



## 2025 School Committee Candidate Questionnaire

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### (A) Your Candidacy

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

I'm running because I care deeply about Weymouth's schools. I am a mom of four children who are either currently enrolled in or have been enrolled in Weymouth Public Schools. I've seen firsthand the challenges our students, teachers, and families face, and with today's political climate, I felt it was time to step up and be part of the solution.

My top three priorities:

##### **Fully Funded Schools & Budget Advocacy**

Last year, Weymouth's school budget was shorted by \$1.9 million. We can't allow that to continue. Our schools need to be fully funded so students have the resources they deserve. I will advocate to make sure the school budget is prioritized locally, and I'll encourage our state representatives to ensure towns like Weymouth receive their fair share through Chapter 70 funding.

##### **Supporting and Respecting Teachers**

Teachers are the backbone of our schools, yet they are consistently underpaid and under-supported. When budgets are cut, we lose teachers, and that increases class sizes and workloads for those who remain, hurting both educators and students. I will work tirelessly to support our teachers, ensure they are fairly compensated, and stand with them as they negotiate a strong contract this year.

### **Creating a Sense of Belonging for Every Student**

Weymouth Public Schools is focusing on making sure every child feels like they belong. This is something I wholeheartedly support. A true sense of belonging is vital to a student's emotional well-being, confidence, and motivation to succeed. I will make it a priority to help build a school community where every student feels safe, supported, and valued.

## **2. What qualifies you to hold this office?**

I am a mother of four who has been actively involved in our schools and community for many years. I have served on parent councils and worked as a paraprofessional in a local school, which gave me firsthand insight into both the successes and challenges within the education system.

In my current role as Director of the historic Paragon Carousel in Hull, MA, I manage a nonprofit organization where I oversee day-to-day operations, finances, staffing, and programming, while also answering to a Board of Directors. This position has strengthened my skills in budgeting, strategic planning, and community engagement—all of which are essential to serving effectively on the School Committee.

Together, these experiences have given me a balanced perspective as both a parent and professional, equipping me with the ability to collaborate, problem-solve, and advocate for what best serves students, families, and the community.

## **(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?**

Massachusetts has wide racial, income-based, and language disparities in educational outcomes, and Weymouth reflects this challenge. Our district has eight elementary schools that have historically been referred to as "neighborhood schools." While there are many benefits to the neighborhood school model, one significant drawback is that the socioeconomic compositions of these neighborhoods vary greatly, and this is directly reflected in the schools themselves.

Some of our elementary schools are well-resourced, with strong Parent Councils that are able to fundraise thousands of dollars every year. Other schools, however, struggle to meet even basic fundraising goals and lack essential resources. This imbalance must be addressed if we are serious about closing equity gaps in student outcomes. One important step I will strongly advocate for is redistricting to ensure a more fair and equitable distribution of resources and opportunities across all of our Schools.

I also believe we need to reexamine the role of homework in elementary schools. While this may not always be a popular position, I feel strongly that homework should not be required until a child can complete assignments independently. For many families, homework is not an equal playing field—some children may return home to a quiet, supportive environment with parents available to help, while others face obstacles such as work schedules, language barriers, or lack of resources. Asking young children to extend their school day with additional work can deepen inequities rather than reduce them.

Students already spend six hours a day in school. At the elementary level, that time should be maximized for meaningful instruction, play, and social development, without the added burden of homework that not all families are equally positioned to support. By addressing both structural issues like redistricting and policy practices like homework expectations, we can take important steps toward true educational equity in Weymouth and beyond.

**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?**

Every child deserves to feel safe when they walk into school, regardless of their immigration status. As a School Committee member, I would work to ensure our district has strong policies that protect student privacy and limit the sharing of information unless legally required. I would also support clear protocols so that if immigration enforcement ever attempted to enter a school, staff would know their rights and responsibilities, including requiring a judicial warrant.

Equally important, I would advocate for training and resources to make sure teachers and administrators are prepared to create a welcoming environment for immigrant and multilingual families. That includes language access for parents, culturally responsive teaching, and supports that affirm belonging.

While I cannot control federal policy, I can ensure that our schools in Weymouth remain safe spaces where students are free to learn without fear. Every student, no matter their background, should know that their school is a place of support, stability, and opportunity.

**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?**

Every student deserves to feel safe, respected, and valued at school—regardless of gender identity/expression or sexual orientation. As a School Committee member, I would support and enforce strong anti-discrimination and anti-bullying policies that align with Massachusetts state law and Title IX protections.

I would also advocate for professional development so teachers and staff have the tools to support LGBTQ students, including respecting chosen names and pronouns, ensuring privacy, and responding quickly to bullying or harassment. In addition, I believe it is important to create spaces where LGBTQ students feel affirmed, whether through student clubs, inclusive curriculum, or counseling supports.

While we cannot control federal policy, we can make sure that in Weymouth our schools are welcoming, inclusive, and safe for every child. It is our responsibility to ensure that all students have equal access to opportunity and can thrive without fear of discrimination.

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

Schools play an important role in how our community responds to climate change, both through what we teach and how we operate. As a School Committee member, I would advocate for a curriculum that helps students understand climate science, sustainability, and environmental stewardship, while also encouraging student-led projects that connect learning to real-world solutions.

On the operations side, our district can make choices that reduce our environmental impact and save taxpayer dollars. This includes investing in energy-efficient buildings, exploring renewable energy sources such as solar

panels, transitioning to electric school buses, and expanding recycling and composting programs. These changes not only protect the environment but also teach students by example.

In my role as Director of the Paragon Carousel, I have seen firsthand how historic preservation and sustainability must work hand in hand. Caring for a century-old structure requires forward thinking, balancing tradition with long-term environmental responsibility. I would bring that same mindset to the School Committee, ensuring we protect our resources today while preparing our students to face the challenges of tomorrow.

By taking these steps, our schools can both prepare students to confront climate change and contribute directly to building a healthier, more resilient community.

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

If elected, I would model transparency and accountability by being open, accessible, and responsive to the community. I believe families, teachers, and students deserve to understand not only what decisions are being made, but why they are being made. That means clearly explaining my votes, providing regular updates, and creating opportunities for two-way communication through office hours, community forums, and direct outreach.

Accountability also means following through on commitments and reporting back on progress. I would advocate for clear, easy-to-understand reporting on student outcomes and school finances so that families can see how resources are being used.

I will also make myself available to respond to questions and concerns in a timely and respectful way.

Finally, as someone who manages a nonprofit and answers to a Board of Directors, I understand the importance of oversight, fiscal responsibility, and collaboration. I would bring that same mindset to the School Committee, ensuring that I remain accountable to the community I serve while always keeping students at the center of decision-making.

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

I would encourage all stakeholders to take part in the budget process by engaging with the School Committee. This can mean attending meetings in person or watching online, speaking during public comment, asking questions, and sharing opinions directly with members through email or outreach. As a School Committee member, I want to hear from the community, and I believe those voices should help shape our decisions.

I will also use my social media platforms to keep the public informed by sharing meeting dates, times, agendas, and summaries of key outcomes. By making information more accessible, I hope to ensure that parents, students, teachers, and community members all feel empowered to participate in budget discussions.

**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?**

As a School Committee member, I would use my position to advocate for stronger, more equitable education funding at the state level. This begins with engaging directly with our local state representatives and senators to ensure they understand the needs of Weymouth schools and the impact of current funding formulas. I would encourage them to address Chapter 70 and continue the work of updating it so that resources are distributed fairly, especially for historically marginalized districts and Communities.

I believe advocacy is most powerful when it comes from many voices. I would encourage parents, teachers, and students to join these efforts so state leaders hear directly from those impacted by inequitable funding. By combining local action with state-level advocacy, I will work to ensure that every student has the resources they need to succeed.

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

As a School Committee member, my responsibility is to protect and strengthen Weymouth's public schools, even when national policies threaten to undermine them. I will work to ensure that our local resources stay in our public schools and are used to support the students and educators who depend on them. That means advocating for equitable funding, supporting teachers with the tools and training they need, and protecting the civil rights of every student, regardless of background.

At the local level, I will back strong policies that safeguard students' rights and promote equity in access to programs and opportunities. At the state and federal level, I will use my position to advocate by engaging directly with legislators to oppose efforts that weaken public education.

Most importantly, I will continue to speak out for the value of public education and mobilize our community to join that effort. Public schools are the backbone of our democracy, and I will work tirelessly to defend and strengthen them for every child.

### (C) **Yes/No Policy Questions**

1. Do you oppose the expansion of charter schools? **YES**
2. Do you support police-free schools? **YES**
3. Do you support teaching comprehensive, medically accurate, consent-based, LGBTQ-inclusive sex ed in schools? **YES**
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**

### (D) **Additional Comments**

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

As a mother of four and a community leader, I know firsthand how much our students and families rely on strong, supportive public schools. If elected, I will be a consistent advocate for student well-being, with a particular focus on mental health. Our children cannot thrive academically if their emotional and social needs are not being met, and I believe schools must play an active role in providing that support. I am equally committed to standing with our teachers, paraprofessionals, and staff. They are the heart of our schools, and they deserve the resources, respect, and professional support necessary to do their jobs well. By investing in them, we are investing in our students' success.

Public education is deeply personal to me, and I will bring my experience as a parent, nonprofit director, and community advocate to ensure that every decision is

centered on what is best for students and families. I believe that by prioritizing mental health, supporting our educators, and keeping equity at the forefront, we can build a stronger, more inclusive school system for all students.