



2025 School Committee Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Angela Wack

Office Sought: Northampton School Committee for Ward 2

Website: www.electangelawack.com

Facebook: N/A

Instagram: N/A

Twitter: N/A

BlueSky: N/A

(A) Your Candidacy

1. Why are you running, and what would be your top three priorities if elected to serve?

My fresh perspective and experience finding common ground amid passionate people with diverse viewpoints will provide insight and collaborative guidance for the school committee that has been missing over the past few years.

My top three priorities if elected are asking for one-time funds to purchase evidence-based reading curriculum for the entire school district, including materials for interventions and funds for training staff and teachers, rebuilding trust in the school district throughout the community, and building a system of support for our district leadership to help reduce turnover in principalships and superintendents.

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

I have been involved in public education my entire life. I have my Master's in Education and have been certified in K-6 general education and 6-12 social sciences. I've taught in public elementary schools and tutored students of all ages throughout the country in reading, writing, and math. I have successfully led a school-based educational advocacy group with over 200 members that raised approximately \$35,000-50,000 annually to support unmet needs in the school, such as new desks and chairs for the entire school, including teachers

and students, curriculum supports, PBIS, robotics, teacher stipends, community events, technology, and more. During my leadership of the group, I also established the school's first diversity, equity and inclusion committee, literacy committee, and expanded support to include ALL employees of the school-everyone from the principal to crossing guard to school bus drivers received support. Finally, I am a parent of three children, all of whom are in public schools.

(B) Open-Ended Policy Questions

- 1. Massachusetts has wide racial, income-based, and language disparities in educational outcomes. How would you evaluate your school district's work to improve educational equity? What additional steps would you advocate for?**

Northampton Public Schools needs improvement in closing the achievement gaps between all of its student population groups. Implementing evidence-based, science of reading curriculum, along with robust Multi-Tiered Level of Supports district-wide, has been shown to reduce gaps in educational outcomes in other districts throughout the country. I will advocate for one-time funding to purchase evidence-based reading curriculum, continued development and implementation of MTSS, and educator training at all levels for proper implementation of these programs.

- 2. Earlier this year, the Trump administration repealed a Biden-era policy that protected schools from immigration enforcement. What steps would you take to ensure that schools remain a safe and welcoming place for all students, regardless of immigration status?**

Schools MUST be safe and welcoming for all students. To ensure that Northampton Public Schools remain that way, I will work with the superintendent to place multilingual signs inside and outside of all schools stating: "All families are welcome here. Immigration enforcement is NOT allowed on this campus." I will advocate for a school district policy that ensures that there are up-to-date district and school-specific safety plans in place to shelter children in non-public spaces if and when necessary. I will also work with parents and schools to organize a plan for providing for the needs of any children whose caregiver(s) are detained by ICE.

3. The Trump administration has been targeting LGBTQ students's civil rights. What steps would you take to ensure that schools remain a safe and welcoming place for all students, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation?

Northampton Public Schools currently does an excellent job making schools a safe and welcoming place for all students, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. To continue doing so, I will ensure that no current programs, athletics, clubs, bathrooms, or policies change due to pressure from the Trump administration or any other governmental agency. Additionally, I will advocate for any information regarding gender at any point in a student's life, be redacted from all files in the possession of the school district.

4. What role do you see for the school district in the city's response to climate change?

Northampton Public Schools are a part of a city that is working towards climate neutrality in city operations by 2030, the schools are a vital participant in reducing their climate footprint. I will support CAPA (Department of Climate Action and Project Administration) in continuing to move towards climate neutrality in the schools.

5. How would you model transparency and accountability if elected?

I will model transparency and accountability by following the Massachusetts open meeting law and the Massachusetts Association of School Committees' best practices, being available for constituents when a question arises, sharing information with the community through a regularly occurring newsletter, admitting when I'm mistaken, and being honest.

6. How will you engage stakeholders, including students, in budget decisions?

I will engage stakeholders in budget decisions by inviting members of school administration, educators, and students to participate in relevant school committee and subcommittee meetings while advocating for a fiscally stable student-centered budget.

7. How will you use your position to advocate at the state level for increasing education funding, especially to provide additional support for students in historically marginalized districts/communities?

I will continue the conversation that Northampton Public School students have begun with the state, state representatives, mayor, and superintendent to ensure that any new educational laws or policies from the state are fully funded and advocate for a reinvention of the Chapter 70 funding formula, which has inadvertently harmed historically marginalized groups in schools in middle-class communities the most.

8. How will you use your position to combat the Trump administration's war on public education?

I will advocate against the expansion of charter schools or the establishment of any federal or state voucher system. Additionally, Northampton Public Schools must maintain the liberal values of our community, even if that means losing federal funding. I will continue to advocate for full funding of all federal laws pertaining to public education and legislation that secures public education as a pillar of American democracy for future generations.

(C) Yes/No Policy Questions

1. Do you oppose the expansion of charter schools? **YES/ NO**
2. Do you support police-free schools? **YES/ NO**
3. Do you support teaching comprehensive, medically accurate, consent-based, LGBTQ-inclusive sex ed in schools? **YES/ NO**
4. According to the American Library Association, in 2022 there were at least 45 attempts to restrict access to books in MA schools, disproportionately books that speak to the experiences of LGBTQ students and students of color. Would you oppose such book-banning efforts if they occurred in your city? **YES / NO**

(D) Additional Comments

(Use this space to make any final comments you deem important for progressive voters assessing your candidacy.)