

April 11, 2023

Hello Special Education Parent Advisory Council:

Thank you for inviting me to share my journey to run for school committee and my sincerest appreciation for each member of your committee.

I have three children, Elle is 14 in 8th grade, is a Dyslexic learner and receiving Org Skills and Reading and Writing support at the Wayland Middle School. Avery is 12 and is newly enrolled in the Carroll School for 7th and 8th grade, receiving intensive intervention for Dyslexic learners and Griffen, age 8, was selected to join the newly formed Language Based Classroom (LBC) at Claypit Hill. All three on an IEP since first grade.

I have to start by acknowledging that my family would not be positioned to provide our children with more targeted intervention without many members of this committee. You are incredibly educated, personally experienced and stop at nothing to make sure that other parents and kids benefit from your lessons learned.

In the first SEPAC meeting I attended I was quickly put in my place and pressured when I stated that my kids were receiving excellent support. I was cautioned to not confuse *Support* with *Intervention*. We were getting so much support, but my kids were not getting the right intervention to establish a solid foundation to prosper. I get it now!!! After that meeting I am pretty sure I cried myself to sleep, woke up and took action. I went on walks and reached out to those people who opened my eyes. I met with the educators and felt empowered with new questions. I pursued new programs to support my kids. I took drastic measures because of the power of the members of this committee-you know who you are! Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Each candidate was just asked by the Wayland Teachers Association what is the greatest single challenge facing our school district? Hands down, I feel that Special Education is our largest district wide challenge.

In 2022-2023 Special Education accounted for 7.67% of the Education Budget which served 18.29% of our student population. We currently have 494 students in Wayland receiving special education services and/or are placed out of district to receive essential intervention. Without appropriate interventions in place, the children of the Wayland School District have been at greater risk for learning challenges and deficits, placing further strain on self esteem, families and educators.

We have a lot of work to repair Special Education district wide. If we invest in leadership and programming within our district to meet our children in their most formative years, we can meet the ultimate goal of keeping our students in the district by providing the correct interventions and programs. We can bring more inclusive services into the classroom, and support the whole child - EVERY CHILD.

Please keep reading if you're interested in a bit more about me, my professional background and my commitment to the community as a candidate for the Wayland School Committee.

My husband, Bryan, and I moved to Wayland in 2006 prior to having our three children. We tirelessly searched for a home in Wayland due to the excellent reputation of our school system.

As an active member of the Wayland Community for 17 years I have a unique perspective that combines a multi-generational pulse on community needs, three children that will soon span high school, middle school, and elementary school and a reputation for being a trusted sounding board amongst my peers. I hold this responsibility in the highest regard, and it is what drives my campaign for School Committee.

My family and I continue to find ways to give back to the programs, services, teams and schools that connect us to our community. Serving on the board for the Wayland Public Schools Foundation for the past five years I have gained valuable insight into the demands on the school budget and the needs of our educators. Annually, Wayland teachers submit grant requests geared toward enriching the core curriculum, providing new technology, and cutting edge programs that would otherwise go unfunded. I am proud to be part of the solution in coordinating events to raise awareness and donations, alongside networking with our educators to serve as a resource during the grant process. I am also actively involved in school and community initiatives including serving as a room parent, library volunteer, 5th grade activities coordinator, compost educator and "Just Like Me" program volunteer. I co-coordinated the DCF Holiday Gift drive, founded the Happy Hollow "Spirit Wear" program, fundraised for Wayland Youth Lacrosse, and chaperoned the Nashoba Ski Program. In short, when there is a need I show up and get the job done.

Professionally, I have more than 20 years of sales, marketing, recruiting, executive level business and management experience. With several years of professional management experience, I am adept at forging collaborative working relationships and bringing people to the table, inspiring critical thinking, constructively evaluating information and building consensus. I currently provide management consulting for a pediatric neurologist in the Boston area whose innovative practice focuses on serving the neuro-diverse population in a collaborative multi-disciplinary care setting.

I am running for the Wayland School Committee to support students, families, teachers, and administrators of the Wayland Public Schools.

What I bring is:

- Action-oriented and results-driven approach
- Extensive experience in business development which will complement the existing board and foster strong collaboration
- Enthusiasm and skillset to anticipate the needs of our district and unite team members to achieve our common goals
- Perspective that will lead to successful committee decisions
- Commitment to sensible policy, responsible hiring practices and fiscal responsibility

My promise to the Wayland community is that I will ask the hard questions, carefully consider all information, and work transparently to develop solutions that provide a high quality education to each student.

I am Erin Mueller and I am asking for your vote on Tuesday April 25th for School Committee.

I invite you to visit my website to learn more about me, ways to support my campaign and to connect. <https://erinforwayland.com/>