

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Bernadette Kingsley

Democratic Party

Biographical Statement

Ed.D., Educational Leadership (Manhattanville College)

MA, Teaching (Manhattanville College)

BA Biology (Dartmouth College)

Bernadette is an accomplished educator with over ten years of classroom practice and research experience focused on well-being in schools. Prior to teaching, she was a data analyst for Morgan Stanley in the Human Resources and Learning & Development departments. A resident of Weston for over four years, Bernadette has served on the town's Survey Research Committee and HES PTO.

In your opinion, what is the most significant issue facing Weston today?

I love Weston, and I feel that the most significant issue we face is safeguarding our neighborly spirit as we welcome change. My hope is that, together, we strive to reduce divisiveness and embrace difference, reconnect after months of COVID isolation, and welcome new ideas while continuing to honor our rich history and traditions. Through community interactions, productive discourse, and our shared love of this town, we can prioritize the well-being of our children, families, and all members of our community to grow and evolve as a kinder, more compassionate, inclusive, and vibrant Weston.

Why are you running for this specific office and what do you bring to it?

I am running for the Board of Education because I care deeply about the social, emotional, and academic well-being of our children. Our amazing schools are the heart of Weston, shaping our hopes and dreams for the future. With two children in Weston Public Schools (HES and WIS), I am invested in our schools' present as well as future. My experience as an educator, researcher, and parent has given me the knowledge, skill, and insight to support a thriving and inclusive school community.

What is the most important issue this board/commission faces and how would you potentially address it?

The goal of the BOE is to guide the WPS in preparing our children to be problem-solvers, ethical leaders, and stewards of hope in a competitive, global society. As a member of the BOE, I commit to:

- Stay informed on CT/national school board issues and best practices
- Cultivate relationships with the superintendent and school leadership
- Continually monitor WPS performance in relation to district goals
- Participate in ethical policy development that considers student voice and encourages a culture of compassion and respect
- Demonstrate fiscal responsibility by exploring alternatives, examining costs vs. benefits, and utilizing creative thinking