

Hello! I am Sarah Gold and I am running for re-election to the Marblehead School Committee. My husband, 2 boys and our rescue dogs moved here almost twelve years ago. We chose Marblehead over surrounding communities because we prioritized having a strong public school system to enroll our children in. Both of my boys have had wonderful experiences in the Marblehead Public Schools, which started with their attendance in the Integrated Preschool program and continues today. My eldest boy is now a sophomore at Marblehead High School and my younger is in 5th grade at Village School.

I have a Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology from Boston College and am a licensed mental health counselor. I am currently the School Counselor for the Tower School, which provides me an invaluable window into the educational world. I worked for the Marblehead Counseling Center for many years as well, specializing in treating children and adolescents. I believe I am uniquely qualified to ensure that the needs of all Marblehead children are addressed and met.

I was elected to the Committee 5 years ago and served as the Chairperson for 3 of those years. In my years on the Committee, I have worked diligently with other Committee members to bring strong, thoughtful District leadership to the top levels of the administration. Additionally, during that time, the school budget has gone from chaotic and incomprehensible to organized, deliberate and transparent. I feel strongly that the School Committee is tasked with working collaboratively to meet the needs of the children, parents and teachers of our schools, as well as the Marblehead taxpayers. I often come back to the fact that we are One Marblehead and together we will succeed.

While there is much to be proud of in the progress achieved over the past few years, I am mindful of the substantial challenges that lay ahead for our school district. I also firmly believe those challenges can and should be met with a commitment to fiscal responsibility. My goal as a school committee member has always been to ensure that the Marblehead Public School System remains the pillar of educational success that it is known to be, as well as to support its potential growth towards even greater accomplishments.

In the coming years, it is imperative that Marblehead School leadership continue to focus on the educational directives from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that are continually evolving as the field of education grows to meet the ever changing needs of students. Leadership decisions that are grounded in current district data and broad educational research will be the best way forward to ensure that Marblehead Public Schools remain some of the best in the state. This will require the correct investments that evaluate, strengthen, and create programs and curriculums that continue to provide the exemplary educational opportunities that the Marblehead community has come to expect.

In closing, I believe strongly in calm, thoughtful and direct leadership. Disagreements are not problematic and the drama-filled commentary on social media has led to a false narrative regarding the work being done within the school department. Every member of current and past Committees I have worked with have brought passionate opinions to the table. The School Committee makes decisions as a group, not as individuals. We work collaboratively with each other, district leadership and Town leadership to address the needs of the schools. This will continue to be my focus if re-elected to the Marblehead School Committee. Thank you for your consideration of my candidacy.