

Dear RTA colleagues,

After much consideration, I have decided to run for President of the Revere Teachers' Association. For those unfamiliar with my background, I have just concluded my 20th year of teaching with RPS. I have spent my 20 years with Revere Public Schools teaching at the elementary level. In addition, I have also coached at Revere High School as part of the Girls' Basketball coaching staff. I have served as an RTA Building Representative and Vice President. I am a lifelong resident of Revere and also the mother of an incoming 7th grader at the Susan B. Anthony Middle School which makes me very vested in our schools.

Many factors led to my decision to be a candidate for this position. Primarily, I chose to run because the role of a teacher has evolved greatly and extended beyond teaching. I have seen first hand how duties, outside of teaching, can lead to harsh and unnecessary discipline by administration. Additionally, as many of you know the demands of teaching have increased, while the level of respect shown by administration, parents, and students has sharply declined. As President, I will work hard to ensure the level of respect returns in all classrooms and at all levels.

I will be a vocal leader who will challenge decisions immediately that violate our contract and any changes in our working conditions. I will also work collaboratively with administration while being as transparent as possible to all RTA members. I also plan to work with the Revere School Committee to ensure they have a more active role in all of our schools and in the classrooms. They need to see the inner workings and the relationships between teachers, administration and students first hand. I would also like this to lead to enhanced and improved safety protocols in the district to ensure all teachers and students are teaching and learning in safe and productive environments.

As the school year begins, so will our negotiations for a new contract. Unfortunately, we will be negotiating during an economy that has been dismantled by COVID 19. As Union President, my number one priority will be to save jobs. As a union, we need to stand together and protect all union members. We can no longer have a school department that is top heavy with administration while we have first grade classrooms with 29 students in them. Though it will be a challenge, I will work for a contract that fairly compensates and protects teachers. I will also coordinate with other city department unions to show solidarity in what will most likely be very challenging economic times ahead.

I would greatly appreciate your vote and would be honored to serve as your President.

Melissa Moore-Randall