

**Statement of Sharon School Committee Chair Judy Crosby
October 28, 2020**

On October 25, the School Committee hosted a listening session as part of an ongoing effort to improve equity and inclusion across all subgroups within Sharon Public Schools.

The purpose of the listening session was to give a dedicated space to underrepresented current and former members of the Sharon Public School community to share with the Committee their personal experiences within the Sharon Public Schools. At the session, we heard from members of our Black, Muslim, and Chinese communities, reflecting the true diversity of Sharon.

The stories collected at the listening session will bring life to the quantitative data available to the district from a third-party equity analysis completed in August, 2019, which was released to the public on September 23, 2020.

The listening session was preceded by the administration's presentation at the October 21 School Committee meeting regarding the subgroup data to which the district has access. The presentation reviewed how that data is used now and will be used this year to improve equity and inclusion.

The next steps are to have a listening session debrief at the November 4 School Committee meeting. We will also host a presentation from Equal Opportunity Schools at that same meeting regarding increasing access for our students of color and our low-income students to higher level coursework within our secondary schools.

The School Committee intends to support the administration in crafting a sustainable equity and inclusion plan with clear goals, action items and timetables.