

Celebrating 29 Years of Environmental Leadership



March 22, 2019
Liam Hurley and David Stickney
Newton Public Schools
100 Walnut Street
Newton, MA 02460

Vice President

Sharon Cushing
Treasurer

Jack Cheng
Clerk

Cory Alperstein
Karen Bray
Beverly Craig
Joana Canedo
Claudine Ellyin
Craig Forman
Paul Holt
Sunwoo Kahng
Carolyn Lattin
Brita Lundberg
Ken Mallory
Andrew Reed
Dan Ruben
Mindy Gregory Sieber
Peter Smith
Andrew Thompson
Tony Zelle

Advisory Board

Ana Zarina Asuaje Solon
Louise Bruyn, *Founder*
Sheila Clawson
Lucia Dolan
Beverly Droz
Kevin Dutt
Paul Eldrenkamp
Margaret Ford
Ellie Goldberg
Barbara Herson
Ira Krepchin
Lois Levin
Brooke Lipsitt
Jean MacRae
Eric Olson
Matt Pawa
Heather Tausig
Jay Walter

Dear Mr. Hurley and Mr. Stickney,

We are writing on the eve of your important decision on choosing a food service provider for NPS.

We understand that the decision is between the current provider, Sodexo, and the previous provider, Whitsons. We also know that many NNHS students have written persuasive letters to school committee member Mathew Miller, stressing the need for stronger waste and sustainability practices from our food provider.

Green Newton School Connections also believe that this is the most important factor in your decision.

On the sustainability side, we want to see NPS food services:

1. Improve the way they deliver the food.
2. Find reusable materials that are environmentally friendly.
3. Encourage students to bring their own cups, mugs and utensils -- and offer a discount if they do.
4. Avoid single use plastic.
5. Work with Sustainability Director Waneta Trabert and the city on best recycling practices.
6. Use compostable materials as much as possible, and again, work with Ms. Trabert on a comprehensive composting system.
7. Ban straws with the exception of students with particular disabilities that require straws.
8. Ban water bottles (especially in vending machines as they use excess energy).

On the food side, we want to see:

1. Better quality of food, not necessarily endless choice.
2. More fresh ingredients
3. More locally sourced ingredients
4. Less packaging
5. Less processed food
6. Less food waste
7. Promote food recovery

Our earth is at a tipping point. Plastic pollution, crammed landfills and global warming are all interconnected.

We believe Newton MUST be a leader in sustainable practices. The Mayor has led with new solar projects and Newton Power Choice. Let's see NPS continue this effort with a smart, sustainable food service provider. We thank you, and most importantly our kids thank you, for listening.

Sincerely,

Signed by Co-chairs Joana Canedo, Andy Gluck and Marcia Cooper

Green Newton School Connections Group

Cc: Mathew Miller, School Committee
Mayor Ruthanne Fuller
Waneta Trabert, Sustainable Materials Management Director