

# Town Meeting Candidate Statements

## Submitted to the [School Enrollment Parent Group](#)

**Arlington Town Election Saturday, April 1, 2017**  
**Polls open 8 am - 8 pm**

★ [Precinct Lookup](#)

★ [Precinct Map](#)

★ [Polling Locations](#)

Please see the [League of Women Voters Guide](#) for a list of all candidates running and biographies of the Board of Selectmen and School Committee Candidates.

**Do you need a Ride?** The LWVA will provide rides to the polls. Please call them at 781-354-0907 the week of the election.

**Candidates were tasked to tell us about themselves and why they would make a committed supporter of Arlington Public Schools.** Please note that the School Enrollment Parent Group does not endorse candidates. However, in an effort to help voters make informed decisions, we provided candidates with the opportunity to submit statements. If a candidate is not listed here, it simply means they did not submit a statement. The statements are posted as they were submitted and have not been fact checked. Candidates are listed in ballot order.

### **Precinct 1 - 3 year seat**

★ **Marian King**  
[melikinggreen@yahoo.com](mailto:melikinggreen@yahoo.com)

I do support APS, and at every stage of education, you must put your own child first. Especially if the school is unwilling or unable to do so in a timely manner. I believe that special needs and alternative learning styles support has changed since our family experience. My 3 children, now all in their 30's spent time in APS. Elementary was a generally positive experience. My children were atypical learners and Ottoson and AHS became more difficult. My oldest boy was placed in a special transitional program called Reach-Up for most of AHS, until he chose to return to all regular classes his senior year. As parents we disagreed with our younger son's IEP with decreased support recommendation at the end of 6th grade, which was enacted anyway at Ottoson. We chose to begin homeschooling him late in 8th grade so that he would not learn to hate learning. He chose returning to AHS in 10th grade. My daughter chose to attend an alternative learning school after graduating Ottoson and a year of homeschooling. Our family relocated to Arlington for better schools after a year in East Somerville in early 1990's.

★ **Christina Hildebidle**

[christinahildebidle@gmail.com](mailto:christinahildebidle@gmail.com)

My husband and I live in East Arlington with our two sons who will attend Thompson soon. I have professional and personal experience in education issues including a Masters in Public Policy. Over the course of almost two decades I have worked for and with non-profits focused on serving low-income and public school children across the country, including in Massachusetts and the Boston area. My husband is a public school teacher in a nearby district, we both attended public schools from K-12, and intend to give our children the same experience. I strongly support public education and look forward to representing Precinct 1 with that in mind.

## **Precinct 2 - 3 year seat**

★ **Pete Gast**

[petegast@timstellmach.com](mailto:petegast@timstellmach.com)

781-646-4279

I am an active member of the Hardy School community who has two children in the Arlington schools. I have served on the Hardy PTO for 7 years, and I am currently serving as a Vice President. Education has always been a high priority for me. In college, I taught high school students through the Educational Studies Program at MIT. I believe that Arlington schools are an important part of what makes Arlington the incredible community that it is.

★ **William Logan**

[wlogan@rcn.com](mailto:wlogan@rcn.com)

For some reason I did not see the request for statements but I am Attorney William Logan, Candidate for Re-Election Precinct 2. I have been a Town Meeting member since 1995 and also my daughter goes to Hardy School as a kindergartner. I am also a Commissioner on the Arlington Human Rights Commission and one of the Registrars of Voters. In the past I was the Vice Chair of the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee. I am very concerned about the Mugar proposed plans and its effects on student enrollment, the environment, flooding, and traffic. I also supported the reopening of Gibbs Jr. High. ( I grew up mostly in Arlington and went to school at Hardy and Gibbs.). Please consider me for one of your votes on April 1st, 2017.

★ **Bill Hayner**

[bill\\_hayner@comcast.net](mailto:bill_hayner@comcast.net)

I have been a Town Meeting member for 12 years and on the School Committee for 6 years. I taught elementary and special education for 28 years. My wife, Bonnie, and I have 2 wonderful children who have blessed us with 4 grandchildren.

I value being an active member of Town Meeting. It is exciting to hear from involved citizens regarding the issues that impact our daily lives in Arlington.

The only contested elections this year are at the Town Meeting level. Some have said these are not important. I disagree. This is the only place tax payers have a direct say on what we spend and if our taxes will be increased as a result of additional spending. Accountability is something we all want. Now you can see how each member of Town Meeting has voted and attendance during the last two years, all you have to do is go to

<http://www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/town-meeting> and see how we have voted.

★ **Bonnie M. Hayner**

[bonnie\\_hayner@comcast.net](mailto:bonnie_hayner@comcast.net)

781-492-0196

<http://billhayner.org/Biography.html>

I attended Arlington School from Kindergarten to graduation from AHS in 1964. My husband, Bill Hayner, is on the school committee. Our 2 children are educators (see Bill's website). I also am a member of the local Special Needs association as well as Co-Coordinator for Arlington Girl Scouts. I believe that a great education is the right of all children and the schools should have the funding and resources to accomplish that. I was once told that the children in school now will be my doctors, lawyers, teachers when I am old. I want them to be well educated to help me.

### **Precinct 3 - 3 year seat**

★ **Allan Tosti**

[abtosti@rcn.com](mailto:abtosti@rcn.com)

I have been a representative from Precinct 3 for 44 years. I also serve as Chair of the Town Finance Committee and have served on the Town Enrollment Task Force, Chair of the Town Government Reorganization Study Committee and Co-Chair of the Elementary School debt exclusion ballot committee for the first successful campaign to rebuild our outdated elementary schools. As chair of the Finance Committee, Town Meeting Member and member of the Enrollment Task Force, I supported the Gibbs, Stratton and Thompson rebuild projects.

★ **John Ellis**

[john@opticsforhire.com](mailto:john@opticsforhire.com)

Arlington is a destination for families because of the quality of our schools, our many parks and playgrounds, and walkable, safe streets. This in combination with all the things that make Arlington a great place for grown-ups, is a key driver in the growth of property values over the 17 years I've lived in town. Committing to great public schools is a commitment to keeping Arlington great.

## Precinct 4 - 3 year seat

★ **Michele Phelan**

[michele.j.phelan@gmail.com](mailto:michele.j.phelan@gmail.com)

Born and raised in Arlington, and returned in 1991 to live in this terrific town! I'm proud of the changes we've made to accommodate a diverse and growing population and the care this town takes to welcome families and small businesses of all kinds. I have a young son in public school, and am aware of our growing student population (from 3,500 in the early 90's to 5,600 currently). I want to help our town make smart decisions to provide the best education and educational environment we can!

## Precinct 5 - 3 year seat

★ **David F. Swanson**

[dswanson922@gmail.com](mailto:dswanson922@gmail.com)

My name is David F. Swanson. I live on Dartmouth Street near the Thompson School with my wife, Stephanie, and our rescue puppy, Harley. I am an Arlington Human Rights Commission member and work as a public interest lawyer for Arlington state Senator Ken Donnelly, helping to shape public policy and improve the quality of life in our community. In addition to these experiences, if elected, I will bring to Town Meeting a strong commitment to our public schools. My father is a college professor and I am the product of public schools. I know firsthand the value of quality education and that a strong public school system is the foundation for a strong community. In the next few years, Town Meeting will vote on many important school issues, including design and build money for the Hardy and Gibbs schools this spring and many future policy and budget proposals regarding the new high school. In each instance, you can count on me to vote for proposals that support: expanded infrastructure investments to accommodate enrollment growth, innovative design plans that support collaborative learning and easy adaptability to advancements in technology, and greater opportunities for active community and parental involvement with our school system.

★ **Adam Badik**

[aebadik@gmail.com](mailto:aebadik@gmail.com)

My wife (Beth) and I are proud parents of two young children. We are working professionals, Beth is an engineer and I am an attorney, and we believe that it is important for everyone to have access to a quality education. Local schools, public parks, and recreation space are critical anchors of a community, bringing families together and fostering relationships between neighbors. We believe that diversity enriches a community and also believe in the importance of welcoming our neighbors and supporting each other. I appreciate your consideration and I'd very much appreciate your vote for Town Meeting. Thank you.

★ **Patrick.M.Hanlon**

[patrick.m.hanlon@gmail.com](mailto:patrick.m.hanlon@gmail.com)

(703) 967-6720

I am running for Town Meeting with Adam Badik and Dave Swanson. What binds us is ardent support for Arlington's public schools.

This year's warrants include capital projects for Gibbs and Hardy, which are urgently needed to accommodate increased enrollment. I fully support them. But the term of a TM member is 3 years. In that time, critically important decisions will be made about Arlington High School, and the schools will continue to struggle with tight budgets affecting the educational program. The schools need strong support from Town Meeting.

In today's world, education is the key to our children's future. It also underlies the quality of life that everyone enjoys. It was only through the unrelenting efforts of Arlington residents that our schools achieved their current excellence. With rising enrollments, tight budgets, and urgent capital needs, the schools depend on us to continue that progress.

I am a retiree drawn to Arlington to be near my grandchildren. I have been an education activist since my own children were young - for several years heading a 40,000 member parent-teacher group that championed the schools before the county board of supervisors. I have the time, experience and commitment to make a difference.

★ **David Watson**

[dwatson.tmm@gmail.com](mailto:dwatson.tmm@gmail.com)

I'm running for re-election to Town Meeting to continue working on your behalf for a healthy, sustainable Arlington.

- Precinct 5 Town Meeting member since 2014
- New Arlington Redevelopment Board member
- Biking and walking transportation consultant

I believe in:

- Better transportation options: biking, walking, transit and driving
- More open space and opportunities for physical activity
- A clean, healthy environment and sustainability in Town operations
- Thoughtful development and fiscal responsibility

I've voted for:

- Complete Streets that are safe for everyone
- Community Preservation Act
- Mixed use development
- Supporting our schools

## Precinct 6 - 3 year seat

★ **Aimee Lim Miller**

[AimeePrecinct6@gmail.com](mailto:AimeePrecinct6@gmail.com)

I've lived in Arlington for 10 yrs. My husband & I bought our first home here & love this town. We have two APS children (3rd & 7th). I've been a PTO member (VP & webmaster) at the Hardy School for 8 yrs. I'm an avid gardener, cook, and artist who enjoys the outdoors and love living near Spy Pond & Arlington Center. You'll often find my family walking, biking or running on the bike path.

I'm passionate about building strong communities. I'm an advocate for quality public education, enhancing a healthy town infrastructure that promotes walking & biking, helps businesses thrive in our town centers, and supports environmentally aware practices. I love the character of historical homes, the balance of green spaces & the vibrant art scene in Arlington.

I'm a product of public school education & an advocate for support services as I'm grateful for what they offered me in life. I learned how to speak English with the help of a school tutor since I was the only child in my school who needed ESL services. I work as a psychotherapist & have a private practice in Cambridge. I naturally gravitate toward advocacy for equal rights & social justice issues. I look forward to helping Arlington continue to be a strong & caring community.

## Precinct 7 - 3 year seat

★ **Alex Bagnall**

[alex.bagnall.tmm@gmail.com](mailto:alex.bagnall.tmm@gmail.com)

I have lived on Wyman Street for ten years with my wife and daughter. I was the precinct 7 captain for the Build Arlington's Future campaign. My daughter is in the third grade at Thompson. I am a proponent of open, transparent, effective and accountable government that works for all town residents. Having high-quality public schools is important for many reasons, from the personal of educating one's own kids to the larger societal question of giving all children access to a quality education. I will work to make sure we, as a town, continue to make the our schools a priority.

## Precinct 7 - 1 year seat

★ **Moriah Tyrrell**

[moriahtyrrell@gmail.com](mailto:moriahtyrrell@gmail.com)

I have lived on Harlow Street for the past seven years with my husband and four children. Our oldest is a student at Ottoson, two are at Thompson and the fourth is in preschool. As one of the

founding members of the School Enrollment Parent Group, I have been involved in leading advocacy for our public schools. This past spring I served as co-manager of the Build Arlington's Future Campaign. While schools are important to me I am also mindful of the many residents and programs that make our town great and I am excited for the opportunity to have a voice for all residents of Precinct 7.

## **Precinct 9 - 3 year seat**

### **★ A. Michael Ruderman**

[amruderman81@post.harvard.edu](mailto:amruderman81@post.harvard.edu)

(781) 929-7847

A decade ago, with money running out for the Thompson and Stratton School projects, I insisted in Town Meeting that Arlington fulfill its promise of seven, modern, neighborhood elementary schools. I served on the original Thompson School Building Committee, and we secured the crucial state aid that made the new Thompson School a reality.

Since then, I have advocated in each successive Town Meeting and in every election campaign for the quality of buildings our students and teachers deserve. I was a leader in the triply-successful 2016 debt exclusion, funding elementary and middle school expansions, assessing Arlington High School's condition, and committing Arlington's support to a rebuilt Minuteman High School.

And when Minuteman needed a district-wide vote in September 2016 to finalize its funding, I was proud to rally Arlington's overwhelming YES vote. At Minuteman, I am in my fifth year as a member of its General Advisory Board (for the Robotics and Engineering "shops"), advising on curriculum and college readiness.

I would be honored to continue this support of Arlington's public education if reelected to Town Meeting.

### **★ Lisa Blankespoor**

[Lisaslomba@gmail.com](mailto:Lisaslomba@gmail.com)

This November's election felt like a call to action. I am a former teacher, mother of two daughters who attend the Thompson school, and someone who cares about this town. Supporting our schools, providing a safe and inclusive community for all residents, and protecting the environment are all issues which I would work to promote.

### **★ Steve Liggett**

[smliggett@gmail.com](mailto:smliggett@gmail.com) (email is best)

781-777-1994

I became a Precinct 9 Town Meeting Member in 2011 after becoming aware of the immediate need to rebuild the Thompson Elementary School -- I wanted a seat at the table as tough issues were discussed and difficult decisions were made. During the 2015-2016 school year it became clear that enrollment in all of our schools was outstripping projections. I helped create the School Enrollment Parent Group to raise awareness about the town-wide enrollment challenges and to advocate for sensible solutions like reclaiming the Gibbs School and adding capacity at both Thompson and Hardy. That advocacy continued with the 2016 debt exclusion campaign to fund the critical improvements to our schools, the results of which clearly demonstrated the voters' commitment to making the necessary investments.

We have made amazing progress, and we have more work ahead of us. As a concerned member of our community and parent of students at both Ottoson and Thompson, I ask for your vote in Precinct 9 so I can continue to have a seat at the table as we work to achieve the improvements we need in our schools.

## Precinct 9 - 2 year seat

★ **Neal Connor**

[neal@nealconnor.org](mailto:neal@nealconnor.org)

I was a TMM in Precinct 3 as a write-in for the express purpose of supporting the Thompson rebuild; my daughter was a student there, and I found the Town's failure to extend the rebuild program to the poorest neighborhood unfair. We prevailed, and the Thompson is now a model. I am running again as a write-in for the abandoned seat in Precinct 9 to make sure my precinct's children have full representation in Town Meeting rather than an empty seat. I support the rebuild of the High School to maintain our accreditation, and increased budget and policy transparency for parents and voters.

## Precinct 11 - 3 year seat

★ **Leba Heigham**

[leba@alum.mit.edu](mailto:leba@alum.mit.edu)

My name is Leba Heigham and I am running for re-election as a Precinct 11 Town Meeting Member. This fall will mark my 21st year as an Arlington resident. I am the proud parent of an AHS student and an Arlington public school graduate. As a product of the public schools, I devoted most of my professional career to public education, as a teacher, math coach, and assistant principal. As a parent, I ran the Bishop Circus fundraiser and served on Bishop School Site Council. Politically, I served two terms on Arlington School Committee and two terms as a Town Meeting Member. While on School Committee I was proud to be involved with our Special Education program meeting state compliance, stabilizing our School Administrative Office, equalizing the educational programs in all our elementary schools, and addressing elementary school under and over enrollment. During my time on School Committee, I became



keenly aware of the need for public education advocates to serve as Town Meeting Members. I would be honored to continue representing Precinct 11 and continue giving back to the town that has given me and my family so much.

★ **Jonathon Glazebrook**

[j.glazebrook@gmail.com](mailto:j.glazebrook@gmail.com)

As a product of public schools, son of a public school teacher, and father to two young children (one of whom will enter Bishop Elementary in the Fall), I am keenly aware of the importance of public education and our Arlington schools.

The entire community benefits from a strong public school system, but that benefit is derived from involvement and interest on the part of the community. I strongly believe that the best way for our schools to continue to provide for our children and our community is for parents, teachers, and the community at large to be engaged and involved. I am personally committed to supporting the local school system to ensure that all children in Arlington are given the opportunity for a quality education.

Perhaps it's a bit trite, but it does take a village...or town, in this case. I look forward to your support in Precinct 11.

★ **Ian Goodsell**

[ianfor11@iangoodsell.com](mailto:ianfor11@iangoodsell.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/ianfor11/>

I am asking for your vote on April 1 to represent Precinct 11 at Arlington's Town Meeting. My wife and I bought our first condo in Arlington 17 years ago and quickly fell in love with this town. Those of you who have met me know that I care deeply about our community and want to help Arlington face the many challenges we have ahead.

Funding and maintaining a quality public school system is very important to me. My daughter is a public school student, currently attending Ottoson Middle School. One reason I became a candidate was my desire to be a part of the conversations our town will have about the public school system over the next three years. Arlington has several major school construction projects planned and the explosive growth of the student population is a trend that we will need to monitor. I will make thoughtful and practical decisions about these and any other issues regarding Arlington Public Schools for the families in Precinct 11.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope to have the chance to represent your interests at Town Meeting.

## Precinct 12 - 3 year seat

★ **Michael Cayer**

[mike.cayer@gmail.com](mailto:mike.cayer@gmail.com)

I have had the good fortune of representing Precinct 12 for the past 12 years as a Town Meeting Member. During that time, I have been a strong supporter of the Arlington Public Schools, which our three children have attended. I am looking forward to Arlington High School making its way through the MSBA process over the next several years with the successful result of a new high school for all of our town's children. During my time in Town Meeting, as well as my 6 years (through this past January) as a member and Chair of the Arlington Redevelopment Board, I believe I have been a committed and independent voice for all of Arlington. I hope that I might continue my advocacy for Arlington representing Precinct 12 in the future and I thank you for your consideration.

★ **Juli Brazile**

[juli@brazile.net](mailto:juli@brazile.net)

I am running for re-election (Juliana H Brazile on the ballot) to represent my neighbors and serve my town. I have worked on override and debt exclusion campaigns to support vital services and prevent devastating cuts and I believe it's time to start making concrete plans to keep funding strong. I am the chair of the Vision 2020 Standing Committee and a member of the Recycling Committee and I know how much important work that contributes to our community is done every day by volunteers. I hope we can involve many voices in the upcoming conversations about our future.

★ **Eric Helmuth**

[eric@erichelmuth.com](mailto:eric@erichelmuth.com)

I am running for re-election to Town Meeting (Precinct 12) where I have served since 2010. Although my spouse and I do not have children, I volunteered for the last Override campaign and the recent debt exclusion campaigns to support school rebuilds, and I have been a proud supporter of every school funding finance article brought before Town Meeting. Paying enough taxes to support strong public schools is not only the right thing to do for our community's children, it's the smart thing to do for our property values and quality of life in town.

★ **Sandy Vorce**

[svorce@gmail.com](mailto:svorce@gmail.com)

781-643-0912

Investment in public education is essential for Arlington and all communities. Living with a school superintendent I am well aware of the intricacies of school policy, administration, and

funding. I fully support the currently planned school building projects and am hopeful the High School building project will succeed as well. I work full time at Mass Audubon Habitat Education Center and Wildlife Sanctuary where I support nature education programs and engage hundreds of school age volunteers and interns each year. Thank you for considering me as a Town Meeting Member.

★ **Caroline H. Murray**

[carolineprecinct12@yahoo.com](mailto:carolineprecinct12@yahoo.com)

I'm a Brackett Parent (Paul/Kindergarten and Calvin/2nd Grade) so I'm invested in Public Schools on a personal level. I value public schools as a way to teach children academically but also create a community, shape their social engagement, and create future world menders!

One thing I would bring to Town Meeting that may be a unique advantage over others is my 18-year career in the construction industry. Managing construction projects not only means that I can read plans and specifications, it means I can proficiently understand construction budgets, and schedules. I am well-versed in the processes of Feasibility Study, Proposal Review, even Architect, and Contractor engagement. These skills mean I could provide insight when concerns or questions arise relating to School Committee decisions. Furthermore, as a LEED Accredited Professional (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), I understand the costs and challenges but also the benefits of green building to create, not only a reduced environmental impact, but also a healthy space for children and staff that will make them and our whole town proud.

## **Precinct 13 - 3 year seat**

★ **Edward Miracco**

[emiracco@gmail.com](mailto:emiracco@gmail.com)

617-301-2499

My name is Edward Miracco and I'm running for a Town Meeting seat representing Precinct 13. I am a biochemist working in Kendall Square at a mid-size biotech company (Moderna Therapeutics), and me, my wife, and 1yo son moved to Arlington last September. We're very excited about sending him to the Arlington public schools. If elected a member of Town Meeting, I plan on fully supporting our commitments to the Stratton rebuild as well as making sure we continue to support the Arlington high school project now that we're almost in the feasibility study period. I also feel very strongly about Article 21, but that isn't school related so I'll avoid getting into it here. Thanks!

★ **Heather Fowles**

[Heatherfowles@gmail.com](mailto:Heatherfowles@gmail.com)

781-316-2655

I'm running for re-election to town meeting, representing precinct 13. I'm a strong supporter of public education. I attended public K-8, junior high, and high schools, and two of my siblings made their careers in teaching. Good public schools in our hometown gave us the foundation we needed for college and our careers. Shifts in the economy have made education even more important in the intervening decades. I believe it's our responsibility to ensure that an excellent public school education, in appropriate and well-maintained facilities, continues to be available for Arlington kids.

In Town Meeting I supported, and will continue to support if re-elected, projects to: keep commitments made to the community, such as the Stratton rebuild; to plan for the future of the Arlington high school; to address the need for quality technical and vocational education through Minuteman; and to develop short-term and longer-term approaches to respond to increasing school enrollment in Arlington.

## **Precinct 14 - 3 year seat**

★ **Deanna Graham**

[graham.deannam@gmail.com](mailto:graham.deannam@gmail.com)

My name is Deanna Graham, and I am running for Town Meeting, precinct 14. I believe that maintaining and growing the quality of our school system is of the highest priority for our town. I feel this way not because I am advocating for my Dallin 3rd grader, but because I believe that a strong school system has innumerable benefits at both the community and the global level. I believe, too, that we can and must meet the needs of everyone in our community with creative solutions and a spirit of inclusion. I support healthy and open communication, civic engagement, and expanding diversity in our town. I would vote yes on the article to make Arlington a sanctuary city. I have been a home owner in Arlington for 10 years, and in addition to having a child at Dallin, I have a mom in Arlington Senior Housing. I served on the town's Diversity Task Group in 2012 and 2013, and am running for Town Meeting because I want to participate in our democracy and to be involved in facilitating dialog around key issues. I ask for your vote on April 1, and welcome any opportunity to hear your thoughts or discuss the issues. Thanks!

## **Precinct 15 - 3 year seat**

★ **Ed Starr**

[edwstarr@comcast.net](mailto:edwstarr@comcast.net)

Experience with Town - I led the TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee to the Board of Selectmen) for about a decade. Much of our effort was improving the safety around schools and the walking to school - crosswalks, drop-offs, access routes, etc. Because of this I have had personal interactions with school and town leadership. My daughter graduated from our schools.

Personal Views - I believe public education is the foundation of our society. Yes - we need police and roads, but an educated population is an absolute necessity. I am a very strong supporter of public education. Arlington is making major investments in schools, and it should continue. I expect we will need an override vote somewhere along the line, and I will support it.

★ **Eileen Cahill**

[eileentighecahill@gmail.com](mailto:eileentighecahill@gmail.com)

My name is Eileen Mary Cahill. I am running for Town Meeting in Precinct 15. I am a proud lifelong resident of Arlington. After graduating Arlington High School in 1994, I attended Villanova University to study Civil and Environmental Engineering. Through my work as a professional civil engineer and a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Accredited Professional, I developed a deep understanding of municipal infrastructure, working with dozens of towns throughout the state. With this experience, I have a keen understanding of the value of feasible and cost effective decisions for the long-term benefit and sustainability of Arlington.

I would love the opportunity to represent our Precinct and to help make the responsible economic decisions that will sustain our town's infrastructure. I look forward to sharing my qualifications with Precinct 15 as we help to strengthen the foundation of this vibrant, dynamic town.

★ **Naomi Greenfield**

[www.naomiforarlington.com](http://www.naomiforarlington.com)

I am Naomi Greenfield and I am running for Arlington Town Meeting for Precinct 15. I have a Masters Degree in Education from Harvard Graduate School of Education with a focus in Technology, Innovation and Education. I am passionate about project-based learning, fostering multiple learning paths, and universal design for learning. I am fortunate to be part of the Stratton Elementary School community, where my daughter is in first grade and the Arlington Children's Center community, where my son is in preschool. I care deeply about the education my children are getting at school and in the community around them. I love seeing the increasingly diverse classrooms that my children have experienced and would love to find more ways to celebrate, promote and tap into the diversity within our schools. With our increasingly challenging and contentious political climate, I believe that focusing on our children's education is the best way to make the most tolerant, open-minded and respectful citizens for the future.

★ **BethAnn Friedman**

[bethann-friedman@comcast.net](mailto:bethann-friedman@comcast.net)

My name is BethAnn Friedman, and I am running for Town Meeting, Precinct 15. I am a long term resident of Arlington, a product of public schools, and appreciate the importance of good schools to a vibrant community. As a former town meeting member, I actively supported the rebuilding of Stratton Elementary School and supported continued funding of Minuteman as an

alternative high school. If elected, I will continue to support capital school projects that address increased enrollment and in 2-3 years will be supporting a much needed rebuild of Arlington high school. I ask for your vote.

★ **Rachelle Dobbs**

[rachelleldobbs@gmail.com](mailto:rachelleldobbs@gmail.com)

My name is Rachelle Dobbs. I am a Boston College graduate, a former desktop publisher at Deutsche Bank and for the last 8 years a mom to 7 year old twin boys and 4 year old twin girls. I would now like to focus my attention on Arlington to make sure it continues to be an inclusive community that values all our residents and spotlights our history, art, diversity, social responsibilities and excellent schools.

After renting for 9 years on Medford St. (Prec. 9) it was time to move. My husband and I looked at towns all around the greater Boston area but kept coming back to Arlington for a handful of reasons. One of the top reasons was the school system. We viewed our purchase on Brattle St. (Prec. 15) not only as an investment in the property, but also as an investment in our children's education. I am running for Town Meeting to ensure that our educational system continues to flourish and provides the best education for all of the children in Arlington.

If you are in Precinct 15, I would appreciate your vote.

Thank you.

## **Precinct 16 - 3 year seat**

★ **Karen Wachs**

As a TMM, I would bring my experience as a renter and then homeowner in Arlington; as a parent looking for early child care and anticipating our public schools for her child; as someone who drives the streets here, has navigated the sidewalks with a stroller, and has a loved one who bikes; as someone who frequents our libraries, parks, and fields; as a consumer at our coffee and ice cream shops, hardware stores, and restaurants; as someone who first came to Arlington as an adult and fell in love with it, and wants to raise her child and grow old here. I would use my training and experience as a Clinical Psychologist with a concern for ethics, the environment, and healthy children and families. My concerns will at times diverge with the group of folks you see below.

I invite you to forward this message, and to please private message me if you have specific questions about my candidacy. I would love to hear from you. Thank you!

## Precinct 17 - 3 year seat

★ **Amy L. Slutzky**

[amy.l.slutzky@gmail.com](mailto:amy.l.slutzky@gmail.com)

<http://www.opposablethumb.org>

I have more than three decades of pediatric practice in Occupational Therapy including seventeen years with the Cambridge Public Schools. I moved to Arlington in 2001. I am in my fourth year of private practice in Arlington and I am bringing my work to the broader community. This involves expanding public awareness of the critical foundation and life-long contribution that sophisticated visual-fine motor development and sensory-gross motor function provide for an individual's intellectual and social development. My philosophy of education is a holistic one. At its center, the Classroom Teacher's most difficult responsibility is sophisticated coaching of social/emotional development. Not only is this a most indispensable component to a vibrant learning climate, it creates an early appreciation of our students for social and economic equity.

Previous Occupational Therapy employment includes work in early intervention, sensory integration clinics, special education collaboratives, and pediatric psychiatry. I earned a Masters in Science in Occupational Therapy at Columbia University in New York in 1979, a B.A. in Sociology at S.U.N.Y. Binghamton 1975, and Sensory Integration International Certification.

## Precinct 18 - 3 year seat

★ **Daniel Parmer**

[dparmer@gmail.com](mailto:dparmer@gmail.com)

I've lived in Arlington for just two years, but we chose to reside in this town because of its outstanding reputation for a good quality education. My six year old daughter attends Dallin Elementary and is thriving. I work at Brandeis University as a research scientist and I teach high school students at Hebrew College in a supplemental education program. As the son of two public school teachers and the product of public schooling myself, I understand the importance of providing educators with the support and resources they need. Likewise, our PTOs, which have become a bedrock of support for our students and schools, are vital to our schools' success and deserve a lot of credit. It is important that the policies and budgets we pass reflect our values, to ensure all students receive the opportunities and assistance they need to learn and grow. Arlington has made incredible strides to support its schools through years of budget cuts. I believe that making investments in our schools is the right thing to do and provides the town with the greatest return on investment. Our children need safe, modern spaces to learn and engage and I support funding various capital improvements to renovate and modernize our schools.

★ **Heather Cooke**  
[cookeha@gmail.com](mailto:cookeha@gmail.com)

I have lived in Arlington for five years and I am a scientist working in the biotech industry. My husband and I moved here before we became parents because we knew that Arlington was a great place to raise a family. While the schools may have room for improvement, we knew the elementary schools were top notch. We will absolutely be sending our now three year old son to public school and as Town Meeting Member, I will support the public school system wholeheartedly. I went to some of the best schools in the country growing up in the Midwest and hope that the Arlington school system can continue to improve to be ranked among those schools. All children living in our town should benefit from APS to the best of the system's ability and it is up to us to make it happen.

★ **Kaspar Kasparian**  
[kkasparian@rcn.com](mailto:kkasparian@rcn.com)  
781-738-2484 (text or call)

I am a humanist and retired public school teacher who views public education as the jewel in our community and who believes that we can and must do a better job including students by address students strengths and need. This require focusing on developing and emphasizing what is most likely to nurture their positive growth and maturation.

Arlington Public Schools, with many talented and committed teachers and students who perform well when evaluated through our current assessments, does remarkably well; however, there are still too many youngsters who are not developing adequately for one or a number of reasons. This is most concerning to me, especially with the narrow emphases that our states, and now our nation too, chooses to evaluate our student's progress and our teacher's effectiveness. From my experience and understanding, high stakes testing is detrimental and destructive; it is a cheap, divisive business model to classify our children and teachers as winners and losers.

There are no inexpensive short-cuts to improving public education. We must invest in smaller class sizes, teacher prep time to modify curriculum and evaluate its positive impact on learning, and grow a strong home-school partnership.

## **Precinct 19 - 3 year seat**

★ **Paul Easton**  
[easton.paul.c@gmail.com](mailto:easton.paul.c@gmail.com)

As a former special education teacher, legal aid lawyer advocating for low income students, and current attorney with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, I've dedicated my professional life to ensuring equal, high quality educational opportunities for all public school



students. With the first of my two children entering APS in a year, I decided to run for Town Meeting to have a voice in APS's future, and to ensure that that the school district will meet the needs of all families in Precinct 19 and throughout Arlington - particularly given current challenges posed by rapidly increasing school enrollment in the district. I appreciate your vote on April 1st and, if I am elected, I welcome your thoughts regarding any article that will come before the Town Meeting. Thank you.

## **Precinct 20 - 3 year seat**

### **★ Rich Fields**

I am a lawyer and governance expert who served two terms as chair of the board of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Middlesex County. My wife and I have lived in Arlington for almost six years and we both want to do more to contribute to the town. Part of that is because the Arlington schools will soon educate our two young children.

## **Precinct 21 - 3 year seat**

### **★ Jordan Weinstein**

[jordanweinstein@rcn.com](mailto:jordanweinstein@rcn.com)

I am a Boston native and, with my wife, an Arlington resident and homeowner since 2005. We do not have children but, as members of this great community, we both see the value in supporting a strong and vibrant public school system. In fact, each time an override to fund the Arlington public schools here has been on the ballot, I have voted in the affirmative. And I will continue to do so as a Town Meeting Member.