



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 am running because our children and families deserve leaders who truly reflect them, listen to them, and advocate for them. Schools must prepare children not only for academics, but for life. Too often, grades and tests take priority while essential skills like problem solving, financial literacy, emotional intelligence, and resilience are overlooked.

Decisions are often made without the voices of working families, caregivers juggling multiple roles, or leaders who understand what it's like to raise kids in today's world. As a mom of three, two in college and one in middle school, I know firsthand the challenges families face: the pressure of preparing kids for life and academics, gaps in resources, lack of mental health supports, and the feeling of not being heard.

We need a new generation of leadership, one unafraid to think outside the box, bring fresh ideas, and speak truth to power. Every child deserves schools where they can thrive, and every parent deserves a seat at the table.

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

20 years of experience in early childhood education and youth development. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Psychology with a minor in Child and Adolescent

Development, as well as a Master's degree in Psychology with a concentration in Counseling. In addition, I am a newly licensed Community Health Worker with more than a decade of experience organizing, advocating, and building programs in local communities.

My professional journey has always been rooted in service- supporting children, youth, and families while championing spaces where every voice is heard. Beyond my career and community work, My greatest pride and joy is my family, being a mother to three boys and a wife.

(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?

Data shows that in 2023-24, Black students made up 738 of the Taunton student population and accounted for a suspension rate of 13.1%, while White students' suspension rate was 8.1%. While I recognize efforts our district has made to close gaps, the reality is too many students, particularly students of color, low-income families, and English learners are still being left behind. We can't celebrate progress while suspensions and achievement gaps continue to tell another story.

To move forward, I believe we need to:

- Expand supports for multilingual learners and ensure families are included in decision-making, not left out because of language barriers.
- Strengthen mental health and special education services so children struggling don't fall through the cracks.
- Create more culturally relevant curriculum and opportunities where students see themselves reflected in their education.
- Build authentic partnerships with families, not just through forms and meetings, but through real listening.

Equity isn't about politics, it's about ensuring all students have the tools to thrive.

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 should always be sanctuaries. Safe, welcoming spaces where every child can learn without fear. Immigration status should never determine whether a student feels secure in their classroom. To ensure this, I would advocate for clear district-wide policies that protect students and families from immigration enforcement within school grounds, in line with state and federal guidelines. Staff should be trained on students' rights, confidentiality, and how to respond if outside agencies seek access to school property.

Equally important, schools must foster a culture of inclusion. That means ensuring language access for families, creating culturally responsive curriculum, and hiring diverse staff who reflect our student body. No student should feel invisible or unsafe because of their background.

At the heart of it, our message to every child must be simple and unwavering: you belong here, you are safe here, and your future matters here.

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 walk into school knowing they are safe, respected, and valued exactly as they are. To ensure this, schools must be proactive in creating policies and practices that affirm students of all gender identities and sexual orientations. That includes enforcing strong anti-bullying protections, providing staff training on inclusivity and cultural competence, and ensuring that curriculum, activities, and school spaces reflect and respect LGBTQ+ students.

Representation matters! Students should see themselves reflected in what they learn, who teaches them, and how they are treated. Support systems like student-led affinity groups, safe spaces, and accessible counseling also send a clear message: you belong here.

At its core, this is about dignity. Schools should be the one place where every student can show up fully as themselves, without fear or shame. When kids feel safe to be who they are, they thrive and that benefits our whole community.

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

The school district has a critical role to play in the city's response to climate change, not only in reducing its own footprint but also in shaping how our next generation understands and leads on this issue. My work with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) has already given me the opportunity to connect Taunton to state-level resources, workforce development, and education around clean energy. Those relationships matter, and I can bring them directly to the table to benefit our schools.

As someone working within an EJ (environmental justice) community, I know how important it is that our solutions are both innovative and inclusive. That's why I've been deeply involved in bringing forward a community center designed as a resilient hub with a fully zero-carbon footprint. Schools can and should be part of this same vision: modeling sustainability, teaching climate readiness, and preparing students for the green jobs of tomorrow.

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

Transparency and accountability begin with showing up consistently and being accessible to the people you serve. If elected, I would prioritize open communication with families, educators, and students through regular updates, open forums, and being available to listen when concerns arise. Decisions should never feel like they are being made behind closed doors.

I would also push for clearer communication from the Committee to the community: plain language explanations of decisions, budgets, and policies so families can understand how choices impact them. Accountability means not just celebrating successes but owning when things don't go right, and working to fix them with honesty.

As a mom, community advocate, and someone deeply engaged with youth and families, I know trust is earned through consistency and honesty. I will always model that, and ensure that families know their voices are not only welcome but essential.

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

Budgets are about priorities, and priorities should reflect the voices of those most affected families, teachers, staff, and students. Too often, decisions are made in ways that feel distant from the community. I would advocate for more open forums, clear communication, and accessible information so families can understand where money is going and why.

Importantly, students must also be included in these conversations. They know firsthand where resources are lacking whether it's mental health supports, extracurriculars, or updated materials. Creating student roundtables and inviting them into the budget process not only gives us valuable insight, it also builds leadership and accountability in the next generation.

As someone who has worked with youth and families for decades, I know that when people feel heard and respected, trust grows. Transparency in budgets is about more than numbers; it's about creating schools that reflect the needs and hopes of our community.

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?

Advocating for increased education funding means making sure Taunton's voice is heard where decisions are made, at the State House. Too often, historically marginalized districts and communities like ours carry heavier challenges with fewer resources, and that inequity shows up in classrooms every day. As a School Committee member, I would use my role to amplify the needs of our students and families, not just locally but directly to our legislators and state agencies.

Every student regardless of zip code, background, or income deserves full and fair funding. I will push for that relentlessly, because our kids can't wait.

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

I will use my position on the School Committee to strongly oppose any cuts to education that would harm our students, families, and teachers. I do not agree with federal cuts to education or efforts to eliminate the Department of Education. Education is the foundation of opportunity, and reducing resources would directly impact communities like ours that already face challenges.

The Department of Education plays a vital role in ensuring that all children, regardless of income, race, language, or ability, have access to quality education. It also provides accountability, funding, and protections for students who are often overlooked, including those receiving special education services and English language learning support.

As a School Committee member, I will advocate at every level for increased investment in our schools, amplify the voices of families and educators, and build coalitions to push back against policies that undermine public education. Our children deserve more, not less.

(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.)

I truly believe that progressives could win more seats if they were willing to pull together and help GOTV and fundraise. To many times we leave it all on the candidate and let's be honest most progressives, like me, are working caregivers who don't always have the financial abilities to drop everything to campaign. Though I find the time any way I can, it is a financial burden on my family. Thank you for taking the time and for your consideration.