



2025 School Committee Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Ilana Krepchin

Office Sought: Somerville School Committee, Ward 2

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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've never seen myself as a politician, but I genuinely love helping. I was a PTA board member at one of the Somerville schools for five years and have volunteered in classrooms there for three years. Six years ago, I decided to run because I believe in finding solutions. I'm passionate about hearing from constituents about their hopes and dreams for the Somerville Public Schools, and how we achieve them. I love hearing from our dedicated staff and figuring out how to support them. I love connecting with students, listening to their ideas, and working with them to make their vision a reality.

My top three priorities are

- protecting our immigrant and LGBTQ+ students and families in the face of a hostile federal administration
- improving Special Education, including increasing capacity, improving after-school and summer program access and expanding Multitiered systems of support (MTSS) across the district
- equity within and across schools within the district, closing the opportunity gap and gaps in access to programs that are tied to background, income, gender, race, and age. This will involve examining our resource allocation across all schools so that we leverage resources where they are most needed.

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

I am not an education expert, but I bring a parent and community member perspective. I have been very involved in the local schools for many years, and I am always willing to listen to different points of view and make decisions based on what is best for our students. As the incumbent in this race, I have already been doing this job for six years. My on the job experience will be very important over the next few years, as we face possible funding cuts both locally and federally. Before being on the School Committee, I served my community on the PTA board of one of our schools, where I supported educators and students by organizing events and raising money.

(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?**

I think there are a number of metrics we can (and should use) to evaluate our progress. MCAS is one of these, but certainly isn't the only one. We have started using other local measures so we can understand where our students are. We have a strong data dept and our district takes data seriously when making budget decisions.

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?**

We have done everything that we can locally to protect our immigrant students, including making sure all of our administrators are trained on what to do if an ICE agent shows up at their door. We do not ask for immigration status when registering students for school. I support this wholeheartedly and if there is anything else I can/should be doing, I am ready to do it.

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?**

Our school committee has passed several resolutions making sure our

commitment to our LGBTQ students is known and public. We have made sure our sex education programs are inclusive and that our students have access to gender neutral bathrooms. I look forward to engaging with our LGBTQ students and staff to figure out together what else we can do locally.

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

There are two facets to this - school buildings themselves and teaching about climate change. Both are important and I commit to doing what I can in my role on School Committee to make sure both are happening. We are in the process of designing a new school building, so that will be an exciting opportunity to build as close to a carbon neutral building as possible. Our district has also developed a comprehensive climate change curriculum across several different grade spans. I look forward to supporting the expansion of this curriculum.

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

I have always been extremely responsive to constituent emails and phone calls and would continue to do so. I have a periodic email newsletter and social media, for people who like to follow along that way. I commit to working with our school district to improve transparency within the schools as well. During my time on School Committee, I have seen significant improvements at the school level on communication with families. During my time as chair, the district has also rolled out a data dashboard, so that we can be more transparent about student outcomes.

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

By talking with constituents, teachers and students about what their priorities are. In tight budget years, as I expect the next few will be, it's especially important to prioritize the voices of those most directly affected. Some mechanisms for this are office hours, social media outreach, working closely with our student representatives and making sure that our superintendent and his team are also talking to stakeholders as they craft the budget to begin with.

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?

By talking directly to our state delegation as well as being active in the Mass Association of School Committees so that we can advocate together, across the state. In my six years on the school committee, I have built relationships with our state partners, as well as school committee members in other cities, and I will continue to build on those relationships and leverage them for the benefit of all students.

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

I am proud to say that as Chair, I signed my name, on behalf of the district, on a lawsuit against the Trump administration over the closure of the Department of Education - sticking my neck out to stand up for what is right for Somerville and all students in the US. That lawsuit is ongoing and I will continue to support it.

(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.)