



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

ANDREA JOY CAMPBELL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

(617) 727-2200
www.mass.gov/ago

July 14, 2026

VIA EMAIL ONLY



RE: Open Meeting Law Complaint

Dear Ms. Burnard:

This office received a complaint from you on January 8, 2026, alleging that the Sudbury School Committee (the “Committee”) violated the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18-25. The complaint was originally filed with the Committee on November 26, 2025. The Committee responded by letter dated December 11, 2025. In the complaint, you allege that at its October 23, 2025, meeting, the Committee did not adequately discuss certain warrant articles in anticipation of an upcoming Special Town Meeting because the School Administration failed to provide the information the Committee required and because the Committee Chair failed to include the topics on the notice of the October 23, 2025, meeting. For the reasons stated below, we decline to review your complaint.

The Division of Open Government’s review concerns compliance with the Open Meeting Law. The Open Meeting Law does not require a public body to discuss any particular matter or to discuss a matter in any particular depth. See OML Declination 7-14-23 (Belmont Planning Board); OML 2019-78; OML 2015-133.¹ Similarly, the Open Meeting Law does not require a public body or its chair to include a particular topic on a meeting notice. Because the omission of an agenda item or the decision not to discuss a topic, even if true, would not constitute a violation of the Open Meeting Law, we decline to review it.

We note that the complaint also appears to be untimely filed. Complaints alleging violations of the Open Meeting Law must be filed with the public body within 30 days of the alleged violation, or if the alleged violation could not have been known at the time it occurred, then within 30 days of the date the alleged violation should reasonably have been discovered. G.L. c. 30A, § 23(b); 940 CMR 29.05(4). When an alleged violation occurs during an open

¹ Open Meeting Law determinations and declinations may be found at the Attorney General's website, www.mass.gov/ago/openmeeting.

meeting, the alleged violation is reasonably discoverable at the time it occurs. See OML Declination 6-24-26 (Holland Planning Board); OML Declination 7-20-17 (Edgartown Planning Board); OML 2014-85.² You filed your complaint more than 30 days after October 23, 2025, the date of the meeting you allege the Committee did not properly discuss the warrant articles for lack of information from the School Administration. Therefore, your complaint likely is untimely.

Finally, to the extent that you allege that minutes of the October 6, 2025, meeting were insufficiently detailed, we decline to review that allegation. Complaints must allege violations with a degree of specificity, as our office will not conduct broad audits of public bodies based on generalized allegations. See OML Declination 6-2-26 (Town of Ware); 7-19-23 (Fairhaven Historical Commission); OML Declination 3-20-12 (Wilmington Board of Assessors). Your statement that “[t]he 10/6 minutes should accurately reflect what transpired during the meeting” does not specify what part of the minutes you allege are insufficiently detailed. Therefore, to the extent that you allege insufficiency of minutes, we decline to review that allegation.

We now consider this matter closed. Please feel free to contact the Division at (617) 963-2540 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Matthew Lindberg
Assistant Attorney General
Division of Open Government

cc: Attorney Jennifer King (via email: Jennifer.King@VDHBoston.com)
Sudbury School Committee (via email: school-committee@sudbury.k12.ma.us)

² We also understand that you were a member of the Committee at all times relevant to the complaint.