

My name is Jenn Schaeffner, and I am running for School Committee with a commitment to provide honesty, accountability, and transparency at a time when our schools are facing a variety of pressing challenges.

I grew up in Marblehead, attended Marblehead Public Schools, and graduated from Wheaton College with a degree in math and economics. My husband Bob and I moved back to town in 2003, and our children both attended Marblehead Public Schools. Professionally, I worked for over 20 years in the investment and banking industry at Fidelity Investments and Bank of America, primarily in senior management positions where I was responsible for hiring teams of people and evaluating performance to deliver specific goals. I am now a small business owner on the North Shore focused primarily on real estate investing, development, and property management.

I have been an active parent leader for many years, serving as an officer for several Parent Council Organizations and Central Parents Council, as well as co-chair of the Marblehead Special Education Parents Advisory Council. I was elected to the School Committee and served from 2016-2020, taking on responsibility for several sub-committees including budget, policy, wellness and facilities. In addition, I served as co-chair for several hiring committees including for the Director of Student Services, the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Superintendent of Schools, and the Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

Last year I co-founded *Marblehead Beacon*, a digital news source focusing on town government, fiscal issues, and human interest topics. We call ourselves “citizen journalists” and are proud of the reporting we have produced this year taking into account multiple political perspectives and improving community engagement with local town leaders. I am currently on leave from *Marblehead Beacon* while campaigning for the School Committee.

As a long time, engaged community member I am proud to be a resource for the Marblehead community and, particularly over the past year, I have

heard from many people who are worried about students' COVID learning loss, widespread mental health concerns, school budget confusion, and the lack of communication from the administration. During these conversations it became clear that I had the opportunity to make a difference by running for School Committee.

My campaign is based on three fundamental commitments. The first is honesty, which means that if someone asks me a question, I will answer it in real time. If a community member speaks in an open meeting, I will respond and engage. I will ask questions before deliberating and will make clear the reasons for my vote.

The second is accountability. I will work hard to ensure that our school district focuses on best practices for teaching, advising, and coaching, including taking the opportunity to research and learn from comparable school districts that are achieving better academic outcomes. I am absolutely committed to building a zero based budget that accounts for every dollar spent in each school building.

My third commitment is transparency. Deliberation and discussion should be usual and customary before any vote. You may not agree with how I vote, but you will understand what I think and why. I will ensure that both the public and the press have access to the packet of documents before each School Committee meeting, so they can anticipate topics to be discussed. I will advocate for public comment that allows for two-way dialogue with the School Committee and the administration.

We have a lot of work to do to get our students back on track for grade level achievement or higher. Our teachers and staff are depending on leadership to deliver the resources to maximize student outcomes. For all of these reasons, I ask for your vote for the Marblehead School Committee on June 20.