



**NANCY ASBEDIAN**

REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ~ INCUMBENT

Caucus Nominee: Yes

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### **INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

Please let me begin by saying that I love Shawsheen Tech!!

I love the students and staff...they are both inspiring and humbling in their commitment to the Tech.

I love the many programs we offer...from culinary and cosmetology to automotive and electronics to medical assisting and graphics...and so much more.

I have enjoyed representing you on the Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational-Technical School District for the past three years and would like to continue.

I had every intention of presenting these words in person at Town Caucus to ask for your support to serve another term but because of Covid and its implications, I have decided against attending caucus and am asking for your write-in vote once again.

I ran for the School Committee for the first time three years ago, armed with limited knowledge of Shawsheen but with a great respect for vocational- technical education. It was such a last-minute decision that I was too late for caucus and ran as a write-in candidate. My primary motivation was to inform Bedford students and parents of the incredible opportunities Shawsheen offered. I believe I have taken a major step in that direction.

As a Bedford parent many years ago, I recall encouraging my children to consider attending there. But as middle-schoolers tend to cling to the familiarity and security of their friends and groups, my children were no different and did not consider Shawsheen an option. There was also very little information offered at that time.

However, with the active interest from the staff of both JGMS and Shawsheen Tech, Bedford currently sees more promotion and visibility of the opportunities of the tech than 25 years ago.

My tenure has been busy. At my first meeting the board accepted the resignation of the superintendent, appointed an interim, and made plans to search for a replacement. Now three years later we again are searching for a superintendent amid the overwhelming challenges presented by Covid 19.

I currently serve as Chair of the Policy Subcommittee which spent considerable time reviewing and rewriting the Admissions Policy. We are now facing the same process for the entire Policy Manual of Shawsheen...this will be a long-term undertaking.

Having said this, I urge anyone interested in serving on the Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational-Education school committee to consider doing so...especially those with any connection to the Tech either as parent or student, past or present. It is a rewarding experience and brings people and ideas from the other district towns..Burlington, Billerica, Tewksbury, and Wilmington..together in an environment of cooperation with the goal of achieving the best results for the benefit of the students.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or Brian O'Donnell, who also represents Bedford on the committee.

By the way, did I mention that I love Shawsheen Tech and I ask for your vote?

## **REPLIES TO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS QUESTIONS**

### **Q1—What are your objectives in representing Bedford on the Shawsheen School Committee during the next three years?**

When I first ran for the Shawsheen Valley Regional Technical School Board, my primary goals were to increase both Shawsheen's visibility in Bedford and Bedford's enrollment numbers. As I now run for a second term, those goals remain the same.

My first term has been eventful.

We began a superintendent search at my first meeting three years ago, and we are currently in a search for his replacement. We again seek quality leadership to continue to guide Shawsheen's outstanding legacy and promote its exceptional programs for Bedford students.

I am currently Chair of the Policy Subcommittee which is in the process of reviewing and updating our policy manual. If re-elected, I am committed to this project which will require a major time commitment going forward.

Despite obvious Covid-related obstacles, Bedford's Town Manager, School Superintendent, School Committee members, and JGMS Principal have toured Shawsheen to see for themselves the opportunities it offers Bedford students. And thanks to the efforts of staff at both JGMS and Shawsheen in improving our visibility, Bedford's enrollment numbers are increasing.

### **Q2—Historically, Bedford enrollment at Shawsheen has been significantly lower than the other communities eligible to enroll students. What do you think accounts for the lower interest on the part of Bedford students?**

I believe our enrollment is low because Bedford parents and students are unaware of the options that Shawsheen provides.

Students choose from over 20 skills and trades, from culinary and computer technology to automotive and cosmetology, and most participate in coop jobs to insure a successful transition into the workplace. They carry a full academic schedule balanced with their skills training.

Shawsheen offers 20 varsity and 15 sub-varsity sports and 95 championship banners represent our students' successes. Our students are both busy and well-rounded.

More than half attend college or post-graduate training, and some enter the military. But each graduate always carries the pride of a vocational technical education forward into their careers.

I urge anyone who believes in career vocational technical education to consider running for Shawsheen school committee. We are ten members representing five communities with the goal of helping Shawsheen students to thrive. We currently have former educators and former Shawsheen parents among those serving. Perhaps in the future, we will also have a former student join us.