

Dear Wayland SEPAC Members,

I am Jessica Polizzotti and I am running for School Committee. Thank you to the SEPAC for allowing me this space to share a bit about myself and my connection to special education with you. As a candidate for our Wayland School Committee I am focused on what's best for all the learners of the Wayland Public Schools.

I am a former regular education ELA teacher, I was certified in grades 5-12 and taught 8th grade for 9 years in Sudbury and Mansfield, MA. I left the classroom to be home with my own kids (Marcus 11, Vivienne 8) in 2009. In doing so I found my passion for education, especially special education, remained in full force.

Because of my passion to help improve education for students with special needs, I enrolled in the Federation for Children with Special Needs training program with the goal of becoming an advocate for students with special needs. Due to COVID, I have put practicing on hold and have been offering pro bono consulting services to Wayland residents, family and friends.

I have worked with Wayland elementary families in the creation of their children's IEPs and I have attended IEP meetings both as an educational consultant for families as an observer of the process.

I have been made aware that families with students with special needs have concerns about teacher certifications in regards to language based learning. I share this concern as teachers providing services should be easily identifiable by searching their licensure status on the DESE website.

During my time in the classroom I was fortunate to be placed on a team with a sub-separate classroom and a special educator with a vision. She and I were able to integrate many of her learners into my mainstream English classroom and provide these 8th grade learners with more than academic success, but also a confidence boost. It was one of my most cherished teaching accomplishments.

I believe that proper investments in special education are beneficial to our district. Special education should remain a priority for the district as we move beyond pandemic learning.

As a member of our School Committee you can be sure that I will always look at our budget and policy through the lense of our regular and special education learners alike and work to ensure both provide for the needs of all of the students in Wayland.

To find out more about me please visit my website [www.votejessicapolizzotti.com](http://www.votejessicapolizzotti.com) . I am happy to hear from you via email at [votepolizzotti@gmail.com](mailto:votepolizzotti@gmail.com) and find a time for a phone call.

Thank you!

Jessica Polizzotti