

I bought my house here in Marion 13 years ago. I moved into my home on the day my daughter was born. She started her Sippican education in Project Grow and will now be finishing 7th grade at ORR Junior High. My son Adam, who is 8, also attended Project Grow for three years and is currently in the Second grade. I also have two older sons, Ethan who attends college and is 19 and Alex who is 21.

I am a Special Needs Kindergarten Teacher and I am certified in both Elementary Education grades 1-6 and in Special Needs pre-kindergarten – 9. I have two bachelor's degrees, one in English and one in psychology. I also hold a Masters in Education from Simmons. I have taught in classrooms from pre-kindergarten to 7th grade over the last 14 years and am a highly qualified educator.

Besides being a mom, a full-time teacher and School Committee member here in town, I was the co-director of the Sunday School Program at St. Gabriel's here Marion for over four years. I have coached basketball through Marion Recreation. I currently sit on the Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative Board and have done so for three years. I am also a voting member of the Tri-Town Early Childhood Council for the last three years as well. I rejuvenated and was a past president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Education of Young Children for over four years. During my four years as acting president of the Southeastern Association of Education for young children, I brought our chapter through the reaccreditation process and offered parents and educator's educational training programs in the area. During that time I also sat on the Massachusetts LEAP board for two years. As a member of both these boards I was an active participant in the grassroots of Early Education For All. I was elected onto the Sippican School Committee three years ago. It has been an amazing and rewarding experience. I sat on Sippican's School Council for two years prior to becoming a School Committee member. I have also been a manger for several Destination Imagination teams at Sippican School. My commitment over the last five years has not changed, and I want to continue that commitment over the next three years.

So why am I running again? I hope to continue with my commitment to help make Sippican a leader in quality education. The development and growth of this process for our children in our elementary school is very important to me not just because of my own son who attends Sippican or because my friends or neighbors children do, but it is important because of ALL the children that walk through the doors. I am invested in the community of Marion and believe in ALL our children. I have the experience, the dedication and passion to work hard for this. I want to continue to be there to help guide the policies, the curriculum, and budget to get the best we can to make ALL our children successful.

It is important to know the issues and understand them. As the cost of education continues to rise, it is important that we balance the budget in innovating ways while keeping the curriculum up to date and competitive. In order for our students to compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we need not only to address the curriculum needs of our students but also need to address the technology of tomorrow, providing our students with a competitive edge. I want to continue to improve our scores, individual growth and progress on MCAS each year while providing teachers with professional education and the tools necessary to allow them to provide the best instruction to all our students.