THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE

OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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Brookline School Committee Resolution Regarding the Massachusetts Teachers Association's Curricular Materials on the Israel-Gaza Conflict Adopted May 1, 2025

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) disseminated resources related to the Israel-Gaza conflict and its history, that contain unambiguous antisemitic elements; and

WHEREAS, these particular materials impact the Jewish community and are offensive, and undermine a balanced and fair presentation of this international issue; and

WHEREAS, the MTA's materials have been critically and publicly exposed by the Massachusetts Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism; and

WHEREAS, the use of these materials in any school district could create an environment that undermines the values of impartial education and mutual respect among students and staff of diverse backgrounds;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Public Schools of Brookline strives to foster an educational setting that is respectful, historically accurate, and free from discrimination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Brookline School Committee strongly cautions our District staff about utilizing the MTA's materials related to the Israel-Gaza conflict; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Brookline School Committee intends to create an Instructional Materials policy that prevents the dissemination of antisemitic and other discriminatory content in our District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Brookline School Committee calls upon our District to follow the guidelines reiterated by the United States Department of Education Office of Civil Rights in a letter dated May 25, 2023 of "schools' legal obligation under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI) to provide all students, including Jewish students, a school environment free from discrimination based on race, color, or national origin, including shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics".

Resources:

- 1. U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, Letter of May 25, 2023 (https://www.ed.gov/sites/ed/files/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/antisemitism-dcl.pdf).
- 2. U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, Fact Sheet: https://www.ed.gov/sites/ed/files/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocr-factsheet-shared-ancestry-202301.pdf (January 2023).
- 3. <u>Curriculum Guidelines</u> (Policy Manual File: IJ Instructional Materials; MA School Districts including Arlington, Bedford, Framingham, Lexington, Lynn, Malden, Newton, Plymouth, Swampscott, Watertown, Westborough, Worcester)
- 4. Appendix of AJC Report of Politicization of K-12 Classrooms and the MTA Curricular Resources https://url.us.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/xIDvCM851gcyABAVhwf5c89UNZ?domain=ajc.org