

## Candidate statement for Worthington School Committee

My name is Alison Todd. I would be honored to receive your vote to serve the town of Worthington on the school committee for another term. I attended a small rural public school in a cash-strapped town in Vermont for my entire education when I was growing up in the 70s and 80s. My mom was a teacher. My grandma was a school nurse. My grandfather was on the school board. Now I have two children of my own at RH Conwell. It is deeply important to me that rural kids have access to a great education; I also know well the constant tension between funding education adequately so our schools are ones people want to send their kids to, while also managing cost to protect vulnerable taxpayers.

I have served on the school committee since 2015 and served as Chair for the last 2 years. In these seven years I have gained a great deal of experience and knowledge. Especially during the past two turbulent years of COVID, I have shown I bring the calm temperament, thoughtful listening, and the planning and organizational skills to be a steadying presence on the committee as we cope with the inherent ups and downs of overseeing a school district in a small town.

I have worked for Worthington's interests in these ways in my time on the committee:

- Planning and serving on the Superintendent hiring committee
- Advocating for and working to build a preschool program
- Negotiating multiple salary contracts with staff
- Negotiating the Tuition and Central Office Service agreements with Hampshire Regional
- Working with the Finance Committee to increase transparency and clarity in our budget process
- Focusing, as chair, on developing communication with other town boards and opening more doors to community members to share thoughts with the committee
- Advocating at the state level for support for rural schools
- Communicating with chairs and members of school committees in surrounding districts and across the state to make sure our own committee is considering all the necessary angles to make good decisions
- Developing a calendar of annual School Committee tasks and a packet of orientation materials for new SC members

During a time of political upheaval and complicated decision-making, I have devoted myself to keeping my ears open and listening carefully to all the groups the school committee must serve: students, parents, teachers, community members and tax payers, both current and future.

Serving on the school committee is a responsibility that I don't take lightly. I am acutely aware that the school budget is the largest annual fiscal responsibility borne by the town, and that each decision we make affects the finances of every household in town. I work hard and do my homework to make sure those funds are used frugally and responsibly to provide an excellent public education for the students of Worthington. I hope you will elect me to continue this important work for another term.

Sincerely,  
Alison Todd