

Risa Shames

I ask for your vote for re-election after serving two years on the Newton South School Council, most recently as co-chair.

As co-chair, I have taken a leadership role on the issues and projects that the Council has pursued this year. We have accomplished a great deal, including hosting parent forums on late start and growth mindset, partnering with Newton North, reaching out to School Committee members and helping our students develop and distribute a video. I strive to ensure that every Council member has a voice in discussions and the opportunity to contribute to our work. I am proud of how I have encouraged the students on the Council to participate and share their perspective at all of our meetings.

This year, the School Council has worked most visibly around educating the public on the benefits of a later high school start time. As a Council member and co-chair, I have helped the team articulate our views and visions and then, successfully present those issues to the larger community. I was instrumental in organizing three community forums in the last 13 months. Our efforts have paid off and the School Committee created a workgroup that will be making recommendations in June.

Next year, I will have junior at South and a daughter in college, who attended Bowen and Oak Hill, (Danny and Isabel Silverston). Professionally, I have a Master's in Health Policy and Management and my work centers around health improvement and health engagement. I look forward to continuing to serve on the School Council and helping to support the students and faculty at Newton South.