



**Timothy W. Valenti**

**MSAD#51 Board of Directors – 3 year term**

I grew up in Poland Spring, a community and lifestyle that I always knew I would want for my own children. Three years ago, my wife and I delivered on that vision by moving from the Midwest back to Maine. We chose North Yarmouth as the town in which to raise our two (and counting) children because of its unique blend of rural values and proximity to Poland and Portland. Prior to our move, I spent 10 years in Chicago working in education, specifically in setting data strategy and operations aimed at improving student outcomes. Currently I work for a company called Climb Hire, a startup that focuses on providing disenfranchised communities access to business skills training/elevation and job placement. I look forward to setting roots here and serving my family by taking care of the community they live in.

In my spare time I enjoy outdoor adventures with my children, pickup basketball, and date nights with my beautiful wife.

**1. What are your qualifications for the office that you seek?**

- Since graduating in 2011 with a master’s degree from Columbia University in Psychology in Education, I have been working in the school improvement space. I noticed early in my career that schools and districts have access to a massive amount of data but rarely have someone dedicated to analyzing and translating that data to share with the school community. I have dedicated my career to playing that role. For more than a decade, I’ve worked with hundreds of schools in some of the largest school districts in the country to help improve student outcomes and teacher practice by leveraging data and targeted strategic planning. During this time, I’ve coached leaders, translated research into effective practice, and optimized school budgets. Most notably, I worked for the University of Chicago helping to track and improve high school attendance and college enrollment in Chicago Public Schools. I then moved on to spearheading the operations and data strategy at one the largest charter networks in the

city of Chicago. My work with these school systems and their leaders have given me a unique perspective that I hope to leverage in service of the Greely school district.

**2. What motivated you to run for the office that you seek?**

- My family moved to North Yarmouth in part because of the school district's premier reputation. Given my experience in education, I knew I wanted to be a part of the school board in service of my community. I decided to run earlier than I anticipated after seeing how the board handled elements of COVID, returning to school, and masking. These decisions unearthed a lot about this board's priorities, decision making, and relationships with families. About 70% of our student enrollment is K-8, yet it feels to me that most of our resources and solutions are directed toward our High School. Our school district may be highly ranked, but Mabel I. Wilson is consistently ranked in the mid-50s in the state. As our elementary student pipeline continues to grow there is a greater need to address the growing performance gaps between our schools. I believe I can help the board focus on student achievement for all of our students and away from political activism, where I've witnessed many boards across the country shifting to over the last few years. My children's' educational experience is a top priority and I fear the educational values that have been proven to result in student success have limited representation on the board.

**3. Do you have sufficient time/energy to devote to this position?**

- My mom served as board chair for my school district growing up, so I don't take the time and commitment requirements lightly. I do not have any doubts regarding my energy in this pursuit as improving schools has long been my mission and I'll be thrilled by the opportunity to serve my community. Most importantly, my family fully supports my candidacy and hopeful election to the board which is why I'm able to make this commitment.

**4. With one or two meetings a month, all boards are limited in what they can accomplish, how should the board decide what is most important?**

- It seems these days we become easily distracted with issues that echo national conversations but aren't very relevant to our community. I believe prioritizing issues that have the greatest impact on our students' success and safety should always be the priority of the board. Second to this is ensuring we meet the objectives of our community-vetted and agreed upon strategic plan aimed at ensuring our district meets the highest standards today and for years to come.

**5. Think of an issue facing North Yarmouth that you care about. Do you have a positive solution that you want to bring forth?**

- I know many families are concerned about bullying in our schools. Many questions and concerns I hear from parents could easily be addressed through more transparent practices and communication from school and board leadership. By leveraging PowerSchool, a tool we already have access to, families could have real-time knowledge of behavior incidents, attendance, and other key metrics impacting our school community. Providing families with this data more regularly will allow for more thoughtful and productive discourse and ultimately better solutions.