

My name is Paul Baker, I'm running for one of the two open School Committee seats and I'd appreciate your vote on June 20th.

My wife, Julie Vinette, and I have been Marblehead residents for 19 years. We owned and operated Foodie's Feast and Haley's Cafe for 16 years, we met hundreds of locals, made some outstanding friendships, and learned so much about the history of this special town. We have come to love, and feel truly connected to, this vibrant community. We are the proud parents of two, one current and one former, Marblehead students. Our oldest, Silas, a University Freshman and his younger brother, Wendell, a sixth grader at Village.

I am currently the Head of School at the Devereux and Devereux@Waring schools. In this capacity, I manage the daily operations, budget, and enrollment of these Montessori-based schools.

In addition, I have served as a member of the Board of Trustees at the Marblehead Community Charter Public School (MCCPS) for the past seven years. I am in my third term and have served as Board Clerk, Vice-Chair, as well as chairing the Development, Communications, Governance and currently the Personnel Committee. During my tenure I have learned many of the intricacies of working with others as part of a Board/Committee. I am well-acquainted in Roberts Rules, as well as Massachusetts Open Meeting and Conflict of Interest regulations

I have a depth of experience in the interview and hiring process at the Superintendent level at both MCCPS and the Marblehead School District, having sat on the interview committee for both Nan Murphy and our new Assistant Superintendent, Julia Ferreira.

Because I care deeply about education in Marblehead, I have attended numerous school committee meetings both in person and virtually. I have been a vocal participant expressing my thoughts on issues both in print, and in live meetings, going as far back as the unfortunate, but imperative, closure of the Gerry School.

Over the years I have supported, held signs, hosted lawn signs, sent emails, written "letters to the editor" and "talked up" many candidates. Conversely, I have disagreed with and criticized others.

However, as a parent, resident, business owner, and tax-payer I believe that I have spoken plainly, factually and been as fair as possible.

I was able to attend and participate in my first Town Meeting last month and enjoyed (almost) every moment! I voted 'yes' for the Override and am delighted that the warrant article passed. Allowing the entire town to vote on such an important question at the June ballot is essential. Marblehead can no longer rely on "Free Cash." Our town and our schools don't deserve additional funding, our town and our schools NEED additional funding. In short this override MUST pass on June 20th.

All this being said, I view running for a 3-year term on the School Committee as an honor and opportunity to truly give back and make a difference in our schools, ensuring that our administration and faculty have the resources necessary to successfully educate and fulfill the individual needs of all our students.

I hope that you will join me in voting for the override and I would very much appreciate your vote on June 20th, but above all, just vote!

Election Day Sign Holding and Lawn Signs: Please email at foodies@comcast.net if you would like to host a lawn sign, or can spare 1 or 2 hours on June 20th to hold a sign. I will be sending out a sign-up genius closer to Election Day.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration of my candidacy

Cheers,

Paul