



From: Ward Hamilton

Subject: Superintendent contract

Date: September 30, 2022 at 10:07 AM

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Cc: Julie Kukenberger jkukenberger@melroseschools.com

It is my understanding that Dr. Kukenberger's contract requires you to provide her with a letter of intent regarding contract renewal by tomorrow, October 1st. I apologize if this information is factually inaccurate, as there isn't enough time to verify before contacting you.

If, in fact, that is the case, I urge you to request an extension in light of Tuesday night's revelation about the budget deficit. Providing her with that letter now, before the School Committee addresses the issues in a meaningful way, is tantamount to condoning her actions.

The contract does not expire until June 30, 2023, nine months from now. The least she can do is give you a thirty day extension to sort things out--the people of this City deserve answers. I implore you to slow things down and learn more before making this critical decision.

Consider the optics if, on Tuesday, she announces that there is a \$2.2m budget deficit that she has known about for over two months and not brought to your attention and, on Saturday, you reward her with a contract. That would be received very poorly.

Ward Hamilton