

## "Meet the Candidates"

### School Committee Candidate Forum May 15<sup>th</sup> 2018

#### Opening Statement

Good evening.

Thank you (**MCTV**), (**GM Partnership**) & (**Montague Reporter**) for hosting this Forum.

For those of you who don't know me, I am Joyce

#### **Background.....**

- Lived most of my life in Montague;
- My daughter is a graduate of TFHS
- Degree in Marketing & Business Admin
- Network Manager for the Mass Dept. Transitional Assistance -- Now Retired
- Town Meeting Member
- As a student and/or educator, I have been involved w/ education over 50 years.
  - **Religious Education Coordinator:** Designed & implemented curriculum; Prepared budgets; and was a teacher
  - **Gill-Montague Schools:**
    - A parent;
    - An employee; Paraprofessional in the classroom, Title I; Special Needs; and Administrative Secretary
    - Served on School Committee for 22 years
- Life member of the Mass Association of School Committees

#### **I believe for School Committee to be successful, there must be:**

- Effective communication with active listening
- Collaboration and creative thinking
- AND Professional Development

It's important for me that every child not only be taught, but also that every child be given the desire to learn.

I look forward to hearing your questions tonight and providing you with a clear understanding of my perspective.

## **Closing Remarks**

Thank you Deb Bourbeau, MCTV, Gill-Montague Partnership and The Montague Reporter, for making tonight's Forum possible. I believe, it is important for our communities to get to know us, hear our views on the issues, and to feel a part of the process.

I am deeply concerned for our communities and the future of our schools!

- Our Communities are divided, frustrated and feel disrespected. Our Communities are divided, frustrated and feel disrespected.

While serving on the GMRSC, I learned to use DART (District Analyst & Review Tool). This year, in preparing to run for a seat on the GMRSC, I reviewed the District Profile & Trends from 2013 – 2017 at the Office of District and School Finance on the DESE website. As a Town Meeting member, I also reviewed the budget information provided by the Superintendent. This is what I learned...

- Net loss to choice & charter tuitions are at \$1.5 million a year!
- A Decline of student enrollment over the past 5 years of more than 100 students!
- There has been a continual reduction of staff & programs: 2.6% since FY14
- We remain at Level 3 – since 2013 to the current year!
- Medicaid Reimbursement \$936,255      \ Payments of \$47,000/yearly for 20 years  
This will be a major impact on the Budget
- FY19 Budget – ADM - **Increase** \$21,475      Instructional – Decrease - \$31,881
- Our towns and the state are at their limit. Our revenue **must** come from retaining students, reducing school choice and charter.

School Committee has 2 primary responsibilities - policy and budget. Our policies must reflect our choices for education. We must then adopt a fiscally responsible budget that will enable the school system to carry out the Committee's policies. Budget decision are investments in students, staff, services, programs and facilities that **must** be sustained.

I am committed to finding ways that will **reverse** the 'controls of budget' to the 'choices of education'!

I believe my 22 years on the GMRSC and my professional development are evidence of my ability to effectively utilize my time, energy, and experience to serve the District & the Communities.

Thank you for the time you have given to all the candidates this evening.  
If you want positive change...I ask you for your vote on May 21st.

## **Contact Information**

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