Candidate for School Committee

Linda M. Phillips

My attentiveness to the Reading School system and a need for the School Committee to be responsive to parent's concerns is what drives my campaign this year as I run for a 3 year-seat on the School Committee.

I did not plan to run again this year but was asked by parents who feel that most members on the school committee were unresponsive to their concerns affecting their children. I would bring unique qualities if I were to be your representative on the Reading School Committee. For the past 5 years I attended many School Committee and Finance Committee meetings and carefully

researched many education issues that greatly impact our community. With two children in middle school, I have first hand experience with Reading's education program. What I see in their daily assignments leaves me aware of the pressing need to make curriculum improvements. I will bring a thoughtful, fresh, common sense perspective to the committee. I will initiate and promote reasonable dialogue, working to ensure that the views and concerns of all members of our community are acknowledged, heard, and acted upon. I will listen and evaluate all information from mul-



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tiple perspectives before I make decisions. Maximizing the class-room impact of every dollar budgeted is critical in both regular and special education. I will prioritize direct services to the classroom and balance financial responsibility with accountability. Our ongoing investment in \$75 million in school building projects requires constant diligence and oversight that I can provide.

While I have lived in Reading for over 8 years, I have been a Town Meeting Member in Precinct 6 for the last 5 years. My years as a Town Meeting member as a voice of reason, accountability and positive change speaks for itself and will not change. My employment background in finance, administration and experience in communications would add unique talents and energy to the focus of the committee. For the last 23 years I have been employed as an antiques dealer and licensed auctioneer. I have worked hard to stay on top of school and educational issues and am prepared to roll up my sleeves and work with the School Committee. My 20 years of volunteer service with children and being a parent of two gives me insight into their needs.

Please feel free to call me (944-4407) with your suggestions and concerns. I look forward to seeing you at the polls and respectfully ask for your vote on April 5.

Sincerely, Linda M. Phillips Candidate for School Committee