

Town of Acton

Board of Selectmen

472 Main St.
Acton, MA 01720



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, Dec. 18, 2020

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Statement of Acton Board of Selectmen Regarding Racist Comments Posted During School Committee Zoom Meeting

This version corrects the date of the press release.

ACTON -- The following is a statement from the Acton Board of Selectmen:

"We have been made aware that during last evening's school committee meeting, multiple people in virtual attendance via Zoom used the Question and Answer function to send vulgar and hateful, racist messages to the school committee members. We deplore and denounce these acts of hatred. As a Board, we are instructing Town Manager John Mangiaratti to work with the Acton Police Department to initiate a hate crime investigation. We understand that the Town Manager has already been in contact with the Boxborough Town Administrator and police in that community as well. We urge police to conduct an aggressive and thorough investigation. While it is our understanding that the members of the public did not see the hateful messages due to the correctly configured security and privacy settings, nonetheless, bad actors attended

this virtual meeting and used the meeting to send these terrible messages to the school committee members. We are committed to a transparent process, and we will provide updates to the public on that investigation when available and appropriate."

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