is a body of public servants elected directly by the voters of this town. The proper, democratic place to evaluate their performance is at the ballot box on Election Day, not through a public censure on the floor of Town Meeting.

**Second, State law requires strict confidentiality and procedural boundaries.** Public boards routinely handle sensitive personnel and legal matters that they are legally prohibited from discussing in public. It is fundamentally unfair to penalize an elected board for following the law and protecting our town from liability, especially when they cannot legally defend themselves or share the full story with the public. Transparency is a value we all share, but it cannot override clear legal obligations.

**Third, we need to stay focused on our students.** This article does not improve a single classroom, support a single teacher, or protect a single child. What it does is pull energy and attention away from the real work of education. Ongoing political infighting creates uncertainty and distraction at a time when our schools need community support and collaboration to move forward.

We encourage all residents to remember that the people serving on our boards are our neighbors and volunteers. Disagreements over policy are natural, but the rhetoric surrounding our schools must return to a place of mutual respect and safety.

In summary, Article 4 bypasses our democratic election process, unfairly penalizes officials for adhering to strict state privacy laws, and creates an unnecessary distraction from our primary mission of supporting our students.

Let us step back from political friction, use our normal public forums for constructive feedback, and focus our collective energy on supporting our schools and our kids.

The Select Board majority urges you to vote NO on Article 4. Thank you.