

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Demographic and Contact Information as you'd like it to appear:

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### **1. Tell us about yourself and how your experiences will make you a good candidate for this office.**

After moving to Norwood 9 years ago, my family and I felt we had found our home. My son is currently a sixth grader at the middle school where he's thriving. We've found a community of friends that we're grateful for. I believe in public service, so this feeling motivated me to find ways to serve our community. I've been a Town Meeting member since 2019, teach Sunday school, volunteer in local campaigns, and am always looking for where I can do more.

I have worked in online education for almost 20 years. I've navigated changes in that space including shrinking budgets, evolving technology, and needed advocacy for both students and their instructors. As I've watched the work of the School Committee, I've found points where I could do more for the town with my experience.

### **2. How will you comply with and/or adapt to federal changes:**

- **Fiscally due to loss of federal funds?**
- **While upholding NPS mission and values?**

Fiscally, we know that federal funds have already been cut and that more cuts will likely happen in the future. The school budget is already tight; we're well past the point that any cuts will be obvious or easy to make. Part of the School Committee's responsibility is advocacy, both with the state and the town. I will do my best to make the case for preserving the parts of NPS that give Norwood a sense of pride and our kids a sense of joy in their learning.

I oppose any federal changes that contradict the values and mission of NPS. That's not a promise lightly made, as that opposition may be met with funding penalties. Norwood has been a fantastic community for my family and so many others; changes that would intentionally push students or faculty outside of that community are against our values. Changes that would require students to learn something that simply is not true or ignore something that is go against NPS's mission.

### **3. When making budgetary decisions, how would you ensure that you fully understand the ramifications of the decisions to programs, students, and staff in the schools?**

As a School Committee member, I will do my homework and ask questions to make sure that I understand the implications of budget decisions. The NPS budget is a complex reflection not only of our finances, but also our values and priorities. Every dollar spent in one area is a dollar not being spent elsewhere.

Part of that homework is the relationship with NPS administrators and other town boards. Maintaining strong working relationships between the School Committee, Finance Committee, and Select Board is a crucial part of ensuring that the implications of budget decisions, both long- and short-term, are communicated and understood.

Communicating with parents and community members during the budgetary process is also incredibly valuable. Including the community in considerations, as well as soliciting feedback, is of absolute value. We can't get good feedback if we haven't properly communicated not only what decisions are being weighed, but what the ramifications of the possible decisions would be.

**4. Are there any existing NPS policies you believe should be eliminated, or any new policies you would like to see implemented?**

One area of concern I have, and that I hear echoed from other parents, is regarding how and how often students are using their Chromebooks. There are plenty of stories from the elementary schools of kids being encouraged to spend downtime using Chromebooks rather than being given time to play.

There are plenty of organizational and pedagogical benefits to the way we're using 1:1 technology, but I want to keep the focus on those benefits, while cutting down on screen time that's less helpful.

I'd like to take time to ensure that, for younger students, the ability to move and play in developmentally appropriate ways aren't being replaced by screentime. I'd also like to take steps to ensure basics—like handwriting—aren't being hindered by a reliance on typing.

For older students, I want to know how to support the use of Chromebooks to access appropriate content without excessive surveillance. I also want to make sure they have access to tools they'll be required to know beyond Norwood High School, many of which exist outside of Google's suite of tools.