**About Me**

I’m a parent with two children in Merrimack Schools: a kindergartener at Thornton’s Ferry and a 5th grader at the upper elementary. Our family has called Merrimack home for almost 15 years, we love the community here! Especially the parks and walking on the trails with our dog, Ike. The kids have been involved with MYA soccer and baseball, attended preschool at the YMCA, and we’re just starting to get into Girl Scouts.

Professionally my career has been in business and non-profit sectors, first managing the events department at Business NH Magazine, and then directing volunteer operations for NH Granite State Ambassadors (NHGSA). At Business NH Magazine I ran the highly successful Made In NH Expo, plus their other annual events, and was responsible for generating more than 25% of their annual gross revenue. At Granite State Ambassadors I coordinated training, communication, and events between their 300+ volunteers and many member volunteer centers. NHGSA is a volunteer organization that supports tourism in NH, the state’s second largest industry.

Between those positions, when my son was young, I even spent a few years driving school buses in Merrimack! Recently I’ve been substitute teaching, which has been wonderful, challenging, and incredibly eye-opening. Our educators work so hard, and care so deeply about our schools and kids.

Since 2016 I’ve served on the NH Board of Trustees for the Eastern States Exposition (Big E), and have recently been nominated to chair the Promotions Committee, which is responsible for bringing awareness to the organization and its mission to folks in NH. This year I’m the Cookie Mom for my daughter’s Girl Scout troop, which has been tons of fun! I also volunteer with the Granite State Ambassadors.

**Why I’m Running for School Board**

I’m running for School Board because I care passionately about our schools and our community, and making sure our schools remain welcoming spaces that provide quality educational opportunities for all children. My unique background, especially the organizational and communication skills, will be of great benefit to the Board.

Community is a huge priority for me. A strong sense of community is vital for student success, teacher retention, and parent satisfaction. I am most looking forward to connecting with all members of our community, to hear your concerns and aspirations for our schools!

**My Priorities**

*Set students up for success*

* Our students need to be supported as we come out of the pandemic and offered whatever assistance necessary to fill knowledge gaps and transition successfully to a more “normal” learning environment.
* We need to look at our dropout rate in Merrimack, and identify and address issues that lead to dropping out, in the lower grades.
* Our reading instruction in the elementary schools needs to be examined. Some of that work is underway already, and it’s vital that it continue, so our students have a strong foundation in literacy.
* The successful student should be defined by the student and their families: college preparation, military service, and entering the trades are all desirable outcomes for our graduates and all should be supported.

*Be a place where good teachers want to work*

* We need to bring our compensation and benefits package to a level that’s competitive with other local districts, so we can attract and retain the best teachers.
* Make sure our superintendent and administrative staff are fostering a community/work environment where people want to be.

*Communicate with parents and the community*

* I am committed to being responsive to parent and constituent concerns, while knowing that some of these communications are subject to state law. If for some reason I can’t address a specific concern, you can count on me to explain why.
* I am always happy to take time to explain how and why decisions are reached.

*Facilities planning*

* Merrimack has some unique challenges with its facilities, with multiple buildings ranging in age from 18 to 60 years old. Our facilities planning needs to be well researched, organized, and consistent, with funding planned well in advance in order to be transparent to taxpayers.