

Annie Collyer

Position running for: School Budget Committee

Dear Newton Voters,

I am running for re-election to the Sanborn Regional School District Budget Committee.

I ask for your vote on March 13.

Three years ago, I ran as a write-in candidate. My promises to take an in-depth look at the budget, to find out why we were spending so much resonated with voters three years ago.

Over the past three years, I have fulfilled my campaign promises to you.

- 1- In-depth review of the school district budget to identify possible areas for tax savings.
 - a. In my first year, the majority of the Budget Committee then serving were not receptive to that depth of analysis.
 - b. Since that time, others have been elected, so that such comprehensive reviews are now the norm.
 - c. My re-election will help to keep that focus.
- 2- Cooperation with the School Board with the Administration and its Leadership Team to fulfill our mission under the law
 - a. To make sure the proposed budget supplies the money needed to provide defined educational outcomes for the students.
 - b. To balance the educational costs with taxpayer ability to pay.
 - c. This has gradually come to be the way things work in the District.
 - d. I pioneered transparent Budget Committee meetings with the School Leaders, to make sure we thoroughly understand the educational needs, in order to make informed financial decisions.
- 3- Transparency of operations in the District.
 - a. During my tenure as Chairman of the Budget Committee(for two of the past three years) the Budget Committee meetings have been recorded and posted on the SAU17.org website.
 - b. Questions and answers with the Administrators have been posted for the public to see.
 - C. Studies into indicators of spending in the District have been made available to the public.

There has been substantial progress, but there is more to do.

Sanborn spends \$2300 more per student than the average spent in the state. We fund far more teaching positions.

And yet we pay our teachers less than Districts that compete for our teachers.

The question has to be asked and answered, why do we spend so much, and pay our teachers so much less? Should we have fewer and better trained teachers, and pay them more? What will give the children the best educational outcomes?

Sanborn is a good District in many ways. It falls short of doing the best for our kids in others. I believe the high spending has to be looked into even more than we have so far during my tenure.

What results are we getting for our high spending? What could and should be done to get better results? How can we reallocate District monies to pay our teachers more and get better outcomes for kids?

I don't believe we need to spend more. We need to spend differently.

I have been asking questions. The current Administration wants to find the answers. I want to continue to work with them on your behalf.

I ask for your vote on March 13.

Thank you for listening and for voting.

Annie Collyer