

"Meet the Candidates"

School Committee Candidate Forum May 15th 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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