

## Debra Dennis

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**From:** Orlando Pacheco  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 23, 2018 9:43 PM  
**To:** Kathi Rocco  
**Cc:** Debra Dennis  
**Subject:** FW: Safe NRSD Bus Access - 40B Goodridge Brook Estates

For the file. Orlando

**From:** Clenchy, Brooke [mailto:!  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 23, 2018 4:13 PM  
**To:** ;  
**Cc:** Lorraine Romasco; Crossland, Alise; Orlando Pacheco; Cote, Michelle; Marone, Patricia; Aleta Masterson; Stanley B. Starr Jr.  
**Subject:** Re: Safe NRSD Bus Access - 40B Goodridge Brook Estates

Good Afternoon,

I appreciate the time and thoughtfulness put into crafting the recently circulated email. As you are well aware, the safety of our students is paramount in all work that we do as a school district, whether it concerns the safety inside of the buildings, outside of the buildings, or on a bus.

We are aware of the potential for growth in your community. The Lancaster Town Administrator has continued to keep open lines of communication with the school district, so we are aware of potential plans for growth.

As a school district we do not have any level of involvement, nor influence, on any of our communities' growth or planning processes. Our role is to deal with the scenarios that are presented to us when they occur. Our role is clearly known at that time.

We often communicate prior to community development, help to think through appropriate resolutions where invited to, and generally support our community partners. Busing changes, for example, occur consistently throughout a school year, dependent upon other development activities a Town takes on – this routinely happens within the Nashoba Regional School District. We continue to work through all of these situations with our community partners. We have had this happen in all three communities over the course of the last several years, primarily due to road and culvert construction.

School transportation is a complex process and involves substantial planning and monitoring thereafter. A myriad of factors are continuously in play regarding transportation. It is important for a school district to know exactly what type (ie. age grouping) of students we are transporting to make the best, most suitable arrangements. Clearly we approach the different age groups with a different lens in terms of what building they are being dropped off at, etc.

I am aware of the fact that you have reached out several times to our bus contact individual within the NRSD, the school based administration in Lancaster, our specific bus contractor (who may or may not be the bus contractor at the time of the final development stage), my administrative assistant, and school committee members. I respect your level of due diligence and appreciate the passion with which you are tackling this issue from your perspective. As a school district, we play a role after the completion of complexes and housing when we know precisely what numbers and age groups of students we are dealing with. At this early stage, it is not the time for our involvement.

We wish you the very best and thank you for your outreach.

Sincerely,

**Brooke Clenchy**  
**Superintendent of Schools**  
Nashoba Regional School District  
Bolton - Stow - Lancaster  
50 Mechanic Street  
Bolton, MA 01740

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On Mon, Oct 22, 2018 at 4:12 PM, Crossland, Alise <[redacted]> wrote:  
Hi Victoria and Stephanie,

Thank you so much for your email and the additional information on the bus pick up and drop off location for the proposed development. Like most people in Lancaster, I've been following the proposed development closely, but it's always useful to have more information about how the proposed housing may affect the district and the community. I truly appreciate you reaching out to make sure we have this information.

I have also cc'd Superintendent Clenchy on this email, as she may have some additional thoughts or insight on the potential impact on transportation for students.

Best,  
Alise Crossland

On Mon, Oct 22, 2018 at 1:49 PM Victoria Marquis Petracca <[redacted]> wrote:

Dear Lancaster Members of the NRSD School Committee,

We are reaching out to you relative to a growing safety concern in the Goodridge Brook Estate proposal, a high-density 40B residential development currently under comprehensive permitting review. The project includes three 5-story apartment buildings (120 apartments in total) and sixty-two 4-bedroom houses on 45.42 acres. Half of the site is wetlands, and so the buildings are very condensed on the buildable land. There are 182 housing units in total for approximately 500 bedrooms. Concerned residents were instructed by the developer's attorney not to mention the obvious population impact on our school system during a local permitting hearing. However, there is a separate, public safety issue that can and must be addressed relative to granting safe access to the schools – and one significant enough that we feel the School Committee needs to be made aware.

our request to the permitting authorities (including MassHousing) that NRSD students be granted safe transport within the development.

Thank you in advance for your consideration on this important public safety issue.

Sincerely,

Victoria Petracca and Stephanie Stanton

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The developer has submitted plans that call for school bus pick-up and drop-off right on Sterling Road, a narrow, country road in Lancaster with limited visibility due to topography. The pick-up and drop-off is being proposed on the street because the interior site roads currently proposed are too narrow to accommodate school buses. The developer is designing them as "private roads" (his term) that do not need to meet the appropriate width, turning radius, loop road, and other criteria for school buses to safely navigate inside the development.

Requiring large numbers of children to board and exit the bus on dangerous Sterling Road presents a stark public safety dilemma for future child residents attending school in the District. As you may know, Sterling Road is predominately an industrial park for two-thirds of its length. There are many manufacturing companies on Sterling Road that use trailer trucks and heavy equipment daily, and all of this traffic is part of Sterling Road's unique traffic flow in a narrow space. Moreover, it is well documented that employees speed to make their shift clock on time, as the residents of Eagle Ridge have attested at public meetings from trying to pull on to Sterling Road from Mary Catherine Drive. There is also an active rail road crossing on Sterling Road, which further complicates the traffic.

There is a very old, narrow sidewalk for a short section of Sterling Road at the residential end. There is no sidewalk elsewhere, and not near the proposed development. When asked about putting one in, the developer would only consider across the street from the development which creates the added safety concern of children crossing Sterling Road.

The developer's traffic engineer consultant announced at the last public hearing (September 27) that he anticipates an additional 1,600 daily car trips on Sterling Road from this development.

For these reasons and more, it is imperative that the very large number of new NRSD children be granted safe access to the NRSD school bus within the safe confines of the development, at properly designated bus shelters, and for kindergarteners, at their front door just like other children in the District. These NRSD children should not be required to wait for the bus on a treacherous, narrow stretch of road with industrial truck traffic and speeding cars.

It was suggested that concerned residents wait until the development is built to address this glaring public safety issue. However, now, during the permitting phase, is precisely the moment to exert influence over the proper street width, turning radius, etc. to accommodate the safe navigation of school buses within the development.

We ask to speak at the next School Committee meeting with site plans and other visuals to explain the public safety threat before us for a large number of future District school children. The goal in meeting with the Committee is to make you aware of this issue, and if you so desire, lend support for