

ON THE BALLOT - TOWN MEETING 2006

The Beacon asked every candidate running for office to submit 250 words and a picture. Here's what we received.

are in the works.

Every child needs the best education the community can afford, so it is important that when we suffer cutbacks in funding we do not make comparable cuts to programs and staff. We must be prepared to pay more locally to maintain the educational system. But, this cannot be done regardless of cost; at the same time we must look for savings.

Everyone deserves an opportunity to help shape the future of our school and as your representative I remain accessible and open to your suggestions. I bring to the Board a willingness to study the issues fully and ask good questions of the administration; and the ability to make informed decisions based on knowledge of educational issues, good fiscal management skills, and common sense.

Thank you for your confidence in electing me three years ago. I look forward to your continued support on March 14.

Renee Goodwin

Over the last few years, I have had the opportunity to meet many members of our community during my involvement in several programs and organizations. For those of you whom I have not had the pleasure, this will serve as an introduction. I am currently serving on the School Board in an interim position. I have been thrust into topics of annual budget, tuition increases, and the facility study. I am enjoying the learning process and patience of the Board as they address my inquisitive nature. It is an asset in the process because of my need to investigate every aspect and avenue of the issues presented.

With my certificate in project man-

agement, my professional life offers opportunities to work at the local, regional, and at the national level. I have the ability to work hand in hand along with leading to assist in development and management.

I have the highest respect for education as well as an appreciation for the need to offer it at a reasonable cost. I believe this diversity to be an asset to the Board and the committee. I have a child in each of the preschool, elementary, middle, and high school levels of our District. I am confident that our children will continue to benefit from a sound education in a healthy learning environment. I look forward to continuing to serve in our community. I would appreciate your vote on March 14.

David Powers

For some time I have considered running for a School Board seat. With a son, Madison, (fifth grade), a daughter, Bailey, (third grade), and another son, Myles, (kindergarten, fall 2006), the time seems right. I feel it is important to take an active role in our children's lives and in their education.



I am a long-time resident of Andover, and I am actively involved in youth sports as a baseball/basketball coach and referee and as treasurer of Andover Youth Baseball.

There are many difficult decisions ahead for the School Board and the citizens of Andover:

- finding a reasonable and affordable

solution regarding the possible re-negotiation of our current contract with Merrimack Valley High School

- negotiation of a new contract for our high school students
- a long-range plan for an aging facility
- the real need for more space, either by renovation or addition
- how to retain our qualified and caring classroom teachers and staff.

These issues, along with continually under-funded federal mandates, will require some tough choices.

Our School Board has always strived to find a workable balance between the needs of our children and the impact on the residents of Andover. With your support, I would like to be a part of finding the solutions to these and the other challenges that lie ahead. I would urge all of you to take the time to visit AE/MS and Merrimack Valley High School and see the wonderful things going on. Thank you for your consideration.

School District Meeting Moderator

William Bardsley

Andover voters have been kind enough

to choose me as School District moderator for more than 30 years – or maybe is it that nobody else wants the job?

In prior years, I normally have left this choice up to write-ins. Last year, however, my margin over Ed Becker, our Town moderator, was just one vote. Ed does an outstanding job, he and I are friends, and we have a happy relationship splitting Andover's moderator duties. Nevertheless, I do enjoy being a moderator, so just to preclude surprises I filed for the position this year.

I explain to the voters present at each year's School District meeting that they have the ultimate authority, that they can overrule any moderator's ruling by majority vote. Citizens need to know that Town and School District meetings are not infomercials. The meetings are legislative bodies which hold real power.

A moderator's responsibilities are to keep the meeting on track and moving along, maintain order and a respectful atmosphere, and supervise the votes, which latter includes being sure that the parliamentary procedure is always clear to the voters. None of this is hard to do in Andover, and I will be pleased to continue to serve as School District moderator.

I do wish more citizens would attend both School District and Town meetings.



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