



**181<sup>ST</sup>**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF DELEGATES**

**MAY 8-9**

**Hynes Convention Center - Boston, MA**

**NBI 15**

**2026 FORM FOR NEW BUSINESS ITEMS**

NBI Name			Date and Time
Resist Repressive Teaching and Learning Recommendations			4/11/2026 15:25
Delegate Making the Motion Molly Brooks	Cell (978) 866-0464	Email Brooks.molly k@gmail.com	Association Represented or Retired Cambridge Education Association
Delegate Seconding the Motion Heike Schotten	Cell (617) 388-1584	Email reallyheike@ gmail.com	Association Represented or Retired FSU UMass Boston

According to the MTA Standing/Special Rules:  
With the exception of items on the agenda, all substantive motions shall be submitted in writing to the Presiding Officer.

**MOTION**

MOVED:

In November 2025, the Massachusetts Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism (SCCA) concluded its charge to study antisemitism in Massachusetts. Despite its title, the Commission’s actual motivation has not been to “combat antisemitism” but to instead weaponize it to protect Israel and Zionism, as evidenced in its final report containing highly problematic recommendations designed to censor teaching, learning, and protest about Palestine-Israel. In order to safeguard our members’ rights and ethical obligations regarding teaching, learning, and speaking the truth in an increasingly authoritarian environment, the MTA will take appropriate action to address the SCCA recommendations including, but not limited to: \* making a strong public statement opposing the harmful recommendations and their connections to an already repressive educational environment and police state \* educating members about the commission, its harmful recommendations, and their dangers to academic freedom, academic integrity, and First Amendment rights \* providing a toolkit for locals that are being directly targeted for adoption of the recommendations or elements of it \* opposing any proposed legislation connected to the recommendations

SUBMITTER’S RATIONALE:

1. The SCCA, which was dissolved in November 2025, has been controversial and has been widely criticized by a cross-section of Massachusetts organizations and residents, including many Jewish organizations and individuals. Rather than focusing on antisemitism as the title states, the Commission as a whole has had a clear bias towards protecting the state of Israel and the political ideology of Zionism;. As a result, they made many harmful recommendations that, if adopted, will lead to state-sponsored censorship of teaching, learning, and free speech about Palestine-Israel. MTA members actively oppose censorship for other topics, and Palestine-Israel should be no different. Just a few of the more problematic recommendations that the commission recommends in its final report are \*

Universities and K-12 schools should adopt the controversial IHRA definition of antisemitism, which unconstitutionally limits free speech and is steeped in anti-Palestinian racism. (MTA opposed the use of the IHRA definition in NBI 05, adopted by the MTA Board of Directors June 2024.) \* DESE should create a publicly accessible method for reporting “problematic curriculum,” at the K-12 level, enabling censorship and state control of curriculum based on this flawed definition \* The creation of anonymous systems for reporting educators and students for bias and allegations of antisemitism that are integrated with local, state, and federal law enforcement \* Restriction of campus protests, demonstrations, and boycotts

2. Commissioners have made it clear that they are interested in restricting educators, curricula, and speech around Palestine-Israel. During what most genocide scholars and international/human rights organizations have determined is an active and ongoing genocide that Israel is perpetrating against the Palestinian people, they are trying to erase Palestinian narrative, history & experience. We need to protect academic freedom and educator autonomy/integrity to teach multiple perspectives, even when it’s difficult or uncomfortable. As educators we need to be able to feel empowered to teach the truth rather than intimidated by the prospect of retaliation at the state level.

3. Some of the Commissioners and the organizations they are affiliated with have made repeated attacks and unfounded assertions about the MTA, its leadership, and its members, maligning our union and casting doubt on MTA educators’ integrity and professionalism. At a time of increasing cuts to education amid ongoing attacks on unions and democratic principles, this attack on our union is reprehensible and indicates that they are not interested in working with educators. In fact, some members of the Commission are going around the state right now promoting their recommendations, continuing to malign MTA and its members while they do so.

4. Finally, educators and students have First Amendment rights, and the SCCA’s recommendations seek to put limits on this right. This Massachusetts legislative commission was funded by the taxpayers and should not be making recommendations that undermine the U.S. Constitution.

SUBMITTER’S COST & STAFF TIME ESTIMATE:

100 staff hours or more, depending on what is done

DUES IMPACT **(For MTA use only):**

\$0

MTA COST & STAFF TIME ESTIMATE **(For MTA use only):**

\$0, 100 hours