168 Boston Hill Road

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Editor

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To The Editor:

What sort of characteristics do we want in our Board of Education candidates?

Mostly, I think, we want them to be qualified, competent, and compassionate. They need to put kids first. They need to avoid squabbling and focus on real problems and real solutions.

Andover has three great candidates for that.

The first two are well-known to residents who've been paying any attention to local matters. Gerry Cremé has served well on the BOE for many years, including time as its Chair. His have been steady hands on the reins, with a clear love for the children that served him well in his career as a teacher and now serves Andover's schoolchildren.

Mike Beckwith is still working as a teacher, after an earlier career in finance. He brings to the Board the zeal of a parent of Andover children and a real understanding of the complexities of school finance.

Sharon St. Rock is running for the first time. With years of nursing background and a decade as a school nurse, she brings a different perspective but the same focus on the needs of children. She is a problem solver, and a wonderful listener. She is so well qualified that after the Democrats endorsed her, the Republicans followed suit. As one who's been extremely upset by the situation caused by national Republicans, I may even vote for her on the Republican line, just to show I still can.

Highly qualified, extremely competent, and unwaveringly compassionate: that's all three of these candidates. With a focus on kids, and backgrounds in education, finance, and health care, they are a formidable group.

Please vote for Michael Beckwith, Gerry Cremé, and Sharon St. Rock for Andover's Board of Education!

Sincerely,

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