

# THE BEDFORD CITIZEN

## Michael McAllister – Candidate for School Committee

*Incumbent and Caucus Nominee*



### Events:

No events scheduled

### Contact information:

(781) 275-8968

[Mmcallister2000@hotmail.com](mailto:Mmcallister2000@hotmail.com)

## 2016 Citizen's Caucus Statement

It seems that regardless of what position nominees are running for tonight –Assessors, Health, Library Trustees, all of them – everyone faces the same few questions: Why is he running? What qualifications does she have? Can he *really* make the time commitment? What impact will she have? I'll try to answer all of those in my 3 minutes.

**Why am I running?** I am running because Bedford is my community. It is where I grew up. It is where I met my wife. It is where I choose to raise my children. It is where I choose to have my children educated. I am fortunate to have options when it comes to their education: As an employee of the Belmont Public Schools I can bring them with me to Belmont, where I believe they will receive a world-class education, but I send them to Bedford because I believe it is a system that is equally excellent. It is also *their* community. When I was their age I grew up in a neighborhood next door Lora Goldenberg, who paid me every Tuesday evening to babysit her children while she attended Selectmen meetings. Her husband, Bruce Murphy, was just as busy with FinCom meetings, Assessor responsibilities, and other civic duties. On the other side of my house was Julie Turner, who is now – but really has always been – *the* source for Bedford civic news. A few houses down the street was Mike Rosenberg, one of our current Selectmen. I am running today in their mold because they are great community members to emulate. I guess I am doing my part to fit into the neighborhood!

**What qualifications do I have?** I believe that my qualifications are strong. Public education is something I feel that I understand exceptionally well. It is something that I have dedicated the last 17 years to learning about – as a classroom teacher, as a curriculum director, and as a principal – and something that I expect to spend the next 20 years learning more about. There can be a lot to learn when a new member joins the School Committee because public education can be like a language unto itself, complete with more acronyms than you can imagine: RTI, NCLB (now known as ESSA – the Every Student Succeeds Act), DESE, NAEYC, and ELL, just to name a few. Fortunately, it is a language I speak fluently. My day-to-day work prepares me well for this. However, there are unique things to Bedford that I have learned by serving on the School Committee that my work in the Belmont Public Schools did not prepare me for: McKinney-Vento laws for educating homeless students, Impact Aid for Hansom residents, and the 1:1 iPad initiative at BHS. I am proud of the work we have done over the last three years, and especially proud of my leadership of the committee this year as it's Chair as we address surging enrollment, the changing needs of families, and the need to develop more school spaces. It is work that I hope to continue for another three years.

As a public school Principal, I will admit that I am not swimming with extra time but I'm sure none of us are. I try to be the first one at school in the morning, and, as it turns out, I am generally the last one to leave. But if long hours are a disadvantage, K-4 Principals have one advantage: our nights are generally free because most of our students are in bed. As a parent I'm not proud to say I can't attend every school event in Bedford – I can't leave school to attend my kids' concerts, it'll be hard to be there to see after school games, and I try to request parent-teacher conferences in the evening. But night School Committee meetings are one way that I *can* be involved.

When I first inquired about running for the School Committee three years ago, Noreen O'Gara said to me: *"Good school districts like ours are nurtured by great communities."* I'm running for School Committee because Bedford is my community, and I hope to continue to make our school district even stronger than it already is.

Thank you.

[\*\*Click to read Michael McAllister's candidate statement in The Bedford Citizen\*\*](#)

[\*\*Click to read Michael McAllister's statement of intention to run\*\*](#)