



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?

My top priority is improving student outcomes through a proactive and preventative model of support. Right now, more than half of Somerville students aren't meeting grade-level expectations, and when you look at historically marginalized students, that number jumps even higher. This is not about blame - it's about realizing where we are, and moving forward as a community from here. It's about focusing on a proactive and preventative model (a strong, supported, and well resourced MTSS system, and state and federally mandated Child Find procedure) to identify and manage achievement gaps. And ensuring the necessary staffing support across the board so that together, all students can read, write, and do math confidently.

My second priority is supporting our educators as they are a critical part of supporting all students. They are doing heroic work, often with limited resources and under immense pressure. We need to ensure they have the tools, training, staffing, and working conditions they need to be successful. It's about acting on the words of over 40 Somerville educators that spoke during public comment this past May citing that staffing, resources, and support are spread too thin. I'd like to work together to change that.

My third priority, I want to increase transparency and communication between families, schools, and the district. As Chair of the Somerville Special Education

Parent Advisory Council (SSEPAC), I've seen how gaps in communication and transparency can create frustration and further inequities. I believe all families deserve clear, timely, and honest information about what's happening in our school and how and why decisions are being made.

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

As a parent of two children that struggled to learn to read and write and Chair of the Somerville Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SSEPAC), I've worked directly with families, educators, and administrators to advocate for transparency, better communication, and real solutions that support student success. I've seen up close how the system falls short for our historically marginalized students and I've also seen what is possible when families are called in to work together. In short, I know we can do better.

I'm not a politician, I'm a parent, an advocate, and someone who believes deeply in what's possible. I'm running because I'm ready to do the hard work to improve outcomes, ensure every student gets the support they need, and to help shape a school system that reflects the values of our 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?

Somerville has made commitments to equity, but we're still falling short in practice. The data shows persistent gaps for students of color, multilingual learners, children with disabilities and low-income students. Our policies suggest equity, but implementation and accountability do not match our aspirational policies.

As Chair of the Somerville Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SSEPAC), I've seen how good intentions aren't enough without systems that ensure accountability, transparency, and support. We need to strengthen early targeted intervention, fully resource MTSS, and ensure staffing and training reflect the diverse needs of our students.

I'd also like to share the Somerville SEPAC Report (tinyurl.com/SSEPACreport) which addresses these issues in depth. I'm proud that this work is now being

used as a model by other SEPACs across the Commonwealth, and I hope to see meaningful change come from it.

Equity isn't just a talking point- it's how we know we're truly serving each and every student. It is exactly why I'm running for Somerville School Committee in Ward 2.

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?

Children can't learn if they don't feel safe. Every student deserves to feel safe at school. It's essential, it means standing firmly against any policy or practice that creates fear in our classrooms or discourages families from engaging with our schools.

We must make sure our policies protect students and families from immigration enforcement on school grounds and that staff fully understand those protections. I've had the opportunity to complete ICE bystander training, which reinforced for me how critical it is that our schools, students, and community members are aware of their rights and that we are prepared to uphold them. Just as important, we need to provide robust social and emotional support and outreach so every child and caregiver feels seen, respected, and supported.

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'd first like to acknowledge that the Trump administration's actions have targeted many marginalized groups including LGBTQ students, but also students with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. When we weaken civil rights protections for any group of students, we put all students at risk.

Every child deserves to feel safe, seen, and respected at school. I will continue to advocate for clear, equity centered protections and policies for all students to protect them from discrimination and harassment. I will firmly champion inclusive curriculum and training, and strong social and emotional support for our students.

Our schools must be places where every student can show up fully as who they are without fear, judgment, or harm. That's the kind of Somerville I believe in and will work to protect.

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

Somerville has a climate resolution and I support the goals of the resolution aimed at improving student and community health and resilience through high performance buildings and improvements to existing infrastructure. Our children deserve to learn in buildings that are safe, healthy, and sustainable. We must ensure that commitment goes hand-in-hand with maintaining strong student outcomes and fully resourced classrooms. We can, and must, do both. This means making sure our schools are maintained and upgraded. At the same time, we must equip students with the tools to succeed with well-resourced classrooms and educators that are supported.

There is research published by the National Bureau of Economic Research in Cambridge from 2024 that cites districts may close achievement gaps by up to 25% by having healthy air, HVAC repairs, and other infrastructure updates in our schools. A few years back, one of my children at West Somerville Neighborhood School navigated a classroom that reached over 100 degrees on multiple occasions. If ensuring healthy, clean and proper temperature air in the classroom creates a more ideal learning environment, that definitely seems worth exploring and a win-win for our environment and students and educators. As a parent and advocate, I am committed to infrastructure investments that align with our broader goal: creating environments where all students and educators are healthy, safe, and able to learn and thrive.

I am committed to infrastructure investments that are union-built, climate-resilient, and future-ready. Aligning with our broader goal of creating environments where all students and educators are healthy, safe, and able to learn and thrive.

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

Transparency and accountability start with clear, honest communication. Families, educators, and community members deserve to know not just *what* decisions are being made, but also why and how those decisions impact students.

As Chair of the Somerville Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SSEPAC), I've worked to model that approach- sharing information openly, consistently, listening to feedback, and creating space for collaboration even when conversations are difficult.

If elected, I'll continue that same practice: sharing data and progress updates in plain language, consistently being in our community and schools, and ensuring families and community members have meaningful opportunities to participate in decision-making.

Trust is built through action. My goal is to make sure every student, parent, educator, and community member has a voice at the table and truly understands.

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

In my mind, this is an extension of transparency and accountability. I strongly believe that involving our students, educators, families, and community members is how we move our schools forward, and that includes being part of budget discussions.

Budget decisions should be made *with* the community, not just for it. That means presenting information in clear, accessible language, holding open forums for feedback, and creating meaningful opportunities for students and families to understand how funds are allocated and why.

This year past year SSEPAC received a first ever budget update directly from the Special Education department. In 2025, I also worked alongside the very same people at that presentation to submit a formal letter to the School Committee calling for a special education budget rooted in long-term vision, equity, and accountability.

It's clear that when people are informed and included, they're empowered to advocate for what matters most- strong classrooms, supported educators, and equitable outcomes for all students.

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 am an advocate- have been and always will be. It's not just part of what I do, it's who I am.

This past spring, I attended multiple School Committee budget meetings and listened closely as dozens of educators spoke during public comment. What I heard was heartbreaking: teachers describing impossible choices about which students receive support and which do not because of limited staffing and resources. I sat alongside parents holding back tears as they heard their children's teachers struggle to meet their needs.

As Chair of the Somerville Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SSEPAC), I didn't just listen, I acted. I collaborated with special education advocacy leaders across Massachusetts to determine next steps. In preparation for Somerville's upcoming DESE District Review and Monitoring equity audit, I helped organize and submit a 25-page letter to DESE and district leadership outlining concrete recommendations for improving systems and supports for our most vulnerable learners.

And because there is always more to learn, I'm currently participating in a Federation for Children with Special Needs fellowship that focuses specifically on local and state policy changes to better support students with disabilities.

As a School Committee member, I will continue to bring that same persistence to the state level. I'll advocate for sustainable funding to ensure Somerville has the resources needed for all students to thrive.

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

By strengthening our public schools from the inside out. The best way to defend public education is to ensure every child can read, write, and do math confidently and in doing so, become critical thinkers and engaged citizens.

That means advocating for strong targeted interventions, supporting educators, and ensuring schools have the staffing and resources they need to meet every student where they are. When our schools are strong, equitable, and inclusive, they become the best foundation against any attempt to weaken them.

(C) Yes/No Policy Questions

1. Do you oppose the expansion of charter schools? **YES - but it is important to**

note that charter schools are the result of our public schools not meeting the needs of our students and thus we need to address systemic issues in our public education.

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.)