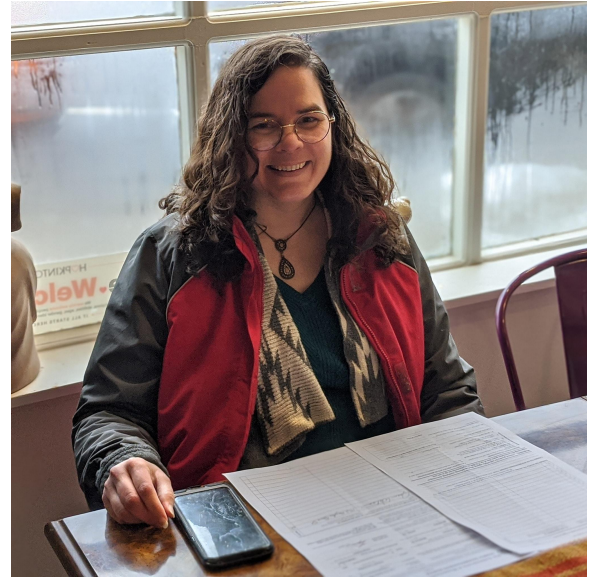


Hi,

My name is Lya Batlle-Rafferty and I am running for School Committee. In our current climate of growth in the school system, inaccurate student enrollment projections, and budget expansion, the ideal candidate is one who has prior experience with school boards. I've lived in



I moved to Hopkinton about 5 years ago for many reasons, but primary amongst them was the school systems. The High School more than lived up to expectations. One of my children is now in UMass Amherst and the other is about to graduate this May. My husband and I have been delighted with Hopkinton as a whole. Like I said when I ran for Board of Assessors, the first time I walked around downtown all I could think was that I walked into a Normal Rockwell painting.

But, you probably want to know my qualifications. In my 10 years in Pittsburgh I served in the Board of Trustees for a non-profit charter school. During my tenure we grew to two schools, at which point our original Principal began to play a role much like the Superintendent here does, and is now at four schools. I also served in the Pittsburgh Dataworks, a big data consortium, where I collaborated with top representatives of the Watson group to start a High School big data competition for all the surrounding school districts. We ran it successfully for three years when I left, getting funding from the organization in Dataworks for all related expenses incurred by the school districts. My Master's degree is in Adult Education and Training which means I understand the importance of professional development. Finally, I have now spent three years on the Hopkinton Board of Assessors, getting a deep understanding for how our budgets affect the taxes of everyone in town.

My focus:

- Diversity and inclusion. As a latina and the mother of two children who received support, I understand that every year of a child's life is precious and every scar they receive due to poor treatment can cause lasting damage.
- Proper vetting of the school projections. Our Growth Study Committee has found some interesting facts about student growth in town. As a Data Scientist, I'm interested in whether the projections from those numbers are in any way similar to the ones we are getting, and if not, why not.
- Better long-term budget projections. I know that budgets are a negotiation with the town. I understand that it's hard to have them jump year after year. As someone who has had to work on five year strategic plans for schools, I believe I can help balance current needs and future so we aren't always playing catch up.