



**2022Candidate Questionnaire
Select Board/School Committee**

Candidate's Name Jeffrey Lasseter

Office Sought Belmont Select Board

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The Belmont Education Association (BEA) represents nearly 525 educators, administrators, administrative assistants, and education support personnel who work in the Belmont Public Schools. In addition, there are 500 Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) members who work in other districts or are retired public school employees who live in Belmont. Our goal with this questionnaire is to educate BEA and MTA members and ensure the election of candidates who share our vision for great public schools in Belmont. As we have done in previous years, the information will be shared with members by mail and on social media- [last year's mailing](#). Please email (belmonteducationassociation@gmail.com) this questionnaire with a high-resolution headshot before **March 7th**.

Thank you.

Andy MacAulay

BEA Political Action Leader

CMS (617) 851-5622

John Sullivan

BEA President

BHS (617) 365-1073

Below are **three priority legislative bills which the BEA/MTA have endorsed**. For each statement, please indicate if you agree or disagree with the BEA's position and then elaborate briefly to clarify your position.

Fair Share Amendment

Massachusetts voters will have a once-in-a-generation opportunity in 2022 to make sure that public education gets the permanent funding it deserves. The Fair Share Amendment would change the state's Constitution to help address the chronic underfunding of our public schools, colleges and universities. The amendment would add 4 percentage points to the tax on income above \$1 million, generating up to \$2 billion annually for public education and transportation. This could lower class sizes, strength higher education programming, reduce student debt, address the impacts of systemic racism on communities of color, and restore staff to institutions that serve the common good — which have been hit hard by decades of austerity budgets. We support the passage of the Fair Share Amendment in November.

☒ Agree with MTA/BEA's position

☐ Disagree with MTA/BEA's position

MCAS Moratorium and Changes to High-Stakes Testing

An Act expanding opportunities to demonstrate academic achievement would eliminate the high-stakes nature of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) and promote alternative assessment methods. *We support bills [S 293](#) and [H 612](#) because:*

- Students will have several pathways to demonstrate that they have met the mastery standard for competency determination, including passing a standardized test.
- Providing alternative pathways for special needs students to graduate.
- Including parent, student and educator surveys in the evaluation process.
- Creating the opportunity to expand the school curriculum and focus on teaching – not testing.

☒ Agree with MTA/BEA's position

☐ Disagree with MTA/BEA's position

Ensuring A Dignified Retirement

We support Passing An Act to provide fair and affordable public retiree benefits. [H.2623](#) and [S.1683](#) would mean:

- *Pension benefits are able to keep pace with inflation.*
- *Municipal retirees will have increased stability in health insurance premium payments.*
- *Retired public employees who are not eligible for Medicare will be better protected from skyrocketing health care costs.*
- *More economic stability overall for our hardworking public servants who deserve to retire with dignity*

☒ Agree with MTA/BEA's position

☐ Disagree with MTA/BEA's position

LOCAL ISSUES

Confronting Racism & Privilege

The union has placed a priority on confronting racism and white privilege in our schools, union, and community. Our union created Belmont Educators of Color and Allies, with a mission to Educate, Advocate, and Eliminate Racism. The group aims to educate themselves and others about the history of racism, advocate to create supportive relationships, and dismantle racism in our schools. Last year we also partnered with the BPS to establish school and district Equity Teams that meet once a month to discuss issues of equity, diversity and inclusion.

How have you supported diversity within BPS or elsewhere and how would you work to eliminate racism in our schools?

☐ I have two sons at Belmont High School, and opened a business in Belmont (Jamaica Jeff's) where I hired Belmont High School students to give them training, work experience,

opportunities to earn money, engage in the community, etc. I hired many students, with a focus on diversity (representing different gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, etc). These amazing kids were the servers, the actual definition of a community oriented business. I also held fund raisers and supported/sponsored various school activities, organizations and sports teams by giving monetary donations and allowing them to use the business space for their specific needs. Eliminating racism in schools should be a top priority, of course, and combining resources, education, and participation is key to achieving that goal.

Promoting Belmont Public Schools

What are your specific plans for promoting public education in Belmont?

___I've seen my sons thrive in Belmont public education through Wellington, Chenery, and now Belmont High School. The success of Belmont public schools should be a number 1 priority for our community. Achieving that goal means focusing resources, infrastructure, and support toward every aspect of education (teachers, administrators, facilities, activities for the kids, inclusion, mental and physical health, and opportunities for advancement, to name a few).

Engaging Parents and Citizens

What have you done or what will you do to engage and organize the parents and citizens in addressing the concerns associated with public education in Belmont?

___As a parent of kids in the Belmont public school system, it is incumbent on us to participate, and encourage any parent to participate at whatever level they are comfortable or capable in supporting education. I have used my position as a volunteer coach, and as a business owner in Belmont, to support groups of parents and concerned citizens to bring up, address, plan and act on issues that were specifically geared toward public education in Belmont. I have donated, raised money, and provided physical space for various causes to plan and organize strategy to bring positive elements of change for education in Belmont.

YOUR PRIORITIES

What are the main reasons you are running for office/re-election?

___I am running for election for Select Board in Belmont to represent EVERYONE in our town, and focus resources on what matters most. Kids, senior citizens, workers, teachers, police officers, fire fighters, public services, diversity, special needs, business infrastructure, etc – these

are what will continue to make Belmont a successful, wonderful place to live – and education is at the top of the list for quality of life and reasons to choose to live in Belmont. In all facets of our community, the people of Belmont deserve to have better transparency and a more active, impactful voice in the decisions made by town leadership, instead of just having leadership make decisions and force the results on the people.

Please specify your top three priorities you plan to address.

___education (supporting kids and seniors in that realm), attracting new businesses to increase the tax base, road building

Additional Information

Please provide any additional relevant information about your candidacy that you believe the BEA should consider.

_ My plan is to serve Belmont, because I am capable and results drive, and because I care deeply about our town. I'm a 53 yr old Belmont resident, father of two sons at BHS (Senior and Sophomore). We have two really lazy, rescue cats (Hartley and Kitty). A brief description of my experience follows:

Professional Background

- Retired CIA Operations Officer (clandestine and covert operations) in 46 foreign countries, 3 active war zones and the continental U.S.
- Led and trained U.S. agencies, task forces, foreign police and military units to conduct counter terrorism operations, clandestine activities, collection and surveillance, counter narcotic interdictions, and multi-faceted investigations
- 24 yrs experience in Planning and Executing successful strategies and processes for results driven, comprehensive intelligence operations.
- Specialize in discreet security of operations, Intelligence Investigations, Law Enforcement actions, and fact-finding missions.
- Extensive experience in leading the creation of concepts for operations, large personnel groups, managing multi-million dollar budgets and allocations, decision making based on financial and objective oriented successes.
- Entrusted by the US Government with authorities to administer US policy focused on actions abroad in order to obtain mission goal. Results Driven.
- I taught adult education for the USG, CIA, DEA, FBI, NCIS, and State Dept for 3 years and place immense value on education.

Jamaica Jeff's in Belmont

- Created a business/restaurant in Belmont focused on family, kids, good food and relaxed sports bar atmosphere.

- Specifically community oriented, hired Belmont high school students to train them with life skills, dedicated fund raisings and used the restaurant as a community space.

Licensed by state of Massachusetts as a private investigator

- licensed to carry concealed firearms
- domestic and foreign Investigations
- Private, Personal & Corporate Security
- Domestic & International Travel Safety Training