



To: Town Council Members, Remaining Amherst School Committee Members and
School Committee Candidates for terms ending in January 2024

From: Lynn Griesemer, President, Amherst Town Council

Re: **Final questions based on discussion at September 11 and 18, 2023 joint meeting**

Date: September 20, 2023

Attached are the final set of proposed for School Committee Candidates whose term will end in January 2024. These questions are based on our discussion at our joint meeting on September 11 and 18, 2023.

Cc: Amherst Town Manager
Amherst School Superintendent

DRAFT



Attachment A: Final Questions for School Committee Candidates

All Candidates will be asked to prepare for the interview by writing down key points for themselves in advance of the interviews. In the event of technological difficulty, we will ask candidates to submit their answers in writing by September 28, 2023 by 2:00 PM.

Opening Remarks [2 minutes]:

Please Provide Answers to these questions [1-2 minutes each]:

Role of the School Committee:

1. The School committee is expected to collaborate with and hold the Superintendent accountable at the same time. How would you approach this dual role to achieve the best outcomes for students?
2. Tell us about an experience you have had collaborating with a group, particularly where opinions were in conflict or the decision was controversial?
3. Please share how you have responded to criticism in the past.
4. What role can you play to help ensure that the school committee's practices, processes, and decisions are equitable, antiracist, and affirming to people of diverse gender identities and ethnic backgrounds?
5. The Schools and the Town have stated commitments to end structural racism and achieve equity for all students. What role can you play to uphold these commitments?

Strengths of and Areas for Improvement in the Amherst Public Schools:

6. What do you think is one strength and one area for improvement in Amherst Elementary and Amherst-Pelham Regional Public Schools?

Current and Upcoming issues facing the School Committee:

The School Committee over the next three months will need to set up a search for a superintendent and begin the budget process. As you respond to the next two questions, please include relevant skills, knowledge and experience you will bring to the School Committee that will help the committee with these processes.

7. How will you help to ensure the Superintendent search is set up to identify, recruit, and hire a high-quality candidate who understands the needs of our districts?
8. How will you approach the upcoming budget cycle?

Concluding Remarks [2 minutes]: