

Worcester School Committee candidate profile: Molly McCullough

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This week the Telegram & Gazette begins 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: Molly O. McCullough

Occupation: Sales

Political experience: Currently serving second term on the School Committee.

Connection to schools: Lifelong Worcester resident, daughter of a former Worcester public schools educator, chair and founding member of Planting the Seed Foundation (an organization that helps homeless children and families and children in need in the Worcester area). Past Worcester schools and Junior Achievement volunteer. Nieces and nephew currently enrolled in the city schools.

What are your top three platform issues?

Creating more opportunities for all students across diverse backgrounds. Utilizing programs such as AVID to give students an even playing field. And continuing to work toward providing additional vocational opportunities as well. It is important for us to utilize the strategic plan in order for us to work on these items.

Continuing to evaluate district policies and offerings to ensure they are consistent throughout the district. This will allow us to also evaluate and monitor ways discipline is utilized in a more even manner across the system.

Working to continue to get additional funding and to change the foundation budget in order to get our students, staff and schools the resources they need and deserve.

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

Many times much attention is focused on negatives, however we have many phenomenal offerings and happenings in the public schools, and we need to highlight these items. We are also fortunate to have phenomenal teachers and staff members. Working together with the School Committee, administration and the city, we need to emphasize our strengths and work on areas that can stand to be enhanced.

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

I believe that having had the opportunity to serve two terms has given me the ability to finally gain some traction on issues that are vital to our system. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue this work. I truly feel that serving on the School Committee is an honor and that I have more work to do to make our schools even better.