

Statements received from candidates for contested school committee seat

A three-way race for two 3-year terms on the Shutesbury School Committee will appear on the May 3, 2014 ballot. Each candidate was invited to submit a statement of no more than 125 words to *Our Town*. Space for campaign statements is available to all candidates for contested seats, including known write-in candidates. For the purposes of this newsletter, a known write-in candidate is an individual who has notified the Town Clerk in writing that he or she is a write-in candidate for a particular office. The Town of Shutesbury does not endorse any candidate. Candidates have provided all information appearing in statements. *Our Town* does not proofread or correct these submissions.

Matthew Andrews

452 West Pelham Road

I've decided to run for school committee because I care about this town, the school, and our children. Our school has a rich history, and I want to help ensure that a radiant future emerges from this history by advocating for the best interests of our children and community. I'm a senior-level administrator for an international non-profit (www.bestbuddies.org), and I have extensive experience achieving goals and facilitating change under complex circumstances. I believe that a school succeeds when it supports not only intellectual capacity, but the development of life skills and attributes like focus, creativity, responsibility, empathy, and resilience. I hope to work with other committee members to guarantee that our school continues to deliver in these critical areas.

Dan Hayes

194 Wendell Road

I am seeking re-election to the School Committee. School Committee positions must be filled with motivated, concerned, and involved members who are committed to providing stability and guidance to our school. Although my children have completed their tenure at Shutesbury Elementary, my keen interest continues. I want to assist in hiring a superintendent with vision; focused on collaboration, best practices, eliminating redundancies and reducing costs, while supporting each principal with the necessary resources to enhance each school's individual culture and climate. I will oppose regionalization. Regionalizing eliminates local control in budgeting, staffing, curriculum, programs, policies and overall decision making, while increasing costs to Shutesbury. As the current vice chair to the Collaborative, I am interested in maximizing services to our school. I appreciate your support.

Stephen Sullivan

444 Wendell Road

Hello Shutesbury,

I am very familiar with Shutesbury Elementary. I worked at the school for four years as the Afterschool Director and volunteered for six while completing my teacher licensure. My experience as a former staff member and my ten years as a childcare provider give me a unique perspective on the school's needs. I am also a parent of a recent SES grad.

I chose to run at this time because I want to help Shutesbury find a new identity while honoring its past. During this transition, we need to keep all options open and have thoughtful discussion regarding decisions for our children's future.

I am fortunate to live in this community that is so dedicated to its school.

Thank You,
Stephen Sullivan