

## **School Committee**

1 for 3 years

League Question: What ideas will you bring to the School Committee to help address the pressures on the operating budget?

### **New Candidate**

**Sara Cuthbertson**

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### **Community Activities**

- Chair, Lexington PTA/O Presidents' Council
- Member, Lexington Public Schools Inclusion Community Input Team
- Appointed Member, Lexington Public Schools Master Planning Advisory Committee
- Estabrook Liaison to Lexington's Special Education Parent Advisory Council
- Member, Joint Mental Health Task Force
- Member, Lexington Public Schools Start Time Task Force
- Estabrook PTO Executive Board (VP Membership, VP Volunteers, VP Community Engagement, President)

### **Question**

Throughout the FY21 budget process, I have met with members of the School Committee, Select Board, Capital Expenditures Committee, and Appropriation Committee, as well as the Town Manager and the Superintendent, to ensure that I have a comprehensive view of the budgetary issues that are projected to worsen significantly in upcoming years. The Lexington Public Schools budget is heavily driven by rapid increases in enrollment, and those increases are projected to continue. It is clear that there are no easy solutions, and a lot of tough decisions will need to be made to move forward as a town.

I will get to work on the FY22 budget as soon as I start on the School Committee. LPS administration has already been working hard to find efficiencies in the budget. Now the concern shifts to the impact that the budget shortfall will have on students, particularly those who are the most vulnerable. By starting the budget process early, we can work collaboratively as a town to develop shared priorities that allow us to remain mindful of Lexington's long term financial sustainability while continuing to serve all students