

Worcester School Committee candidate profile: Dianna Biancheria

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The Telegram & Gazette is running profiles of the candidates for Worcester School Committee in this fall's election. All 13 candidates who are on the ballot for the city's Sept. 10 preliminary election were given an opportunity to answer a questionnaire.

Name: Dianna L. Biancheria

Occupation: Family caregiver

Political experience: In 2009 I was elected to the School Committee; previously I volunteered as a campaign worker for a number of people campaigning in state and municipal elections. Also a chief aide to former Worcester Mayor Raymond V. Mariano.

Connection to schools: Former school-to-career partnership coordinator for the Worcester schools; coordinated summer school programs and worked on other district issues as mayor's aide; developed a training program on finance and basic banking for the schools.

What are your top three platform issues?

Accountability: I will continue to ask the tough questions on funding to ensure our tax dollars are spent wisely on students in the classroom. Academic excellence: I will continue to advocate for vocational program opportunities under Chapter 74 and Perkins funding for all students. Safety: parents entrust their children to school officials and demand a safe learning and teaching environment.

What is an issue in the schools you feel should get more attention?

Attention to the changes in the state's formula for Chapter 70 funding for Massachusetts public schools needs to continue to be a priority.

Why should voters pick you to serve on the School Committee?

I ask for your vote on Sept. 10 and Nov. 5 to continue to have the honor of serving on the School Committee. We need to continue working hard and advocating for all students, including expanding beneficial initiatives. As a committee member I will continue to spearhead effective supportive strategies and initiatives with my continued commitment to our students, staff and our community. I believe our schools are our most important public resource; I ask for your vote to continue working on our investment in our schools and our community.