

Dear RTA Member,

My name is Gina Garro and I am running for President of the Revere Teachers Association (RTA). Please take a minute to read about me, my work with the union and my vision to continue changing the culture of our union. My goal is for us to see our union as equal partners in the decisions that impact working and learning conditions at RPS, while strengthening our relationship with the community we serve.



I grew up in Revere, attended Revere Public Schools and have taught for over 20 years at the Garfield Elementary School as a special education teacher. I love the challenge of teaching and developing relationships with my students and their families. I respect my hardworking colleagues who keep me laughing every day.

As union teachers, we need to recognize unions as the defenders of public education. A strong union makes for strong public schools. We should not be apologetic about advocating for and demanding better teaching and working conditions because that is what creates better learning conditions for our students. We Are a Union!

At times, our positions will conflict with positions of administration. It will be bumpy. But we cannot lose sight of advocating for what is in the interest of our members and our students. Our point of view and our voices matter. As a union, we need to stop being the recipients of endless initiatives and assert greater influence in decisions that impact us and the families we serve on a daily basis.

My experience:

As a building rep and member of the RTA eboard for 6 years, I have experience representing members in grievances, and sitting on the bargaining team while new contracts are negotiated.

As RTA's second vice president for the last 7 months, I met with administration to negotiate the Remote Learning Plan and the current MOA for school closure during this unprecedented time.

As your representative on the MTA State Board of Directors for the past 5 years, I was a leader in the 2016 No On 2 campaign against charter school expansion and, more recently, demanding equitable funding for all schools through passage of the 2019 Student Opportunity Act.

My vision for the RTA includes:

Increasing member engagement

This year I started an organizing committee of teachers from different schools who come together to identify common problems and work towards solutions.

I would like to include more rank and file member control in our contract negotiations by advocating for open bargaining. This would be a first for the RTA, but is a trend seen in locals throughout the state. It would be a movement towards full transparency from both union and district leadership.

Deepening our relationships with families because we are stronger together

Parents are our allies. We share common priorities like safe, clean schools, small class sizes, appropriate translation services, and more social workers and behavior therapists.

I am a founding member of Revere Education Justice Alliance (REJA), a coalition of students, families, and educators in Revere, working to improve equity and engagement in our public schools. Further work with this important partnership is essential.

3. Inclusion of Teacher/Parent Voice in COVID-19 planning/remediation for Fall 2020

As we continue to navigate the challenges that the coronavirus pandemic has presented to us as public-school educators, I believe it is essential that teachers have an opportunity to sculpt what returning physically to school will look like. We know the realities of our daily work and school buildings better than anyone else. Our insights into what makes sense and what feels safe will be paramount to starting the 2020/2021 school year off on the right foot.

I respectfully ask for your vote so we can continue to build our union!