



Marla ROSCOE

BOARD
OF EDUCATION

FREQUENTLY
ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY ARE YOU SEEKING RE-ELECTION?

To put it simply, and it may seem contrite but, it is because I am passionate about education. A single term is not enough time to address all the issues that need addressing. As a first-time elected official, it took me well into the term to learn about policies, procedures and many of the issues that are real and present in Wallingford's educational atmosphere at all levels. As a mom of two children that are in our schools, I am vested in the quality and proficiency of the education we deliver to them, as well as for all our students. When I first ran for the Board, I very openly said that the best preparation to being on the Board was to serve one term. I believe I was correct in that regard. Although I prepared for this role, experiencing each aspect of this position has come with a learning curve- a welcomed one though. Over the past two years, I have learned so much about being an effective Board member. I will continue to fight tirelessly for the future of Wallingford's students.



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WHAT DO YOU STAND FOR?

***Well-rounded education-** As an adjunct college undergraduate professor I witness firsthand the preparedness or lack thereof of some students. I believe in providing students with a myriad of opportunities that will grow their confidence, educational experiences and skills that will allow for a smoother transition into college, trade school or the workforce



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WHAT DO YOU STAND FOR?

Safety vs Academics-

Many ask if it is appropriate to prioritize one over the other. My answer is I cannot and will not. Our students deserve both! For them to grow and flourish, they must feel safe and protected in their learning environment. I am proud of the safety improvements we have implemented over the past year related to technology, vestibules, and dedicated school personnel. That being said, at the same time, improved academic proficiency, especially on testing measures, continues to be a top priority for me. It is imperative that our students not only reach grade level core subject proficiency, but master literacy as well. Our current data points show that some learning gaps exist—learning gaps that widened, worsened, and were eventually highlighted as we came out of the pandemic. Righting the educational track will not happen overnight, but I am dedicated to the sustained effort it will take, and the continual assessment and reassessment of our current practices. Our students not only need this effort, but they deserve it, and at various levels, a successful future depends on it.



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WHAT DO YOU STAND FOR?

***To be the best you must have the best-**

My actions and vocal stance throughout my term, as well, as during our latest budget negotiations confirm my appreciation for teachers and other school professionals in our district. I know that you hear this from every school board (and once again you may think it contrite) but I believe that our teachers are some of the hardest working, most dedicated in the profession. Taking on the challenge of educating our future leaders is a herculean task, and I am passionate about helping them in their task by providing the tools and resources necessary to succeed.



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HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT STUDENTS CHOOSING THEIR CURRICULUM?

Recently, the state of CT removed the mastery diploma graduation requirement. I advocated that the once allotted mastery diploma credit should be applied toward interest and preference and put under elective credits. I believe strongly that allowing students, the opportunity to explore topics of interest. to expand their educational experiences not only improves educational excitement and engaged attendance but grows their academic resume as they transition into the next phase of education. Simply stated: more student engagement = less truancy.



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WHERE DO YOU STAND ON HIGH SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION?

Yes, I voted for the consolidation to one high school and ideally, I would like to see other locations explored. Something more centrally located to address the transportation length concerns would really be of interest to me. But right now, that vote by the Board of Ed, is somewhat of a nullity in that nobody asked the town council to fund the project, and the mayor never recommended funding- both of which would be required for the current plan to proceed. I do believe that given our current and projected student population numbers that a consolidation will allow us to have more educational diversity, additional school community opportunities and a safe state of the art facility that can successfully be maintained. Although the consolidation decision was one that weighed heavily on me for several months leading up to the vote. I am and will continue to be proud of all the work that went into making that decision.



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WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE CONDITION OF OUR SCHOOL?

One of the greatest components that came out of our townwide study was the light it shed on the other buildings that need upgrading. Addressing the high school situation properly, yet universally, will allow us to then focus on the other school buildings that are in disrepair. The longer wait to make workable decisions, the more disrepair our middle schools and elementary schools will face. I truly believe that each child should have an adequate classroom that meets the safety and educational needs. That is currently not the case. A top priority for me is to continue to bring board focus to the two middle schools and the portable classrooms at Cook Hill Elementary School. All these structures are either nearing or have reached the end of their useful life. I will continue to advocate for a waterfall plan that will allow the town to more effectively plan for these structural upgrades which will give clarity to the plan and prioritize based on need while maintaining fiscal responsibility.