



As of the 4/10/2025 regular School Committee meeting, W3 Emily Serafy-Cox got back but W4 Michael Stein did not. I confronted him at the 4/10 SC recess. He said he will probably not get back.

Nathan <basicdignity123@gmail.com>

Questions for Ward 3 and Ward 4 School Committee Members

5 messages

Nathan <basicdignity123@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 31, 2025 at 6:05 AM

To: eserafy-cox@northampton-k12.us, mstein@northampton-k12.us, gagna@northampton-k12.us, Aline Davis <adavis@northampton-k12.us>, melkins@northamptonma.gov, smoulton@northamptonma.gov, Alex Jarrett <ajarrett@northamptonma.gov>, mlbargeward6@aol.com, Rachel Maiore <rmaiore@northamptonma.gov>, lkrutzler@northamptonma.gov

Dear School Committee Members Emily Serafy-Cox for Ward 3 and Michael Stein for Ward 4, This is Nathan Chung, a Northampton Ward 4 resident. Your recent actions and statements raised some concerns for me, so I decided to email you to ask a few questions. I am copying the City Council Finance Committee, City Council President Alex Jarrett, City Council staff Laura Krutzler, and the two at-large School Committee Members since it relates to them.

If you can get back to me in about week by the end of Tuesday 4/8/2025, it would be helpful. And if you do not want to respond to the questions, a brief reply saying you do not want to would be helpful rather than not replying. One question is for both of you. Two questions are for Member Stein only. Thank you.

A question for both School Committee (SC) members Serafy-Cox and Stein

1. Members Stein and Serafy-Cox were sponsors of the recent \$600k midyear appropriation request, including putting it on the February 13 SC agenda after bringing it up during the January 9 SC meeting. That suggests you had a month between the two regular school committee meetings to prepare a specific budget for the request. **Why did you two, as sponsors of this order, not present a specific budget at the February 13th meeting or when it went to the City Council on 2/20? Was it an issue with the superintendent or others in the school administration? Or was there another reason?**

Questions Only for Member Stein

1. You said during the March 20th City Council public comment period around 2:16:40 (<https://youtu.be/SuMMYoldKtg?t=8206>), "I have two comments related to the special meeting that was recently held. There seems to be tremendous conflation by the council between what norms are, laws are, protocols are, and rules are. I would behoove you all to clarify going forward when you are evoking violations of anything you actually cite which what is being violated and how it's being violated. I found it very troubling to hear things like a first year counselor is not supposed to do anything but follow the lead."

The resolution that is linked from the 3/12 Censure special meeting agenda (https://northamptonma.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_03122025-8361) lists the specific parts of the charter and MGL that the Council thought the Ward 3 city councilor violated. Also, the Council read the entire resolution at around 18m17s of the 1h47m of the meeting. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1wQul0p1E0>).

My view is that the documents and the meeting recording lays out the relevant laws and reasons in detail and thus contradicts your public comment. **What were your reasons for making a statement that seems to be contradictory to the documents and recordings? And where did you hear that "First counselors are not supposed to do anything but follow the lead?"**

2. What is your understanding of the reason for the three of the four councilors of the City Council Finance Committee not agreeing to come to the Budget and Properties subcommittee meetings?

Again, I would appreciate the two members' answers by the end of Tuesday 4/8/2025. And if you do not want to respond, a quick reply saying you do not want to reply would be helpful. Thank you very much.

Nathan Chung
Northampton Ward 4 Resident
basicdignity123@gmail.com

Emily Serafy-Cox <eserafy-cox@northampton-k12.us>

Mon, Mar 31, 2025 at 8:15 AM

To: Nathan <basicdignity123@gmail.com>

Cc: mstein@northampton-k12.us, gagna@northampton-k12.us, Aline Davis <adavis@northampton-k12.us>, melkins@northamptonma.gov, smoulton@northamptonma.gov, Alex Jarrett <ajarrett@northamptonma.gov>, mlabargeward6@aol.com, Rachel Maiore <rmaiore@northamptonma.gov>, lkrutzler@northamptonma.gov

Hi Nathan,

I've noticed you have been very engaged in meetings lately. It's always good to see folks paying attention to what's going on in our town. I would be happy to talk with you about this and any other questions you might have. Would you like to grab coffee sometime? Or maybe have a call?

Warmly,
Emily

Emily Serafy-Cox
Northampton School Committee, Ward 3 Representative

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cell: 612-695-2555

eserafy-cox@northampton-k12.us

Sign-up for updates from Emily -- <https://forms.gle/gbP3CwXABUv6Hf4d7>

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Nathan <basicdignity123@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 31, 2025 at 8:37 AM

To: Emily Serafy-Cox <eserafy-cox@northampton-k12.us>

Cc: mstein@northampton-k12.us, gagna@northampton-k12.us, Aline Davis <adavis@northampton-k12.us>, melkins@northamptonma.gov, smoulton@northamptonma.gov, Alex Jarrett <ajarrett@northamptonma.gov>, mlabargeward6@aol.com, Rachel Maiore <rmaiore@northamptonma.gov>, lkrutzler@northamptonma.gov

Thank you, Emily. I will reply to you separately about finding a time.

Nathan Chung

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Nathan <basicdignity123@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 31, 2025 at 8:40 AM

To: Emily Serafy-Cox <eserafy-cox@northampton-k12.us>

Hi Emily, either call, Zoom, or in-person coffee works for me. I will not be able to get back right away today, but if you let me know some dates and times, I can get back. My early mornings and evenings usually work. I noticed you have your cell in your signature. If it is okay with you and you prefer it, I can also text you with my cell or we can stay on email. Thank you.

Nathan Chung

On Mon, Mar 31, 2025 at 8:15 AM Emily Serafy-Cox <eserafy-cox@northampton-k12.us> wrote:

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Emily Serafy-Cox <eserafy-cox@northampton-k12.us>

Mon, Mar 31, 2025 at 3:28 PM

To: Nathan <basicdignity123@gmail.com>

Text works. Early mornings are best for me too.

Emily Serafy-Cox
Northampton School Committee, Ward 3 Representative

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cell: 612-695-2555

eserafy-cox@northampton-k12.us

Sign-up for updates from Emily -- <https://forms.gle/gbP3CwXABUv6Hf4d7>

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