

Bristol Town Administrator

From: Krista Siringo <Krista.Siringo@mausd.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 10:44 PM
To: Bristol Town Administrator
Subject: School-Community Roundtable

Dear Valerie:

The MAUSD school district is reaching out during this unique time so that we can harness the collective power of our communities to address some of the issues facing our schools and communities. We want to foster better communication and relationships among the leaders of our Five Towns. These are the partnerships that will help us remain vibrant as we react with creativity and innovation to new realities.

As we have grappled with the COVID pandemic, we have seen our school district demonstrate the leadership and organizational capacity to step in and address issues such as food insecurity and childcare for essential workers. We are the largest employer in our community and a hub of not just educational activity, but also an important social, emotional, and physical support to our students, their families and many other citizens. **The contribution of our schools cannot be overstated.**

And yet, because of declining enrollment, an aging population and increased costs such as health care, as well as the negative economic impact of the COVID pandemic, our schools are facing significant financial challenges. These challenges are not unique to our schools and are impacting many other aspects of our Five Towns. In your role as the Town Administrator for Bristol you are probably also seeing these factors impacting your work.

Last Fall, the MAUSD Community Engagement Committee hosted a conversation attended by over 165 members of the Five Town community. This conversation was the third in a three-part series designed to gather feedback from community members about the strengths and challenges facing MAUSD. There was a lot of interest expressed by those in attendance to **leverage community energy and expertise** around 3 topics:

how to reverse the declining population of the 5 Towns, how to advocate with the legislature for more support for our schools and communities, and how to envision our schools as community centers with the potential for public/private partnerships.

In light of this, the MAUSD Community Engagement Committee is convening a School-Community Roundtable on **July 29 from 7-9pm***. This roundtable will include business leaders, town officials, real estate agents, childcare providers, and school administrators. We would like to invite you to attend, as a *[member of/staff person in/someone connected to]*

At this meeting, participants will discuss and prioritize issues of mutual concern and explore whether a task force made up of some of the attendees could be a good way to address these issues. Although everyone's perspectives and challenges are unique, we imagine there are many places of overlap. We hope you will consider joining this effort, recognizing the full plate of responsibilities you are already charged with.

Thank you for considering this invitation, and please let us know by **Friday, July 24** if you are able to attend.

Best,

Krista Siringo
Chair, Community Engagement Committee

Mount Abraham Unified School District

**This meeting will be held in person in the large cafeteria at Mount Abe as well as remotely. We appreciate the power of being physically present when building community. We also recognize the importance of adhering to COVID precautions and that individuals have different degrees of comfort.*

For Zoom participants, we will have a large video at the front of the cafeteria with adequate microphones for attendees and someone providing technical assistance to maximize virtual participation.

For those attending in person, we will be following these recommendations for indoor gatherings:

- We will not exceed the recommended 50% occupancy*
- We will require attendees to wear masks*
- We will seat people 6' apart*
- We will provide hand sanitizer*
- We will ask participants to refrain from attending if they are unwell or have COVID symptoms, have been around anyone who has tested positive or has symptoms, or who have traveled out of state in the past 14 days*