



City Councilor Survey Responses - Doris Ann Sweet

1. **Do you support the Mayor's "Booster Stabilization Fund"? What are its strengths and what should change?**

I think it is a creative temporary solution, since Prop 2 1/2 complicated Newton's revenue flow

2. **What do you view as the relationship between new development (housing, commercial) and the schools?**

New housing development brings in new families, and, given that NPS is losing students, new housing developments may help fill the gap and keep enrollments healthy. Commercial development brings in tax money for the City budget.

3. **Please share your thoughts on the national teacher shortage, and how it impacts Newton's ability to attract and retain strong educators. Does a city councilor have a role? What is it?**

Newton's high cost of living, especially housing, is likely a deterrent to teachers who do not already live in Newton or close proximity. A Councilor's role could be to support zoning that favors more multi-family housing, especially in village centers, smaller homes that are less expensive, and the option for owners of large homes to convert them to multifamily.

4. **Operating overrides help ensure the health of our schools. What is your plan for and role in ensuring successful overrides?**

Residents need to understand the consequences of Prop 2 1/2 that limits the City's ability to raise taxes. While there is some complexity in this situation, a good communication strategy could help residents understand the dynamics and the necessity for overrides.

5. **The current contract offers teachers a COLA of 2% or less. NPS Unit C employees report a non-living wage. Do you believe it is reasonable to expect the NTA to accept the current terms? How can you, as a city councilor, advocate for a fair contract?**

*Education is such an important component of City services, and without a fair contract, our education programs could be in jeopardy of diminishing quality. While the School Committee is the governing body for the City's school system, and the Mayor is in charge of the budget, there certainly are options for Councilors to communicate with both the Mayor and the School Committee. **Representing residents is a Councilor's job, and I know from my door to door campaigning that there are concerned parents of school children in Ward 4.***