



Select Board, School Committee & Finance Committee

January 13, 2021

To the Citizens of Chelmsford:

The Town of Chelmsford prides itself on being an open, caring, and respectful community that encourages its residents to make their voices heard in the administration of our town and its government. The volunteers that step forward to serve on our boards and committees, donating countless hours of their time and their talents, do so not for personal gain, but rooted in an overwhelming desire to make Chelmsford a great place to work and an even better place to call home. The ways in which we accomplish this collective goal may look different to each of us, and those differences are debated, sometimes fervently, in a public forum through thorough examination of the information available to us and review of all options put forward.

The challenges of this past year – whether personal, financial, or health related – and those that we will surely face in the weeks and months ahead, have generated a level of stress and anxiety that no one is immune to or shielded from. As public servants, however, we must not let these challenges negatively affect our discourse or allow us to stray from our ultimate goal. Our discussions and debates should be conducted with an appropriate level of professionalism and from a mutual place of respect.

In Chelmsford, our children are encouraged to embody the ideals put forth through the acronym P.R.I.D.E. In order to position themselves for a lifetime of success, each child is asked to exemplify the ideals of **P**erseverance, **R**espect, **I**ntegrity, **D**edication, and **E**mpathy. Our Town's boards and committees would do well to review these ideals and to ensure that we are conducting ourselves as examples of P.R.I.D.E. in action so that future generations of public servants are inspired to continue and improve upon the work we strive to accomplish for our community.

We should be passionate in our goal and we must advocate for what we believe will accomplish it, but in doing so, we cannot condone or allow for words that flow from a place of disrespect or ignorance. We must not tolerate vulgarity or bullying. And, perhaps most importantly, such actions cannot take place and should never be tolerated in a public forum.

Both actions and inactions have real consequences. We acknowledge that the unfortunate events that transpired Monday evening were not appropriate and will never be acceptable. As board and committee members, we also take on the renewed responsibility of living up to the ideals of perseverance, respect, integrity, dedication, and empathy, and promise to hold each other accountable to these ideals as we work together to make Chelmsford a place we are all proud to call home.

Respectfully yours,

Select Board

Kenneth M. Lefebvre, Chair

Finance Committee

James E. Clancy IV, Chair

School Committee

Dennis F. King II, Chair