

To all of my friends, supporters and allies,

I am writing today to let you know that I have decided not to run for reelection for the Ward 8 School Committee seat. This was not an easy decision and ultimately came down to what was best for my family and me.

The journey that led me to this decision has been filled with feelings of guilt. However, a good friend recently advised me that rather than think about what I won't be able to do over the next four years, focus instead on my accomplishments over the past four years which include:

- Jump-starting the sending of SC newsletters and ushering in Virtual Office Hours
- Advocating and assisting in digitalizing the bus pass registration process
- Revamping the FRP questions and reimagining the vendor selection process
- Leading a group of Food Service Representatives with a focus on nutrition and sustainability
- Serving as SEPAC and METCO Liaisons

Looking back, I am most proud of my work throughout the recent reopening process. This has been a challenging time that required leaders that could ask tough questions and think independently. I feel as if I have done both, learning much about myself along the way.

Although I am leaving the school committee in an official capacity, I do intend to continue advocating for our schools and I can promise you will hear my voice again. I imagine a world where more kids want to be teachers when they grow up.

Thank you for allowing me to represent you as a School Committee representative for the past four years. It has been an honor.

Thank you,

Matthew