

Amanda Fargiano: Candidate Statement, School Committee

Dear Neighbors,

My name is Amanda Fargiano, and I am running for one of two open seats on School Committee.

I have lived in Hopkinton since 2010 with my husband Chris and two sons Ben (18) and Tim (16). With one child successfully transitioned to college and one a sophomore, I am running for School Committee to use my experience, knowledge, skills and judgement to serve all Hopkinton families as we work together to educate our children.

Why School Committee?

I am passionate about public education and its role in developing lifelong learners and engaged, productive citizens. Unlike any other educational environment, public schools provide a microcosm of the communities in which graduates will live and work. In Hopkinton, we are fortunate to have an outstanding education system with dedicated, skilled and professional teachers, staff and administrators. It is an exciting time for our town, and, as we look ahead, I firmly believe our increasing socio-economic, racial, religious and ethnic diversity will only strengthen our ability to prepare our graduates for global citizenship. As a product of a diverse school system (Framingham), I have seen first-hand how a blend of cultures, traditions and viewpoints serve to enrich the community as a whole, and I am excited about the prospects of serving on School Committee as we continue to grow and evolve. That said, growth and change are hard. I am looking forward to addressing the fiscal challenges we will face as we support our town's growth from both an education and broader municipal perspective, and I am hoping to work creatively to meet ALL students' needs while building on our tradition of excellence and keeping taxpayer value in mind. Finally, I believe with clear and transparent communications, we can all work together to continue the success of our schools and our community, and I am hoping to work with school administrators and leaders to improve the timeliness and transparency of communications impacting our children's education and development.

A Little More About Me

I have volunteered extensively in both the town and in the schools in roles involving Youth Commission, eHop, Hopkinton Middle School School Council, advocacy for effective math pathways, HPTA, Superintendent Search Committee and others. I have also had the great opportunity of participating in civic leader training through the Metrowest Leadership Academy, which offered broad insight into the varied inner workings of municipal government and has helped me understand how school budgets sit alongside all other town budgets in the service of citizens. With one son launched off to college, I have witnessed a complete journey across the full spectrum of K-12 education and have a much greater perspective on how various factors impact post-secondary planning. As a parent, I have also had the good fortune of seeing K-12 education in two very distinct school districts: Framingham and Hopkinton.

By way of personal qualifications, I graduated from Framingham South High School and earned a bachelor's degree from Harvard University. Following graduation, I worked in information technology, first at Accenture (then Andersen Consulting), then at Polaroid. While at Polaroid, I earned an M.B.A. from Boston University, and I have spent the last decade or so working as a part-time accounting administrator for my husband's company while raising our two boys.

As a School Committee member, I will work tirelessly to ensure Hopkinton provides an outstanding growth-oriented education for all students while remaining fiscally responsible to all residents. I would love to hear from you! Please share any school-related thoughts/concerns via email at: amandaforhopkinton@gmail.com.

I would be honored to represent you on School Committee—please vote for me on May 21st!