

Paul Baker

79 Overlook Road
Marblehead
MA, 01945

November 16, 2022

Select Board/School Committee
Town of Marblehead
Marblehead, MA, 01945

Dear members of the Select Board and School Committee,

I would like to register my interest in filling the vacant seat on the Marblehead School Committee.

My wife, Julie, and I are longtime residents of Marblehead (22 years) and former local business owners who always supported the local schools with gift cards and teacher luncheons at both the Gerry and Coffin schools.

We have two sons, Silas and Wendell. At present, Silas is a freshman at American University in DC and Wendell a 6th grader at the Village school.

I am currently the Head of School at the Devereux and Devereux@Waring Schools. In addition to my day position I volunteer my time serving as a member of the MCCPS Board of Trustees here in Marblehead. I am in my 3rd term (7th year) and have served both as Board Clerk (twice) and Vice-Chair as well as Chair of the Development & Communications Committee and Chair of the Governance Committee during my time on the Board.

I believe that I have learned many of the intricacies of working with others as part of a Board/Committee (some years as many as 13 fellow members) during my tenure at MCCPS. I am well versed in Roberts Rules, Ma. Open Meeting and Conflict of Interest Laws and have experience in the interview and hiring process at the Head of School/Superintendent level.

I was asked to sit (and served) on the hiring/interview committee for the current Assistant Superintendent, Nan Murphy and have been vocal, both in print and in

meetings, with regards to the goings on within the Marblehead Public School District going as far back as the pre-closure of the Gerry School.

After living in Massachusetts as a “Permanent Legal Resident/Green card holder” since 1998, I finally became a US citizen this year. My new citizenship status affords me two things; the ability to vote in all elections, local, state and national and the opportunity to serve/run for election on town Boards and Committees.

At my “swearing-in ceremony” at the JFK Building in Boston, the proctor urged all of us newly minted citizens to “vote, to make a difference, to get involved and to give back” to our new country.

I have supported, held signs, hosted lawn signs, sent emails, written “letters to the editor” and “talked up” many of you who are reading this letter, so too have I disagreed with and criticized others of you. However, as a resident, business owner and tax payer I believe that I have spoken plainly, factually and been as involved as possible without actually being able to vote or run for office.

All this being said, I view this vacant School Committee seat as a chance to truly give back and make a difference to our town and would welcome the opportunity to fill the seat until elections are held in June, 2023.

If selected, I would of course, relinquish my seat on the MCCPS Board of Trustees and give my all to the School Committee position for the next six months and hopefully beyond.

Conversely, if not selected, and I’m sure there are many qualified residents vying for the opportunity to serve, then so be it. Either way, I will continue to stay involved, campaign for and champion others, but above all exercise my right to finally attend and vote at Town Meeting!

Thanks so much to all of you for both your consideration of my candidacy and all that you do for our town.

Sincerely,

Paul Baker

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