

Candidate for School Committee
Elizabeth Anne AlJammal

1. Please tell us about yourself and why you are running for office.

My name is Liz AlJammal, and I am honored to be running for re-election to the Waltham School Committee.

My husband, Sammy, and I have proudly called Waltham home since 2000, where we've raised our two daughters in this wonderful community. Our eldest, Sara, graduated from Waltham High School in 2021 and is now pursuing her master's degree at Roger Williams University. Our younger daughter, Leah, is a senior at Waltham High School. I am the only candidate who has had children at every level within the Waltham Public Schools—giving me firsthand insight into both the tremendous potential and the challenges within our district.

I am the daughter of two immigrant parents who came to the United States as teenagers with only a fourth-grade education. English was not spoken in our home, and I entered kindergarten as an English Language Learner. My experiences have shaped my deep belief in the power of public education to open doors and transform lives. I earned my bachelor's degree from Rhode Island College and a Master of Social Work from Boston College, and I am a Licensed Certified Social Worker in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. My training in social work equips me with essential skills—active listening, critical thinking, cultural competence, and advocacy—that I bring to my role on the School Committee every day.

For the past 18 years, I have been an active and engaged parent in Waltham Public Schools. I have served on PTOs, School Site Councils, and the Special Education Parent Advisory Council. I've participated in multiple search committees for principals, assistant principals, and superintendents, and contributed to working groups focused on equity, social-emotional learning, strategic planning, and the creation of an alternative high school.

During my nine years on the Waltham School Committee, I have helped lead our district through extraordinary challenges and achievements—navigating daily bomb threats, addressing attempts to ban books from our high school library, and steering our schools through the COVID-19 pandemic. I have also helped oversee the siting and construction of the new Waltham High School, the launch and growth of our Dual Language School, and the creation and opening of Valor High School. These experiences have given me a deep understanding of education policy, district operations, fiscally responsible budgeting, and the importance of community engagement.

Equity is at the heart of my work. I consistently ask, “*Who benefits, and who is being left out?*” when making policy decisions. I believe in directing resources to support students facing the greatest challenges and ensuring that every student has access to the opportunities they deserve.

I am—and always will be—student-focused. Every decision I make is grounded in data, student outcomes, and the voices of our young people. I am a strong advocate for our marginalized students and have zero tolerance for discrimination and hate. I am not afraid to ask tough or unpopular questions, because accountability matters.

I believe deeply in the mission of public education and in Waltham’s capacity to provide every child with an excellent, equitable education. I am running for re-election to continue moving our district forward—building on the meaningful progress we’ve made and ensuring that all students have the support they need to thrive.

2. What are the two most important education issues in Waltham, and how will you address those issues if you are elected to School Committee?

Student Achievement:

My ultimate goal is for every student to reach their fullest potential—graduating prepared for college, career, and life. Waltham High School is currently facing challenges in student achievement. I am committed to providing ongoing professional development that empowers educators to implement high-impact instructional strategies such as differentiated instruction, formative assessment, and culturally responsive teaching.

I will advocate for equitable access to advanced coursework, targeted intervention programs, special education services, and English language learner supports to ensure every student receives the resources they need to thrive. I will continue to support the use of data-driven decision-making to monitor progress, close achievement gaps, and celebrate growth. Above all, I will continue to advocate tirelessly for the academic, social, and emotional needs of every student.

Equity:

I am committed to ensuring that every student has what they need not only to succeed, but to truly thrive. This past year, Waltham Public Schools completed an equity audit, and an expanded equity team will convene this fall to review the findings and develop strategies to address identified inequities. This work will guide the creation of a new district strategic plan centered on fairness, inclusion, and excellence for all.

I will continue to hold high expectations for all students and advocate for the resources, supports, and professional learning necessary to meet student needs. Additionally, I will advocate for the recruitment, retention, and cultivation of diverse educators and leaders within our district—fostering a workforce that reflects and strengthens our community. Through collaboration, transparency, and equity-driven decision making, we can ensure that every student in Waltham Public Schools has access to the opportunities they deserve.