**NEWTON SOUTH SCHOOL COUNCIL PARENT STATEMENTS**

**May Chiu**

My name is May Chiu, parent of an incoming freshman in fall 2017 at NSHS.  I strongly believe parent involvement to support our schools is key to enhancing our school community and school initiatives. I have been actively involved in PTO programs at Mason-Rice and Brown Middle School, and local community events since we moved to Newton in 2006. I have organized school auctions, playground building, BINGO nights, technology fundraising, managed school directories, coordinated parent socials, and served as co-President and School Council member at Mason-Rice Elementary. I have also been an active member in our community in Newton Highlands assisting in Village Day, Newton Halloween Window Painting and Hyde Summer Concerts. My strengths are in organization, entrepreneurship, and having an open mind. I have over 20 years of corporate experience in sales and technology consulting, and have founded 3 businesses in the last 10 years. I look forward to being part of the NSHS community and believe I can bring experience and insight to topics and initiatives at the School Council. Thank you.

**Deborah Youngblood**

I appreciate being considered for school council. I have three children in the Newton public schools (Angier, Brown and NSHS freshman). I have professional experience working with families, including work on education issues such as access and support for underserved families and designing programs to promote success in college and work.

I am Newton’s commissioner for health and human services. In this role, I oversee youth services and have developed supports to help young people to succeed in various aspects of their lives. To this end, I have worked to expand the high school internship program for career exploration, developed alcohol and substance use prevention programming, developed suicide prevention programming, and I work with the school department to enhance out of school time programming.

While my professional work is related, it is my experience as a parent that deeply spurs my interest in participating in school council. The transition to high school has been an important one for my son. I am impressed with the quality of the teaching and the opportunities at South. I have thoughts about how to increase communication with parent community and how to decrease youth stress through exploring different approaches to homework and extra-curricular activities. I also want to ensure that lower income students have the same opportunities as more well-resourced families. And I’m interested to learn from other members of the council and administration and the greater parent community, their perspectives and priorities. I am a good listener, strong problem solver and always bring a sense of humor. Thank you for considering my candidacy.