



Worcester Education Justice Alliance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Worcester Education Justice Alliance School Committee Candidate Report Card**

Worcester, Massachusetts - October 29th, 2019

The Worcester Education Justice Alliance (WEJA) is students, parents, educators, school staff, and community members standing together, working to create more just and equitable public schools in Worcester.

WEJA knows that the School Committee Election is an important place where we can advocate for greater racial and social justice in education. Rather than endorse candidates, WEJA sought to use this opportunity to assess how each of the school committee candidates aligned with our core values. We developed a list of 27 policy questions that are connected to current educational policy debates that could conceivably come before the Worcester School Committee. We asked candidates to indicate whether they would be in favor of the question (Yes) or against it (No) much like they would have to vote on the school committee. We compared their answers against the way WEJA would recommend voting based on our values. We also gave them an opportunity to provide comments. If their answer differed from WEJA's ideal answer but our steering committee felt that their comments reflected important considerations, we gave the candidate a ½ a point for their answer. Candidates got points for every answer that was consistent with WEJA's resulting in a score out of 27. If candidates did not answer a question, they were given a zero unless their answer was offered in the comments or they obtained partial credit from their commentary. Their final score was converted into a percentage and the percentage was converted into a grade just like Worcester Public Schools do on their report cards. We hope this process is able to help voters decide who they want to vote for. Not everyone will agree with WEJA's preferred answer for each question, regardless, digging into each candidate's responses will allow voters to decide how each candidate aligns with your own values and viewpoints.

Available on our website is each candidates grade, their percentage, and number out of 27 correct according to our rubric, as well as WEJA's values, the set of questions along with WEJA's preferred answer, and a spreadsheet showing a snapshot of each candidate's answers. Click on each candidate's picture to see a PDF of their responses and explanations to each question in the format that the survey was distributed. Find all this at the link below.

<http://worcesteredjustice.org/campaigns/2019-school-committee-election/>

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