

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CANDIDATES GUIDE

2008

David A. Keele – School Committee

Background and qualifications:

Thirty-Seven year resident of Westford; 1983 graduate of Westford Academy. Also attended classes at the Frost School, Robinson School and Abbot School. Served four years on the Westford Finance Committee, one year as Chairman. Married to my wife Kristen with three children, Lilly, Tess and Gracie, currently students in the system.



Occupation: Attorney

Education: BA Labor-Management Relations (UMass Amherst); JD Law (Suffolk University Law School)

My overall knowledge of the budget process, the presentation of the budget, analysis of the budget and implementation of the budget as it relates to the schools will allow me to hit the ground running in the area which I consider will be the most important for a school committee member to grasp and understand. My knowledge of the school budget as it relates to the overall town budget gives me the background to work with my fellow committee members to formulate a school budget with the fiscal discipline that maintains the standard of excellence our schools have established while also continuing to be responsible to the tax payer.

1. What do you think are the top issues facing the School Committee right now?

Westford residents, tax payers and our children have the privilege to live in a town where the education of our children has always been and will continue to be of the highest priority. Our schools, the administration, teachers, along with the parents, have created and educational environment which promotes educational excellence and challenges our children. The top issue facing the school committee right now is to continue to provide the highest quality of educational excellence to our children during a period which fiscal constraints on the town's budget and therefore the school's budget will be the dominant issue.

2. What issues most influenced you to run for School Committee and what would make you a good committee member?

The issues which most influenced my decision to run was the simple fact that at the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year, all three of my children will be enrolled as students in the Westford school system. To date, it has been a pleasure to interact with the schools and their staff. I have found a level of openness and professionalism which has inspired me to volunteer my time and effort. During my tenure as a Finance

Committee member, Westford faced similar budget constraints like the ones we are facing now although the fiscal constraints were more growth oriented as opposed to the economic constraints we face today. I believe my experiences working with all town boards, including the School Committee and their budget, will give me the ability to work well with the Board and Superintendent when difficult, but necessary decisions need to be made.