

**BEDFORD**  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

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*All information contained in this packet was provided voluntarily by the candidates and the Town Clerk.*

## 2026 Candidates for Town Offices

### Town of Bedford

#### **TOWN COUNCIL (2 SEATS) (3 YEARS)**

Matt Sullivan

William P Carter

Laura Fahey

David Gilbert

#### **TOWN COUNCIL (1 SEAT) (2 YEARS)**

John J. Bator

Kelleigh Gleason

#### **TOWN CLERK (1 SEAT) (3 YEARS)**

Sally Kellar

#### **TOWN MODERATOR (1 SEAT) (2 YEARS)**

Henry Veilleux

#### **TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUNDS**

**(1 SEAT) (3 YEARS)**

Mark Petersen

#### **SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST**

**(1 SEAT) (6 YEARS)**

Carol Fahey

#### **SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST**

**(1 SEAT) (4 YEARS)**

Becki Kuhns

#### **LIBRARY TRUSTEE (1 SEAT) (3 YEARS)**

Angela Baldi

Kavita Mudan Finn

## **2026 Candidates for School Offices**

### **Bedford School District**

#### **SCHOOL BOARD**

**(2 SEATS) (3 YEARS)**

Bill Foote

Sue Jennato

#### **SCHOOL BOARD**

**(1 SEAT) (1 YEAR)**

Kevin Coventry

Stephanie Nichols

Beth Purcell

*Information about the candidates was provided voluntarily by the candidates. We did not receive responses from the following candidates: Mark Petersen, Carol Fahey, Becki Kuhns, Sally Kellar. Names are listed as they appear on the sample ballot.*

## **Warrant Articles on the 2026 Town Ballot**

**Article 1.** Election of Town Officers

**Article 2.** Zoning Amendments proposed by the Planning Board and one amendment proposed by Citizens' Petition

**Article 3.** Collective Bargaining Agreement - Fire

**Article 4.** Conditional article for Article 3

**Article 5.** Collective Bargaining Agreement - Police

**Article 6.** Conditional article for Article 5

**Article 7.** 2026 Operating Budget

**Article 8.** Capital Reserve Fund - Projects and Equipment

**Article 9.** Capital Reserve Fund - BCTV Equipment and Infrastructure Fund

**Article 10.** Discontinuing IT Software Licensing Capital Reserve

**Article 11.** Citizen Petitioned Article

**Article 12.** Keno Games

**Article 13.** Games of Chance

*For more information about these warrant articles, pick up the Bedford Voter's Guide to Warrant Articles or visit [bedfordnh.org](http://bedfordnh.org) and [bedfordnhlibrary.org/Bedford-voters-guide-town-elections](http://bedfordnhlibrary.org/Bedford-voters-guide-town-elections)*



# CANDIDATE FOR TOWN COUNCIL

## **Matt Sullivan**

**Contact:** <https://www.facebook.com/electmattsullivan/>

**Profession:** VP, Customer Success

**Organizations/Affiliations:** Bedford Planning Board, Bedford Master Plan Committee, 603 Forward, Crohn's & Colitis Foundation

**Local Boards/Relevant Experience:** Bedford Planning Board, Bedford Master Plan Committee

**Incumbent?** No

### **Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?**

I am looking to continue the work of the Town Council in the efforts to reduce the tax burden of all residents.

### **Within your authority as an elected official, what issues do you plan to address in order to improve our community?**

- Expansion of smart housing options
- Smart evaluation of budgets
- Maintaining the AAA bond rating held by Bedford
- Keeping Bedford's reputation as a desirable community
- Finding ways for generations to age in place within the town

### **How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for?**

*Answer not provided.*

# CANDIDATE FOR TOWN COUNCIL

## **William P Carter**

**Contact:** billcarter.org

**Profession:** Category Manager

**Organizations/Affiliations:** Bedford Men's Club

**Local Boards/Relevant Experience:** Liaison to Bedford Police Department, Bedford Conservation Commission, and Bedford BCTV

**Incumbent?** Yes

### **Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?**

I have served as a Bedford Town Councilor since 2020. I have worked very hard to give the residents of Bedford a responsible budget, quality services, and with the development of the CUB program (Clean Up Bedford) a clean community. I will continue to work for the residents of Bedford as we continue to develop a road map for the future. The town of Bedford is a great community, and I have been honored to serve and look forward to serving.

### **Within your authority as an elected official, what issues do you plan to address in order to improve our community?**

I will continue to work to give the residents of Bedford a responsible budget. As 1 of 7 councilors I will strive to prioritize the needs of all residents. As a councilor I will work with my fellow councilors to bring an organized structure that the residents of Bedford require to make our community strong. We need to continue to evaluate our facilities and prioritize a direction to follow. Continue my efforts to Keep Bedford Clean.

### **How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for?**

I have been a Bedford Town Councilor for the past 6 years. I have spent the time and did the homework when needed on the yearly budget. I know the budget process and have the ability to work with the town manager and department heads to make sure the budget is the best for Bedford residents. I work with my company budget on a daily basis, and I am comfortable handling our town budget.

# CANDIDATE FOR TOWN COUNCIL

## **Laura Fahey**

**Contact:** laurafahey.net, laurafahey@comcast.net

**Profession:** QA Data Analyst

**Organizations/Affiliations:** N/A

**Local Boards/Relevant Experience:** Newcomer

**Incumbent?** No

### **Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?**

I am running for town council because I am not just a taxpayer, I am your neighbor. As a long-term resident, I believe responsible spending builds a strong community. I have no agenda or pet projects; I want to represent all of Bedford with fresh ideas. I am at the point of my life where I want to start giving back.

After beating cancer, I realized life is too short to continue sitting on the sidelines. As taxes continue to rise, I want to help ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely, responsibly and with long-term impact in mind.

I truly believe that working together we can make thoughtful decisions that benefit our entire community. I welcome your questions, ideas and perspective and I hope to earn your support as I work to bring a practical, data driven and community-focused voice to the town council.

**Within your authority as an elected official, what issues do you plan to address in order to improve our community?**

The issues I want to address are developing a fiscally conservative budget and managing town growth while maintaining affordable tax increases.

And looking forward, managing equitable tax assessment between residents and businesses. Additionally, addressing increase demand for services such as fire and police.

**How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for?**

In my work, I focus every day on process improvements, cost effectiveness and using data to see the big picture. Those are the same skills I want to bring to the town council. The issues facing Bedford are complex and interconnected. Working with data on a day-to-day basis has taught me to use the data to connect the dots and build solutions that work across the issues.

# CANDIDATE FOR TOWN COUNCIL

## David Gilbert

**Contact:** gilbert.dave18@yahoo.com

**Profession:** Control Account Manager at Raytheon

**Organizations/Affiliations:** Current President of the Bedford Men's Club, Current member of the Bedford Dad's, Prior Chairman of the Educational Farm at Joppa Hill, Prior President of the Bedford High School Athletic Booster Club, Prior Board member of the Girl Scouts of Swiftwater Council

**Local Boards/Relevant Experience:** Prior 3 term member of the Town Council from 2016 to 2025 and prior Chairman from 2020 to 2021, Current member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, Prior member and Vice-Chair of the Parks & Recreation Commission (2008 to 2025) Prior member of the Conservation Commission, BCTV-WBNH Board, and Historic District Commission

**Incumbent?** No

### Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?

I am running for a fourth term on the Town Council because I want to continue to represent the residents of Bedford and provide a common sense and conservative fiscal approach to the needs of the Council and residents. As a resident since 1996, I know this town, I know what people expect, I know the town government and the process of what it takes to provide a budget that provides the services residents expect at a reasonable cost.

**Within your authority as an elected official, what issues do you plan to address in order to improve our community?**

1-Providing a budget that is reasonable and addresses the expectations & needs of the residents while not overburdening the taxpayers. Our town tax rate has been quite stable and is only 24% of the total tax bill. The Schools are 70% and the State is 6%.

2-Maintaining a Capital Improvement Plan that meets the needs of our community by addressing and saving money for future needed purchases. By doing so, we do not get hit with big expenditures all at once in a particular year. Saving for the future is the prudent thing to do. Having a robust Capital Improvement Plan is one reason Bedford has a AAA Bond rating, which we need to keep and protect.

3-Town Facilities need to be addressed. Police, Fire, Public Works Highway Garage, Town Offices all need upgrades, improvements, and possibly new buildings. We need a plan and a path forward to bring to the voters. The last building the town built is the Library in 1996.

4-Park & Recreation facilities need to be upgraded and repaired. Warrant Article 11 addresses the need to rebuild the Skatepark at Earl Legacy Park which is in disrepair. There is no tax impact to approval of this Warrant Article.

**How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for?**

As a member of the Town Council from 2016 to 2025, I believe I have gained the experience, institutional knowledge, understanding, and desire to address the issues of our town moving forward. During my tenure on the Council, I was involved in developing responsible town budgets that I believe were fair, equitable, and in the best interest of the taxpayers. We need to have a balance between providing residents with expected services, and at the same time, have a reasonable town tax rate. Seeking opportunities to spend less if possible, mitigating risk, Protecting our property values, and maintaining our AAA Bond rating are all goals of mine. Doing the right thing for Bedford is important. Town Councilors represent all residents. I have been asked if I represent a special interest group. I respond by saying yes, the Residents & Taxpayers of Bedford.

# CANDIDATE FOR TOWN COUNCIL

## **John J Bator**

**Contact:** [www.johnbator.net](http://www.johnbator.net)

**Profession:** Retired Chief Financial Officer

**Organizations/Affiliations:** Manchester Country Club, Town of Bedford Election Team (voting machines and end of day vote adjudication)

**Local Boards/Relevant Experience:** Manchester Country Club, Treasurer and Board of Directors. I am a former financial executive with over 30 years in a leadership capacity responsible for all financial related aspects of my organization. My experience in managing financial budgets and cost controls along with building consensus and relationships will be integral to success in a position on the Town Council.

**Incumbent?** No

### **Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?**

The first thing that piqued my interest was my involvement in the town election process where I served as a member of the election team responsible for setting up the voting machines, monitoring the process throughout the day and tabulating the votes after the polls closed. This experience impressed on me the importance of government at the local level as I strongly believe in local control.

I want to bring and contribute my skills and experience for the people of Bedford. Hearing and understanding the concerns of our citizens is key to being successful in this role. I am a team player and believe that working together to arrive at a consensus in developing solutions benefits all of the citizens of Bedford. My prior service on many boards of directors in various countries and regulatory regimes has impressed upon me the importance of making decisions in my fiduciary capacity that are in the best interest of the majority of our citizens.

**Within your authority as an elected official, what issues do you plan to address in order to improve our community?**

Overall, I plan to devote all my attention and energies to the issues that are of concern and priority of the citizens of Bedford. In general, I tend to be more fiscally conservative and believe that government exists to provide the necessary services and structure to the community but not in an intrusive or overreaching way. I want to ensure that there is a fair and equitable share of the tax burden between business and the town's citizens.

In addition, one of the main challenges to Bedford is the effect of legislative and regulatory changes promulgated at the state level and how we deal with such changes at the local level. This is of vital importance.

Bedford is at a critical stage given the recent changes to its demographics and business footprint and we need to be more strategic in considering what will be best for the future. Strategic and long range (three to five years) planning will be a key focus of mine during if elected.

**How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for?**

I bring over 30 years of broad senior executive management experience including practical problem resolution and problem foresight skills.

Though by title I served as a Chief Finance Officer (along with other financial related roles), I focused my time and efforts on knowing the various aspects and functions of the organizations that I served. An effective leader and manager understands how things operate which was my role during my career.

I have the experience of how to balance spending across both operating and capital budget considerations. My understanding of how to develop and manage budgets is a skill set that I can bring to the table as a member of the town council. There are many moving parts and I understand how they work which enable me to not have to go through the learning curve process.

I believe that building consensus and gaining a thorough understanding of the view of individuals that think or believe differently from you is important to arrive at appropriate solutions.

I am a new candidate who will bring a new and fresh perspective that will not recycle old ideas. I will maintain my commitment as the steward of taxpayer dollars.

# CANDIDATE FOR TOWN COUNCIL

## **Kelleigh Gleason**

**Contact:** 603leadership.com

**Profession:** Attorney

**Organizations/Affiliations:** Daniel Webster Batchelder American Inn of Court, Executive Director ; 603 Legal, Board Member ; Daughters of the American Revolution; Committee on Cooperation and the Courts; 2025 Recipient of the Distinguished Pro Bono Service Award for the State of NH; Past honoree of 40 Under Forty and past recipient of the Key to the City of Manchester

**Local Boards/Relevant Experience:** Past Member of the Bedford Charter Committee; Past Member of the Bedford Town Council, serving 2 years as the first female chair, and 1 year as vice-chair; Past Member and Chair of the Bedford Planning Board; Past Member of the Manchester Board of Mayor and Aldermen; Past Member of the Manchester School Board; Proud graduate of the Manchester, NH public school system

**Incumbent?** No

### **Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?**

I have the time and desire to give back to this community. I have been concerned, of late, of a lack of respectful discourse on the council. I think that this council has the distinct honor of representing the town, and its members should be conducting themselves with the utmost professionalism. I also think that Bedford needs representatives with experience and focused leadership as we navigate our way through growth, redevelopment, and sound fiscal management.

**Within your authority as an elected official, what issues do you plan to address in order to improve our community?**

I am a strong believer that if elected, my primary job is to serve as a voice for my constituents and to listen to feedback and adapt accordingly, rather than just substituting my judgement for theirs. I'm not a single issue candidate. Rather, it is my hope to use my experience as a skilled negotiator and attorney to promote the best advancement of the town as a whole, while engaging in strong and responsible fiscal management. I seek to preserve Bedford's AAA bond rating, and to continue to create a community that inspires individuals, families and businesses to relocate to this community.

**How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for?**

I have decades of experience as an attorney working not only in trial settings, but through mediation and negotiation to bridge differences and to consensus build. I don't shy away from navigating complex contractual matters. I bring a knowledge of both the legal and of town government to the table, and I believe these skills would make me an asset to the council.

# CANDIDATE FOR TOWN MODERATOR

## Henry Veilleux

**Contact:** hveilleux@sheehan.com

**Profession:** Government Affairs Consultant

**Organizations/Affiliations:** Board of Directors of the Granite YMCA,  
Board of Directors of Crotched Mountain Foundation

**Local Boards/Relevant Experience:** Have volunteered at Bedford elections for past 6 years, serving the last 2 as Moderator.

**Incumbent?** Yes

### Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?

I want to continue Bedford's tradition of conducting well-run elections. We have a great team of experienced volunteers which I'm proud to lead.

**Within your authority as an elected official, what issues do you plan to address in order to improve our community?**

There is a bill that passed the NH Legislature and is on its way to the Governor that would require towns with more than 15,000 registered voters to have more than 1 polling location in any election for President of the United States, unless they submit a plan to the Secretary of State and Attorney General that demonstrates they have the capacity to handle the volume of voters at one location. I would like to lead the town in a discussion on this matter during this next term so that we can comply with it if it's signed into law by the Governor.

**How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for?**

My experience in working at the polls over the years and the annual training I've received through the NH Municipal Association on election laws positions me with the right tools. I also am a good team leader and communicator.

## CANDIDATE FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEE

### **Angela Baldi**

**Contact:** [angelaqbaldi@gmail.com](mailto:angelaqbaldi@gmail.com) / [www.facebook.com/BaldiforTrustee](http://www.facebook.com/BaldiforTrustee)

**Profession:** School Librarian

**Organizations/Affiliations:** *Answer not provided.*

**Local Boards/ Relevant Experience:** I have served on the Bedford Library Foundation since 2024.

**Incumbent?** No

### **Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?**

I am running for the position of Library Trustee because I believe in the importance of the Bedford Public Library to our town. I have lived in Bedford for almost 12 years and my family has benefited in many ways from the library. Beyond the personal benefits to us, however, I see how important the library is to the community at large. No other place offers the range of free services that the library does: access to books, ebooks, audiobooks, and other media; passes to museums; children's programming that supports literacy development and a love of reading; programs and book clubs for people of all ages; concerts; meeting rooms; a library of things; and places to gather and socialize with friends and neighbors. The library offers us a place to think, talk, create, and gather together. It allows us to engage with experiences and ideas that might be different from those we know and hold. I want to give back to the library that has given us all so much and that is a vital institution in Bedford. I believe that I can be an effective advocate for and supporter of our library.

**Within your authority as an elected official, what issues do you plan to address in order to improve our community?**

As a trustee, I would work with the other board members to oversee the library director and to work with her in planning long term goals and projects for the library. The trustees also provide financial oversight for the library's budget, and they work with the library director to allocate resources in a way that upholds the library's mission. The library is funded by taxes, grants, and private fundraising (both through the Bedford Library Foundation and the Friends of the Library). Trustees ensure that the library is a good steward of those funds. Trustees approve of library policies that cover the circulation of materials, the use of the space, collection development, privacy and confidentiality, and more. I believe that our library does an excellent job of serving the diverse needs of our community and I would work with the current board of trustees and the library director to continue and expand upon that work.

**How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for?**

I have been a K-4 elementary school librarian at Peter Woodbury Elementary School since 2019. I was a library assistant at Memorial Elementary School and McKelvie Intermediate School for three years prior. To become a school librarian, I pursued K-12 Library Media certification through Plymouth State University. My daily work keeps me up-to-date on library trends, library advocacy, and the values of librarianship. A big part of my work as a school librarian is identifying the needs of my school community and working to meet those needs through the development of resources and programs. I have also volunteered on the Bedford Library Foundation since September of 2024. This work has given me insight into the issues facing the Bedford Public Library and its work. I have worked with the Foundation to fundraise for the library and to contact authors who will speak at our library. As a Foundation member, I see how important financial support of the library is. Financial support is critical to maintaining the skilled staff and range of services that the library provides. I would be honored to have your vote for Library Trustee on March 10th.

# CANDIDATE FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEE

## **Kavita Mudan Finn**

**Contact:** <https://kvmfinn.wordpress.com/bedford-library-board-of-trustees-2026/>

**Profession:** Freelance Editor / Academic

**Organizations/Affiliations:** *Answer not provided.*

**Local Boards/Relevant Experience:** *Answer not provided.*

**Incumbent?** No

### **Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?**

I've lived in Bedford for more than a decade and one of my favorite places in town is the library. It is so much more than a collection of books; it is an invaluable community resource and a safe space where anyone and everyone is made to feel welcome. In this time of rampant misinformation and bad-faith governance at the state and national levels, it is all the more important to support these bedrock institutions that make our community better in every way, who give us so much and ask so little in return.

**Within your authority as an elected official, what issues do you plan to address in order to improve our community?**

Over the past year, I have seen how hard the Library Trustees work to stretch every last bit of the budget they're given and I would look to continue that work. One of the most important projects right now, for instance, is the library's public bathroom facilities, which are in need of updating, and whoever is elected to the Trustee position this year will be one of the guiding voices on that—perhaps even getting it over the finish line. I am cognizant of the fact that a library without its staff is little more than a storage facility, and with that in mind, I was one of several community members who spoke in support of converting our current reference librarian position from PT to FT during the most recent town council and deliberative sessions. Our library staff already stretch themselves to the limit; the least we can do is compensate them appropriately.

**How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for?**

I'm an academic and a former teacher. I have spent more than half my life in one library or another; I know how they work and the kind of support they need. I have also led a wide range of projects—academic conferences, publications, performances—that have needed to run on a shoestring budget, subject to various external forces. This may not be exact experience, but it is certainly analogous to running an institution subject to voters and a town council. Most importantly, though, I am always willing to listen to and learn from those around me, and I don't feel the need to be in charge. I am here to help in whatever way I can.

## CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL BOARD

### **Bill Foote**

**Contact:** footeb@bedfordnhk12.net

**Profession:** Sales

**Organizations/Affiliations:** Bedford School Board, Bedford Energy Commission (SB Liaison), BCTV WBNH (SB Alternate)

**Local Board/ Relevant Experience:** Bedford Parks and Rec 1999-2009, Educational Farm at Joppa Hill 2004-2013, Bedford Basketball League 1997-2010

**Incumbent?** Yes

### **Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?**

I first ran years ago because I couldn't understand what the School Board was doing, and I simply didn't believe the explanations.

'If you're not at the table, you're on the menu' -Ann Richards.

I'd prefer to be at the table.

In March 2026, I'll have wrapped up 15 years on the BSB. I've gone a long way to understanding the job, but there's always surprises and new things to learn.

**Within your authority as an elected official, what issues do you plan to address in order to improve our community?**

As an individual? I bear no authority. As a sitting Board member, a majority of the 5 member Board directs the Supt as needed. I expect that I'd continue to work for the benefit of all stakeholders.

Those stakeholders are the students, the parents, the staff, Administration, my fellow Board members, the voters and the taxpayers.

My underlying effort has been to seek out opportunities to improve the District. The key things that I watch are the academic and social product of the schools and the resulting relationship with the community. Sometimes, just listening is enough, but developing the ability and knowledge to take action when necessary is important.

**How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for?**

On these last couple Boards, I'm the 'numbers guy' and put pressure on spending. My goal, as it has been since I was first elected, is to see the District provide the best possible education for our students for the smallest dollar spent.

I think the District has performed that function well. Very possibly, the best in the state of NH. Bedford, I believe, is the 3rd biggest District in NH after Manchester and Nashua, and we are graced with a supportive community. We also face big District costs and I'd like to stay on to keep working to find meaningful reductions that don't come at a cost to the students, the staff or the taxpayer.

I take no credit for that excellence, other than 'being there.' This Board and previous Boards have hired an excellent team of Administrators that have flowed down high expectations throughout the District.

I think that I've done a fair job seeing that all that through and would ask the voters for their support at the polls.

## CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL BOARD

### Sue Jennato

**Contact:** [www.SueJennatoSchoolBoard.weebly.com](http://www.SueJennatoSchoolBoard.weebly.com)  
[Jennato4schoolboard@gmail.com](mailto:Jennato4schoolboard@gmail.com) Facebook: Sue Jennato for Bedford School Board

**Profession:** Sales and forecasting background. Currently working as admin at local dental office.

**Organizations/Affiliations:** Bedford Parent Teacher Group (PTG) - current volunteer and prior Executive Board member

**Local Boards/ Relevant Experience:** Bedford School Board - School Board member since 2020 and Board Chair since 2022, BHS Community Senate – School Board Liaison, Bedford Education Foundation – School Board Liaison

**Incumbent?** Yes

#### **Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?**

Since March of 2020 I have been honored to serve on the Bedford School Board.

My husband and I have lived in Bedford since 2007. We moved here because of the schools, and both our children attended Bedford schools K-12 and received a high-quality education that prepared them for their next endeavors.

I've spent 16+ years volunteering in the School District in many different facets. I've served 9 years on the Bedford Parent Teacher Group board, including three as Co-President. I am entering my 8th year as chair of the Color Blast Fun Run, PTG's largest fundraiser.

Being on the School Board and being active in the Bedford school community has helped me gain knowledge, understanding and appreciation for what happens in our schools. I have always valued high quality education, top-notch staff, and a welcoming school district...all of which I see in Bedford.

The last six years have been an incredible learning experience, and I feel I have an understanding of our districts' needs and areas to focus on. I have a strong desire to continue the work of the school board and support our

#### **Within your authority as an elected official, what issues do you plan to address in order to improve our community?**

The School Board establishes goals to help identify the areas of focus; academic achievement is always at forefront. In conjunction with these goals, I feel the following areas should continue to be addressed:

Academics: •Set clear, measurable goals to support strong academic outcomes •Understand what academic excellence looks like for each learner •Maintain high standards that ensure a positive, rigorous learning experience •Foster a love of learning with passion and purpose •Integrate 21st-century skills (like collaboration and critical thinking) to prepare students for future success

Responsible Budgeting: •Develop student-focused budgets that respect taxpayers ability to fund •Balance current needs with long-term financial planning •Prioritize needs over wants in all spending decisions •Ensure transparency and accountability in budget choices •Continue to focus on enrollment and its impact on budgeting  
Mental Health/Wellbeing and Connections: •Promote belonging, inclusion, and strong student connections •Implement evidence-based programs, presentations, skills and strategies •Recognize the connection between well-being and academic success

Policies and Legislation: •District maintains over 350 policies that guide leadership and establish clean expectations •Policy review and maintenance is imperative •Ensure consistent policy adherence and accountability •Stay current on state and federal education legislation •Assess how legislative changes may affect district policy/operation

### **How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for?**

Serving on the School Board for six years I have worked extensively on policy updates and the development of district goals and budgets. I have served as liaison on multiple committees and participated in contract negotiations with each of the districts' associations. I have also taken time to connect with staff, leadership, librarians, guidance, students, and community members to better understand the issues facing our schools. I have learned the importance of having an open mind, working collaboratively, and focusing on what is actually happening in our schools to guide our conversations and decisions.

I'm experienced, prepared, thoughtful, and involved. I've tried to find the right balance between representing the interests of the community/parents and letting our district experts do their jobs.

I believe the role of the school board is not to run the district, but to ensure it is run well...providing oversight without overstepping. It's important to work closely with our Superintendent to ensure policies and people are in place to successfully run the district.

I am looking forward to utilizing the knowledge I have gained over the last 6 years to support Bedford students, staff and community and to move the district forward in a positive manner.

## CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL BOARD

### Kevin Coventry

**Contact:** Coventryformod@yahoo.com

**Profession:** Estimator / Project Manager

**Organizations/Affiliations:** No outside organizational affiliations. My candidacy is based on local community input and a commitment to Bedford's, taxpayers, and most importantly the kiddos.

**Local Board/ Relevant Experience:** I do not currently serve on any local boards, but I am deeply invested in the Bedford community and its children. I serve as the administrator of the Bedford Community Group Facebook page, helping residents stay informed and connected. I have also volunteered as a coach for Bedford football and Little League, where I've worked closely with young people to promote teamwork, discipline, respect, and positive development. Professionally, I am an Estimator and Project Manager specializing in budgeting and cost oversight, and I bring a commitment to transparency, responsible fiscal stewardship, and ensuring Bedford's schools continue to provide an excellent education for every student.

**Incumbent?** No

### Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?

This is my third time running for elected office in Bedford because I care deeply about the future of our community. I believe it is essential to support strong schools, respect taxpayers, and keep the needs of our children at the center of every decision.

Bedford is a special place, and I want to help ensure our school district continues to provide an excellent education while maintaining responsible and transparent financial stewardship.

My professional background as an Estimator and Project Manager has given me extensive experience in budgeting, planning, and accountability—skills that are directly relevant to overseeing school resources and setting long-term priorities.

I am running to bring a practical, community-focused voice to the School Board and to help ensure Bedford remains a place where students can thrive and families can be proud of their public schools.

**Within your authority as an elected official, what issues do you plan to address in order to improve our community?**

As an elected official, my top priority is supporting Bedford's schools while maintaining a responsible and transparent budget. A strong school system is one of the greatest investments we can make in our community, and it directly impacts families, property values, and the future of our town.

I will advocate for thoughtful planning that ensures students have access to high-quality education, strong academic programs, and the resources teachers need to succeed. At the same time, I believe we must be careful stewards of taxpayer dollars by evaluating spending, focusing on long-term sustainability, and making decisions that provide real value.

By working collaboratively with school leadership, staff, and residents, we can maintain Bedford's tradition of educational excellence while keeping our community financially strong. My goal is to support schools in a way that benefits today's students and strengthens Bedford for generations to come.

**How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for?**

My background as an estimator and project manager has given me strong experience in budgeting, planning, and making responsible decisions with limited resources. I understand the importance of accountability, efficiency, and long-term thinking when managing complex projects.

In addition, my time as a coach for the Bedford Bulldogs JHL and Bedford Little League has allowed me to work closely with local families and youth. Coaching has strengthened my leadership skills, reinforced the value of teamwork, and deepened my commitment to supporting Bedford's students both on and off the field.

Together, these experiences prepare me to serve the community with a practical, disciplined, and thoughtful approach!

## CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL BOARD

### **Stephanie Nichols**

**Contact:** [stephanienicholsforschoolboard.com](http://stephanienicholsforschoolboard.com)

**Profession:** Educator

**Organizations/Affiliations:** Salem School District (current); Bedford School District & Guilford County Schools, North Carolina (previous)

**Local Board/ Relevant Experience:** Co-President Greater Bedford Womenade; Current Appointed School Board Member; Classroom Teacher, 13 years (Bedford High School); AP & IB Coordinator, 4 years (Ben L. Smith High School & Bedford High School); Dean of Students, 2 years (Salem High School); Educational Consultant (Salem School District)

**Incumbent?** Yes

### **Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?**

I am running for School Board because I care deeply about the success of our schools and the students they serve. I believe every child deserves to be supported, challenged, and encouraged to reach their full potential, and I am committed to ensuring our schools provide the academic excellence and supportive environment that make that possible. Strong schools are at the heart of a strong Bedford community. They attract families, strengthen property values, and shape the future of our town. By working collaboratively and leading thoughtfully, I will continue to advocate for decisions that keep our schools thriving and our community strong.

**Within your authority as an elected official, what issues do you plan to address in order to improve our community?**

If elected I'd bring a methodical, experience-driven approach to the School Board, focusing on prioritizing students, promoting sustainable success, and continuing educational excellence. I believe that when we work together we can ensure our schools remain a place where every child is supported, challenged, and prepared for success. Collaboration encourages innovation in the classroom and helps us respond to the diverse needs of all learners. When we engage openly and work toward common goals, we strengthen not only our schools but the entire Bedford community. I also believe in maintaining fiscal responsibility without cutting corners by making thoughtful, efficient decisions that uphold Bedford's tradition of excellence while respecting the trust and investment of our taxpayers.

**How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for?**

Education has been both my life's work and my passion, and that commitment has prepared me to serve effectively on the School Board. Over the past 18 years in public education I have gained firsthand experience in the classroom, in school leadership, and in district-level collaboration. I understand the daily realities teachers and students face, as well as the broader responsibilities of supporting staff, strengthening curriculum, and making thoughtful decisions that benefit an entire school community. Since being appointed to the Board in August 2025, I have worked diligently to listen, collaborate, and contribute thoughtfully to key discussions and decisions, serving effectively and responsibly from day one. This combination of classroom experience, administrative leadership, and current board service gives me the perspective, insight, and practical knowledge needed to help our schools continue to thrive.

## CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL BOARD

### **Beth Purcell**

**Contact:** *Answer not provided.*

**Profession:** Special Education, School Administration

**Organizations/Affiliations:** NH Association of Special Education Administrators, Bedford Parent Teacher Group

**Local Board/ Relevant Experience:** PTG Executive Board member (Liaison to Bedford High School), Special Education Administrator - Pelham, Assistant Principal/Special Education Facilitator - Memorial Elementary School, Special Education Coordinator - McKelvie Intermediate School, Special Education Coordinator: Intensive Needs Program - Riddle Brook School & McKelvie Intermediate School

**Incumbent?** No

### **Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?**

Our school district deserves a candidate who is able to understand school budget lines and categorization. My experience as a school administrator with expertise in special education makes me uniquely equipped to join the Bedford School Board. Our school district's mission and belief statements closely align with my personal and professional values, I strive to support these sentiments when making decisions as a school board member. As a school leader, I have been involved in the budgetary process in multiple school districts, including our noteworthy Bedford School District.

Additionally, I possess an acute understanding of high cost domains within the budget, specifically special education, transportation costs and contracted service providers. Special education costs have a tremendous impact on public school spending and resources. There is enormous importance to having a keen understanding of the potential of interpreting these expenditures, while providing a high quality education for all students within the Bedford School District. The legal responsibilities of school districts within the realm of education have evolved tremendously since my first experiences as a special educator (over 20 years ago), it's important that our school district maintains its legal responsibilities while being cognizant of a reasonable tax rate for our community.

**Within your authority as an elected official, what issues do you plan to address in order to improve our community?**

School board members are tasked with the important roles of presenting a budget proposal that supports academics while being fiscally responsible, adopting policies that adhere to local/state/federal laws and align with the school district's values and ensuring that our district is mindful of our achievement toward our goals.

Our community benefits from understanding the responsibilities of our school board, including the benefits of the proposed school budget, described in layman's terms. In education, as with any other industry, we get accustomed to specific terminology. I am used to providing families and community members with language that bridges that gap, this skill could benefit comprehension and acceptance of school district matters.

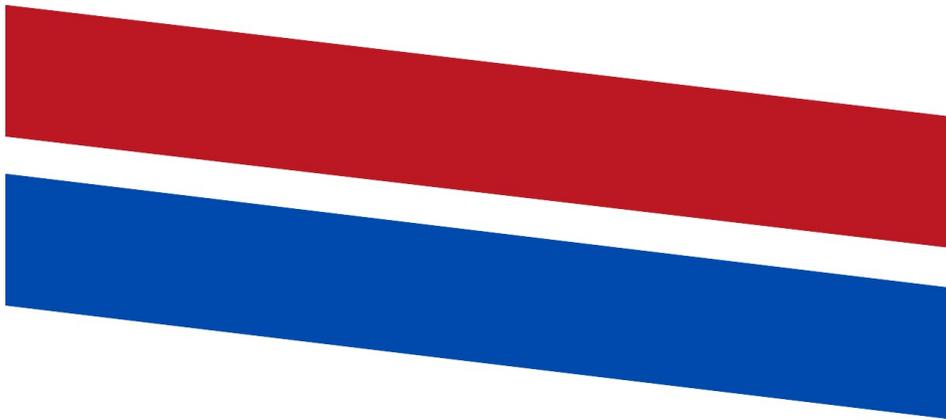
**How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for?**

As a school administrator and dedicated parent of four children attending Bedford schools, I am delighted to be a candidate for the Bedford School Board. Our school district requires a candidate who can quickly grasp the intricacies within school budgets. I'm looking to utilize my expertise, education and experience to support our school district and the greater Bedford community.

Our school board and our town deserve a candidate who is able to understand school budgets and school board policy while valuing productive academic and financial environments. I possess these qualities, value our community's dedication to our schools and intend to continue to support our students' achievements. If elected to this open position, my experience would benefit our school board's productivity through consistency and our district's outcomes.

My extensive background in education and leadership uniquely positions me to contribute to the Bedford School Board. I have a deep understanding of the complexities and individual needs of students in diverse learning environments within our schools. Holding certifications in both school administration and special education, as well as a Master's in Education, I bring the knowledge and skills necessary to advocate for and support every student's success.

*If you would like to learn more, you may watch interviews with the candidates on BCTV on their program "Candidates Corner", as well as the Bedford Men's Club-sponsored forums with the Town Council and School Board Candidates. Visit BCTV's website, [www.bedfordtv.com](http://www.bedfordtv.com) to find the program schedule of candidate interviews and the debate or to view them on demand.*



## **DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!**

### **Election Day**

Tuesday, March 10  
7:00 AM to 7:00 PM  
Bedford High School  
47 Nashua Road