



## 2025 School Committee Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Sue Mailman

Office Sought: Worcester School Committee At-Large

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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 for a third term because of the long-needed cultural shift that Dr. Monarrez and her team brought to our district, centered on student success initiatives, culture and climate, and a real focus on our school buildings. She helped transform the district into one that welcomes families and community voices at the table, and it was inspirational to witness.

Moving forward, I will support Brian Allen in carrying out this vision, which is what he calls moving from "vision to action." My priorities are:

1. Ensuring equitable access to strong programming, including vocational education and dual language opportunities.
2. Keeping our building improvements on track, with particular focus on advancing the Burncoat project.
3. Maintaining and strengthening our partnerships with families and communities so our schools remain connected and responsive.

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

I'm the business owner of a locally owned, fourth-generation business. I've served on many boards locally and at the state level, with experience in workforce development in construction, MassHire, and apprenticeship programs both locally and statewide. I have also served and chaired boards of social justice organizations like the YWCA, as well as social service organizations like the United Way.

## **(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?**

What I have learned in my four years serving is that we have to pay particular attention to growth over time rather than just test scores. Student Opportunity will soon have reached six years of funding, and we need to be at the table working with state legislators to craft the next version of equitable school funding. That means partnering with legislators and with organizations like MassBudget, MassINC, and Progressive MA.

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 Earlier this year, the Trump administration repealed a Biden-era policy that protected schools from immigration enforcement.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

I would strongly support all efforts to ensure our district pays close attention to the horrific federal practices recently displayed. It is essential that our schools remain safe and welcoming places for all students, regardless of immigration status.

- 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?**

I put forth a Safe Schools resolution that specifically called out support for our LGBTQ+ community, particularly the very targeted trans community. Sadly, this did not pass, and I believe that was a very big loss. I will continue to stay close to the families who entrusted us to act with strength against hate, where we failed. I will stand with these children and families and support their needs.

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

The district's role is to educate students with the truth about climate change through all applicable curriculum, and to implement sustainable practices both within our schools and in our building projects.

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

I am very forthcoming in my public comments and actions, and families will never wonder where I stand. Telling the truth and speaking truth to power are how I model transparency and accountability.

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

I will engage stakeholders, including students, by talking directly with all of these groups. I will encourage attendance at budget meetings while also reaching out separately for input. Students are brilliant, and I welcome their voices in the process.

**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 advocate strongly and regularly at the state level for increased education funding. This is one of our most important tasks in the coming years, especially to ensure additional support for students in historically marginalized districts and communities.

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

I will speak out and make sure people understand the danger of the lies and horrific policy changes coming from the Trump administration. Public education is under attack, and it is critical to call that out clearly.

**(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.)*