



# Rajeev Parlikar

## 2021 Candidate for School Committee, Ward 1



### **Campaign Website:**

<https://rajeevparlikar.com>

### **Biographical statement**

I have consistently worked to improve NPS, including as co-chair of Newton Special Education Parent Advisory Council. My perspectives as a Newton resident since 1994, an NPS parent since 2007, a special education parent, and a first-generation immigrant, will strengthen the School Committee.

## Questions and Answers

**Question 1: What in your background prepares you to be effective in the political office you are seeking?**

As co-chair of Newton SEPAC the past five years, I supported families and advised NPS and the SC on special education issues. I helped plan the successful return of high school students to in-person learning in January. I have been a member of NPS hiring committees and working teams. I have built strong relationships with parents, teachers, NPS administrators, and the SC. I will continue to work collaboratively, be open to diverse opinions, and make data-driven decisions that are in the best interests of our students. I will also draw upon my professional background to provide oversight on NPS finances, facilities, programs, and contracts.

**Question 2: If you're elected, what will be your first priority? Why? How will you address your priority?**

I am happy to see our students back to full-time, in-person school. Until we're past the pandemic, I will work to ensure that we have up-to-date safety protocols and practical contingency plans, as well as ensuring that teachers have sufficient resources to address our students' Covid-related lost learning and social, emotional, and other challenges. I strongly believe that all learners, whether mainstream, high-achieving, or high-needs, should have academic, athletic, creative, and social options that match their needs and aspirations. I will support all our students by advocating for NPS to offer diverse learning and program opportunities.

**Question 3: What is your plan to communicate the Newton schools' plans, decisions, and programs to residents without children in Newton schools? How will you engage with them?**

All Newton residents, with or without children in NPS, are invested in having excellent schools that make our city desirable for new residents, support home values, provide social and cultural vibrancy, and educate students to be responsible, empathetic, inclusive, and civic-minded. I will engage with all residents to hear their feedback on our schools through community forums, individual meetings, and email. I will also share regular updates with my perspectives on school issues and the potential implications for both NPS and non-NPS families. My city-wide engagement will be especially important for major facilities or financial decisions.

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