



City Councilor Survey Responses - David Micley

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

I don't support the "Booster Stabilization Fund" because it unnecessarily locks up one time funds for long term pension liabilities when the Newton Public Schools are facing a budget shortfall today. Given the one-time nature of these funds, they should be used for immediate and medium term needs to close the NPS budget gap so we can bring back classroom aides, hire sufficient mental health professionals to support our students, restore classrooms to reasonable sizes, and have more funding available to pay our educators a fair wage.

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

New development brings both opportunities and costs to the Newton Public Schools. With additional housing, we can expect an increase in student population, and should ensure our schools have the facilities, staff, and resources required to handle enrollment growth. With additional commercial development, Newton can expect a growth in our tax base and city revenue. It's important to balance these costs and revenues, and ensure that as new development gets built, the Newton Public Schools gets its fair share of that revenue growth through increased NPS funding.

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?

*As someone whose family is deeply involved in public education, I am concerned about the national teacher shortage and its impact on Newton Public Schools. My sister-in-law is a former Newton Public School educator and my brother is an assistant principal at a Chicago Public School - I hear from both of them how hard it is to find talented candidates due to the the number of educators leaving the field and decline in new educators coming into it. Given this reality, **it is imperative that Newton Public Schools offer the conditions and compensation required to attract and retain the best educational talent - because the competition for quality educators is real and intense. City Councilors have the ability to influence both of these factors - educator conditions and compensation - through our ability to reject budgets that don't sufficiently invest in the schools and through having a public platform through which we can support and advocate for our educators.***

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

I supported the recent override (Yes to all three questions) and am committed to shaping and supporting future overrides. I was critical of this year's operating override because it linked Horace-Mann funding to the operating override question whereas it did not for the other schools (although I'm glad the funding for Horace-Mann has now been secured).

For future overrides, I am committed to being part of the planning process so that I can help get the override proposals to a place I feel confident in, and then can go all-in on campaigning and advocating for them, for the good of our city and schools.

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?**

In an era of high inflation, educators deserve a COLA in line with the reality of the world we live in. While the direct negotiations on this issue is between the School Committee, Mayor and NTA, as a City Councilor I am committed to using my public platform to advocate for educators to secure fair compensation and conditions for the critical work they provide our students and society.