



## 2025 School Committee Candidate Questionnaire

Name: John L. Intoppa

Office Sought: Medford School Committee

Website: [intoppa4medford.com](http://intoppa4medford.com)

Facebook: @Intoppa4Medford

Instagram: @Intoppaformedford

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?**

As a practicing artist & designer, I bring a unique, non-linear perspective on problem-solving and procedures. I am running for re-election to a second term on the school committee to continue my advocacy work around students with allergies, disabilities, and overall student advocacy. My top three priorities are voter engagement/education, the recognized importance of an art/design education, and increased support for our school nursing staff.

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

I believe that my work in student advocacy, working as a higher education professional, and education as an industrial designer help qualify me for this office. I have experience in student government/unions, housing & residence life, student engagement, civic engagement, family & friends orientation, and more. I work closely with families, friends, and especially students in my career, and love to build support systems to best help them and my colleagues succeed.

### (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?**

As a body, we would charge the Superintendent and administration to carefully examine any barriers, disparities, and more, and present them to the committee for further discussion. Before this, I believe a survey should go out to our family & friends of MPS students (and even faculty/staff), asking them where they see shortcomings that impact their students' learning and educational experience. That way we can see the district's audit of where we are and its users to compare side by side. I would personally advocate for revisiting even the most basic of policies to ensure it does not have any unintentional harm to our students. Whether that be a lack of clarity, loopholes, or blatant disparities in who benefits/is impacted by said policy.

- 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 Earlier this year, the Trump administration repealed a Biden-era policy that protected schools from immigration enforcement.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?**

The Medford School Committee has already voted on an Immigration Enforcement Policy to help protect our students. I am proud to have voted YES on said policy, and will continue to advocate for any updates / amendments it may need to further do so.

- 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?**

Like the immigration policy, Medford has done the same for our LGBTQ students. I am happy to have amended and voted on said policies in my short tenure as a member of the school committee. I will continue to uplift the voices of our LGBTQ students both in policy, in advocacy, and in sharing their stories to ensure their sense of belonging in Medford is always shared.

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

We need to consistently make smart, eco-safe choices. Whether that be in the new heating systems we may introduce to the district, how we maintain our buildings both in the exterior and interior, and more. For me, it's deep diving

into how these things may be overlooked, like with generative AI's impact on the climate. I oppose it not just for the reason.

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

I model transparency by speaking with our residents candidly but effectively about what is going on in the schools. I believe that transparency is key in trust, but also being transparent in when/why you cannot discuss something is also needed. Sometimes I feel like people think transparency means everything is fair game, but I disagree. We have contract language, labor laws, etc, that impact things like these, and we need to ensure we are keeping folks safe and informed at the same time.

I model transparency by elaborating further about my feelings on issues both on the floor and in recaps/social media posts to my constituents. I hold myself accountable by releasing statements in similar ways if I ever make a decision I thought in the moment was in good faith but maybe wasn't the best choice, or misspeak, and correct what I said to ensure that the correct information is out there. For example, it appeared that I said I had an IEP in a meeting when, in fact, I had a 504. Once there was a discussion about that, I immediately shut it down and corrected the statement to ensure informed dialogue about me as a candidate could continue with accurate and correct information.

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

We first need to make a simplified (and non-simplified) infographic on how budgets work, past budget trends, and more. There is a huge lack of understanding across the city about how the school budgets work (balance of personnel funding/supplies, etc). If we are to engage our audience, we need to equitably get everyone on a level playing field so we can best have informed 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?**

I will use my position to speak to my constituents on how they can also use their voices to be impactful on the state level. To join them on a testifying or email advocacy level to reach out to key decision makers who help provide funding and additional support to said students and students overall.

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

To work alongside state partners to ensure that our students, faculty, and staff are impacted as minimally as possible. Whether that be budgetary problem-solving, federal-level advocacy, or really whatever it takes to ensure public education is funded properly and effectively.

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

1. Do you oppose the expansion of charter schools? **YES**
2. Do you support police-free schools? **NO**
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.)*

My answer to C2 is due to my concerns with school shootings across the country and response time. I do not believe in school police being in charge of discipline for minor issues/issues that can be solved within the school administration. I also believe in more funding towards mental health/restorative justice resources. If this is what a police-free school is, feel free to change my answer to YES.