

# 2022

## Bedford Voter's Guide

### For Town Elections



**This pamphlet was compiled by the Bedford Public Library's Reference Department in conjunction with Town Clerk Sally Kellar.**

All information contained in this packet was provided voluntarily by the candidates.

## **2022 Candidates for Town and School Offices**

### **Town of Bedford**

#### **TOWN COUNCIL**

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

DAVID GILBERT

WILLIAM R GRANFIELD

KATHLEEN BEMISS

#### **TOWN COUNCIL**

**(1 SEAT) (2 YEARS)**

PHIL GREAZZO

MICHAEL STRAND

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

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

MAC MCMAHAN

#### **LIBRARY TRUSTEE**

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

PAMELA VAN ARSDALE

CRAIG STEVENS

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

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

BARBARA L. CHAGNON

#### **TOWN MODERATOR**

**(1 SEAT) (2 YEARS)**

BRIAN SHAUGHNESSY

## **2022 Candidates for Town and School Offices**

### **Bedford School District**

#### **SCHOOL BOARD**

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

JOHN SCHNELLER

ANDREA CAMPBELL

SEAN MONROE

#### **SCHOOL MODERATOR**

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

BILL KLEIN

#### **SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK**

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

RUSSAN CHESTER

MAGGIE WACHS

#### **SCHOOL DISTRICT TREASURER**

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

CAMERON BERNARD

TINA KOZAK

*We did not receive responses from the following candidates: Mac McMahan,  
Brian Shaughnessy, Cameron Bernard.*

# CANDIDATE FOR TOWN COUNCIL

## David Gilbert

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

**Education:** Master of Business Administration (MBA) Pepperdine University, Bachelor of Science (BS) California State Dominguez Hills, Certificate in Government Contract Management, University of California Los Angeles

**Profession:** Control Account Manager at Raytheon

**Organizations/Affiliations:** Current Chairman of the Board of the Educational Farm at Joppa Hill, Current (over 20+ year) member of the Bedford Men's Club (prior 2 term President) , Prior member of the Bedford High School Booster Club (prior 2 term President), Prior Board member of the Girl Scouts of the Swiftwater Council

**Political Experience:** 2 term Bedford Town Councilor (2016-present) and current 2 term Chairman, Current member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, Current Vice-Chair of the Park & Recreation Commission, Prior member of the Conservation Commission, BCTV-WBNH Board, Historic District Commission

**Incumbent?** Yes

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

I am running for a third 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 board and the needs of Bedford taxpayers. Over the past 6 years I have been involved in developing responsible town budgets. I believe the Town Council has provided a fair and equitable budget each year with the taxpayer's best interest in mind. I am proud to have been a part of that process and want to continue to provide my support and experience to better serve our town.

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

Fiscal monetary conservatism has been and will always be my goal. I will strive to provide the taxpayers the services they expect and maintain an equitable and stable tax rate. Bedford has one of the lowest town tax rates in the state. We are also the only town in the state with a AAA Bond rating.

I will continue with the process of acquiring land and developing plans for a Police Station and Fire Substation. By building a facility like this we will also be able to expand the footprint of the Fire Department at the Safety Complex to meet their requirements and upgrade all other town facilities.

As a Town Councilor I will continue to make PFAS contamination a priority on the board and get information to the public as soon as possible. I will continue to advocate that Bedford taxpayers should not have to pay for this remediation.

I will continue to support the Conservation Commission in their efforts to enhance the conservation land we have and continue to look for other properties to acquire for preservation.

I will continue to be an advocate for maintaining our town roads going into the future.

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

My service on the Town Council over the past 6 years (as the Chair for the past 2 years) and my participation on other boards & commissions has provided me with a great deal of institutional knowledge and insight into what I believe is beneficial to the taxpayers of Bedford. I believe in an approach of budgeting prudently on “needs” vs “wants”. I strive to maintain our facilities, support our town employees, plan for the future, and always keep in mind the needs of the taxpayers.

# CANDIDATE FOR TOWN COUNCIL

## William R. Granfield

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

**Education:** Associate in Business Middlesex Community College,  
Bachelors in Criminal Justice from University of Massachusetts's Lowell,  
Juris Doctor from Massachusetts School of Law

**Profession:** Contracting Officer for the United States Air Force

**Organizations/Affiliations:** Member of the Massachusetts Bar since 2015. Member of the American Radio Relay League, Ham Radio Operator since 1997.

**Political Experience:** I served on the Historic District Commission in 2018.

**Incumbent?** No

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

I have a young Family. Bedford has been my home for over half a decade. While the character and history of Bedford must be preserved that cannot come at the cost of letting our future pass us by. Growth is inevitable, and I want to shepherd in the next 30 years of growth in this Town to ensure it serves our citizens but many generations of citizens to come.

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

I wish to serve the best interests of the Town. I have watched the current Town Council vote against the interests of the Town many times over the last year, not allowing cell towers, creating many road blocks to cell phone service, saying no to revenue while not questioning expenditures. We need to end the era of single choice broadband. I support municipal broadband and expand 5G service to usher in the new era of telco choice

and freedom, I will do what I can make sure that happens. The Town also needs to revamp its solicitation policies. I have seen too many "one bid" awards or awards where the lowest bid was not chosen without proper justification. Finally, I want to ensure the Master Plan passed this past fall is implemented properly by the Town Council. I support complete streets, bike lanes, and safe sidewalks. Our Town is gorgeous, and our citizens deserve to enjoy it while on foot or on a bike, not only stuck behind the glass windows of a car.

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

I've been an Amateur radio operator since the age of 11. I've built antennas, transceivers, operated remotely, on mountain tops, communicated with satellites, the space station, and all across the world. I've used frequencies all around the cell phone bands being used today, at times using power levels hundreds of times stronger than is used on the cell bands. I have extensive knowledge of how radio waves work, how they affect the environment and human health. My decisions will be based on science, logic, and what is in the best interests of the Town.

As a Contracting Officer I am the steward to millions of taxpayer dollars a year. Our Town's Staff works tirelessly to ensure our local tax dollars are spent wisely but there is always room for improvement. I would suggest we create a committee to review our current acquisition process's and find ways to be more effective at saving taxpayer funds while maximizing value.

I will work with the various Town departments to ensure that the complete streets concept is considered whenever a road is going to be done and ensure the pedestrian integrity is considered along with other modes of transportation.

# CANDIDATE FOR TOWN COUNCIL

## Kathleen Burke Bemiss

**Contact:** <https://kathleenbemiss.com/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/BemissTownCouncil>

**Education:** PhD. Criminal Justice, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA – anticipated completion date 2024; M.S. Communication Disorders, College of Saint Rose, Albany, New York; B.S. Communication Disorders, University of New Hampshire, Durham

**Profession:** Speech-Language Pathologist

**Organizations/Affiliations:** 2020-present - Bedford Sewing Battalion, 1990-present - American Speech-Language Pathology association (ASHA), 1998-present - Alpha Xi Delta Sorority

**Political Experience:** 2005-2007 (approx) – Wetlands Subcommittee of the Conservation Commission, Town of Bedford, NH ; 2018-present – Telecommunications Committee, Town of Bedford, NH; 2022-present – Composting Committee, Town of Bedford, NH

**Incumbent?** No

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

I am committed to the residents of Bedford and have been attentive to the needs and concerns of my neighbors for a long time. I believe that I have the skills necessary to understand the issues placed before the Town Council and am able to make informed decisions. I have no hidden agenda, political aspirations, or business ventures that would impact my position on issues.

The character of Bedford has and continues to be amazing. I have been involved and attending the various meetings for years. Since my

children are all grown, I now have the time to dedicate to public service. I would like to see Bedford retain the small town feel while ensuring growth of our tax base. I am concerned about our green spaces and the best way to preserve the undeveloped areas of town.

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

I would like to improve community relations and encourage neighbors to get involved. It would be amazing to see people participate in our local government on a regular basis, not just when there is a controversy or crisis. I would like to explore solutions to the current and future PFOA crisis in Bedford and I would like to continue the process that our Telecommunications Committee started to bring lower cost broadband services to Bedford. I would like to work with the department heads to collaborate on needs-vs-wants and to collect the data to back up those positions. The world has changed in the last few years, and with that we need to review our daily operations to see where we can improve function and reduce redundancy.

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

As a Speech-Language Pathologist, I have excellent written and verbal communication skills. I love to research topics, process information, and then make logical / factual decisions. I have a history of working collaboratively with existing Town Council members, town department heads, and can analyze facts and figures to come up with reasonable solutions. Also, the PFOA is a crisis affecting many residents. Having lived with a contaminated well in the late 1990's, I can understand first-hand the difficulties that these residents are facing. If I am fortunate enough to be elected to the Town Council, I will do my best to listen to our neighbors, because that is what we are — neighbors.

## CANDIDATE FOR TOWN COUNCIL

### **Phil Greazzo**

**Contact:** 603-669-0494

**Education:** High School, US Army basic, advanced individual & leadership training. Tactical Satellite communications. College correspondence. Job Corps trade school; Electrical, Plumbing, and Building Maintenance programs.

**Profession:** Small Business Owner, Property Maintenance & Construction

**Political Experience:** Town Council, State Representative, City Alderman

**Incumbent?** No



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

Help maintain responsible spending on necessities as well as finding ways to reduce the tax burden.

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

We already have an incredible community and must work to preserve it. I will work for lower taxes and less spending with a focus on responsible growth.

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

As a small business owner who has served in other elected positions, I am well aware of how government "works" and know that it must constantly be held in check. Spending should always be on needs versus wants in order to keep costs down and prevent unnecessary increases in taxes.

# CANDIDATE FOR TOWN COUNCIL

## Michael Strand

**Education:** University of Florida , B.A. English/ history; University of North Florida, M.A. English Literature

**Profession:** Regional Director for Professional Staffing Firm



**Organizations/Affiliations:** NHRA Affiliate, Former NH Chamber of Commerce, Peterborough Poetry Project, Sigma Alpha Epsilon alumnus

**Political Experience:** Peterborough Board of Recreation [elected] 2018-2020; facilitated various complex MOU's related to Town, Rec. Dept., Facilities Cost-Share with School Board, and Staffing/Personnel Advisory functions

Local Activist in Peterborough; helped build consensus between disparate parties on zoning; advocating for lower taxes, responsible planning, facilities evaluation, etc. Various Work on 4+ Political Candidates' Campaigns ranging from local to state/national level

**Incumbent?** No

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

I am running because I strongly believe in public service, equal representation, and a Local First government that looks and sounds like us, one that includes young people, seniors, business leaders, and working families with kids in our schools.

Most importantly, I am running because I believe in local control, that good government at times requires uncommon sense, and most importantly, respect for one another, regardless of our views.

The louder we shout to drown out our opponents, the more we allow our biases to predetermine outcomes that affect others; the less we see, the less we listen.

You have my word that when I am your Town Councilor, I will listen. I will act and vote based on what is in the best interests of all of us, and more importantly, based on what we decide together.

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

We have been fortunate that current/prior Town Councils have done such a great job setting us up for present and future success.

We hold an ethical obligation to keep taxes as low as possible for our kids and seniors. Fiscal conservatism also means not paying more later for facilities that we need. That just raises taxes long term, preventing us from staggering projects proactively, which is critically important to identifying cost offsets.

I will vote yes on the current budget, but we pay too much for equipment because we have refused to invest in facilities. Too many band aids can become more expensive than stitches, just like parking trucks on the edge of a marsh during winter is a rusty idea.

Higher bills in the future just so we can rack up short term political wins is neither conservative, nor responsible.

Change for the sake of change, however, will risk ruining the present success that led many of us to move to Bedford in the first place, and even more of us to stay.

We need to be careful, and smart, and stay focused.

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

My business background managing a company in Bedford uniquely qualifies me for the position because I have worked across nearly every industry vertical in New Hampshire, from government contracts to higher education, and my background in contracts negotiation and analysis is extensive.

I have also led a business focused on Accounting, Finance, HR and Business Administration through the worst labor shortage and inflationary period in the last 40 years, and we have actually grown through that time, while others went out of business or failed to rise to the challenge.

I believe in a combination of common sense and creative solutions to identify marginal cost opportunities, tax offsets, and having a firm understanding of which ROI's make sense for the Town, and which projects' opportunity costs are not justifiable.

In the coming years we will have to make both some tough 'no' decisions, and some tough 'yes' decisions.

One area where we can offset costs is outsourced consulting. With the exception of engineering consulting, analysis should be the Town Council's job—putting our subject matter expertise to good use instead of wasting taxpayer money.

Complex problem solving and communicating the how and why to the public, is what I do best.

# CANDIDATE FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEE

## Pamela Van Arsdale

**Contact:** vandew23@comcast.net

**Education:** BA from Denison University

**Profession:** Finance/Money Management. Retired

**Organizations/Affiliations:** Bedford Land Trust (former Board Member), Bedford Library Foundation (Former Chair), NH State Historical Society (former Board Member), The Derryfield School (Trustee Emeritus), Manchester Community Music School (former Board Member), Bedford Historical Society.

**Political Experience:** Elected as Library Trustee 2019

I have volunteered for several state and local candidates

**Incumbent?** Yes

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

I have been a lover and user of libraries my entire life. Growing up in a small town in Western New York State, our village library was a focal point of the community, where I could often be found reading a book in a quiet corner. After my family and I moved to Bedford in 1989, I volunteered in the public school libraries. As our children grew, I became active in the Bedford Town Library as a volunteer and eventually as Chair of the Bedford Library Foundation. It has been my pleasure to serve as a Library Trustee since 2019.

The Bedford Library is much more than just a place to borrow books. It is a centerpiece of our community, a gathering spot for people of all ages, and a point of pride for the citizens of Bedford. I would like to continue to work to support this special place, our hard working and creative library staff, and our patrons.

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

If re-elected, I plan to continue to support the Library Director and staff as they expand library services and outreach programs to meet the needs of our community.

I will continue to work with the head librarian to develop a fiscally responsible budget. The Trustees will need to develop a plan for additional parking to serve Library patrons and other events in Bedford Center.

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

I have been involved with the Bedford Public Library for over 15 years, as a volunteer, as a member and then Chair of the Library Foundation, and now as Chair of the Trustees. This, along with my experiences on other non-profit boards gives me the skill set to be a knowledgeable and effective Library Trustee.

# CANDIDATE FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEE

## Craig Stevens

**Contact:** <https://www.facebook.com/Craig-Stevens-for-Bedford-Library-Trustee-108964645036116>



**Education:** Regent University, Robertson School of Government, M.P.P

**Profession:** Public Relations Consultant

**Organizations/Affiliations:** Bedford Bulldog Cheer Dad (unofficial affiliation); Bedford Santa; Bedford Bluffs (Board Member 2019-2021); ONE Church (attendee); YMCA, Allard Center Goffstown (member)

**Political Experience:** George W. Bush for President, 2000, Austin, Texas; Spokesman, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy G. Thompson, 2001-2005; Spokesman, U.S. Secretary of Energy Sam Bodman, 2005-2007; Mitt Romney for President, 2007 - 2008, Manchester, NH

**Incumbent?** No

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

Much of my career has been in public service. I've had the honor to serve on Capitol Hill, in the White House during the response to 9/11 and the anthrax attacks, and as a spokesperson for two Cabinet Secretaries and a U.S. Surgeon General providing citizens with access to information in a clear, cogent, and trustworthy way.

I enjoy public service and helping to improve our community for my neighbors and friends.

As a resident of Bedford for nearly a decade and the father of two growing daughters in the Bedford public school system, I have a keen interest in preserving and improving our town and want it to remain as vibrant and welcoming as possible.

As a fan of classic literature – especially Americana; biographies, and other non-fiction, it's important that the library has the resources to give residents the opportunity to learn, grow, and think critically and creatively for generations to come.

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

For nearly all of recorded history, the public library has stood as a symbol for education, a place for public debate, for community organizations to meet, and for individuals of all ages to study, grow, be creative, and learn.

I believe strong public institutions, including a strong public library, are important to Bedford's community fabric and I will work to ensure the library remains vibrant. As a parent, the library's programs are important to me and my children.

If elected to be Library Trustee I would:

1. Work to ensure that the community's values and principles are reflected at the library and that it remains a welcoming place.
2. That it maintains and grows its collection and access to materials.
3. As inflation and expenses grow, I will work to increase private and grant funding to the library, to help mitigate increases in taxpayer support.

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

I believe that learning is a lifelong process – and that learning can happen anywhere. I will bring that intellectual curiosity and dedication to lifelong learning to the position of Library Trustee.

There are no limits to the human mind – and books, information, and respectful debate can expand individuals' creative and intellectual thinking, opening up new worlds to explore.

I am an avid reader – especially the classics, and also enjoy modern novels as well as non-fiction books, especially autobiographies. From each of these genres individuals can explore different concepts, vocabulary, and think critically.

As Library Trustee I would like to see the library's collection and access to works continue to grow and I'd work with people throughout the community to provide additional private funding to the library so that, over time, it becomes less reliant on increased revenue from taxpayers.

# CANDIDATE FOR SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST

## Barbara Chagnon

**Contact:** bchagnon80@gmail.com

**Education:** Peabody, Mass HS Graduate, Burdett Secretarial School and some college.

**Profession:** Full-time Nana, Supervisor of the Checklist for the Town of Bedford

**Political Experience:** The role of SOC, as any election work, should be apolitical. I have previously been able to volunteer at other locations for elections. I have worked as a Clerk (checking in voters), Assistant Moderator, and currently Supervisor of the Checklist.

**Incumbent?** Yes

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

I have enjoyed meeting newcomers to our community, getting our new voters to the point where they can participate in our Election process, being a part of our Elections both local and national. It's exciting to see and sometimes hear the enthusiasm of our new Voters. New Citizens of the US coming to register to vote for the first time in their lives – whether 18 or 81 – is always a thrill.

I have been honored to work within the team of Supervisors that we presently have and would appreciate your support in being able to continue in this role.

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

It is my goal to maintain a correct and up-to-date Voter Checklist for use at all of our elections. I strive for accuracy and correctness in our records. I also hope to be able to answer questions from our new residents as they join our community as well as encourage folks to be a part of the process behind the scenes.

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

I began this role in 2018 when I finished the term of a prior Supervisor. I have been honored to work within the current team of Supervisors and would appreciate being able to continue in this role. Elections truly take a team effort to come together.

Over the past few years I have trained a number of our past and present Election Clerks and helped bring on board a couple of our other Supervisors.

Working in tandem with our local officials, as well as those in Concord, I hope to exceed your expectations in keeping our files and paperwork in order as required by statute. I strive to treat each of our residents with respect and patience. Keeping up with changes and updates to present practices and statutes is fulfilling, even if a bit trying.

## CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL BOARD

### John Schneller

**Contact:** 917.225.8041

**Education:** BA, History, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; MA, MBA, Cornell University Johnson School; MPA, Suffolk University

**Profession:** Finance

**Organizations/Affiliations:** Bedford, NH School Board Member, Bedford Mens Club Member

**Political Experience:** 3 Years Bedford, NH Town Council, 3 Years Bedford, NH School Board

**Incumbent?** Yes

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

I am running for Bedford School Board for two reasons. The first reason is to continue to work to contain the Bedford School Budget. The second reason, which flows from the first reason, is to fight to improve Bedford student performance by improving our childrens' overall fundamental educational experience while placing Parent/Family Choice above choices driven by the administration. I hope to continue to represent family choice and values as I have largely done, almost exclusively at times, as the "loyal opposition." I favor and will vote for educational programs that teach fundamentals; reading/literature, math, science, history and languages rather than fringe programs that drive increased budgets with little or no measurable improvements in student performance. Bedford offers a strong fundamental education to all students from our most accelerated and advanced students to individuals with physical and cognitive challenges. Our teachers and administrators work hard to accomplish this goal every day. As a school board member I have and will continue to strive to be sure we accomplish this goal in the most efficient and fiscally responsible manner possible for our children and taxpayers.

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

I plan to push for more frequent measurement of student performance both internally and relative to surrounding and, to a lesser degree, national results. What isn't measured cannot be improved. We were moving in that direction when Covid hit which disrupted multiple measurement and subsequent improvement initiatives. To make such initiatives successful they must be fully transparent and provide parents with options at all levels of education in the district to improve student performance. I STRONGLY believe in PARENT CHOICE. One positive we can take away from Covid is that parents have become more involved with what and how we are teaching our children. I do not believe we need a pandemic to continue this level of parental involvement. Measurement, parental involvement, and efficient responsiveness at the local level have always been the key to educational success. Fancy intercession trips and a continuous call for more and more after school clubs and programs all sound good but if we don't get the fundamentals right before any of that we are doing our children a disservice. We can do better!

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

I have multiple advanced degrees. I know what it takes to be successful at the highest level of education. Preparing our children with a solid fundamental foundation, regardless of what direction they choose to take when they enter the adult world in a more independent manner, will prepare them for success. In Bedford I have been a town councilor and school board member. Understanding how to bridge issues that affect both the town and schools is extremely important. I am the ONLY candidate who brings this skill to the table. This unique intersection of skills has been a benefit during many school board discussions and votes on issues such as safety, with the School Resource Officer, sidewalk construction, shared resource usage with facilities management and athletic facilities construction. My background in finance has helped to bring more efficient solutions to the District such as how we secure inexpensive long-term text book financing. I am the only candidate who brings these skills to bear for the Bedford community.

## CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL BOARD

### Andrea Campbell

**Contact:** andreacampbellforschoolboard@gmail.com  
<https://andreacampbellfors.wixsite.com/bedfordschoolboard>  
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076858630491>

**Education:** M. Ed. Elementary Education - Notre Dame College,  
B.S. Environmental studies - UNH

**Profession:** Teacher

**Organizations/Affiliations:** Board of Directors - SEE Science Center  
Goulder Center for Innovative Practices in Education - SNHU

**Political Experience:** None

**Incumbent?** No

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

Running for school board is a way for me to use my experience and expertise in the field of education to help support and improve our public school system. I was a teacher for 16 years at Memorial Elementary, and found the quality of our schools to be so high that I wanted my own children to experience all that Bedford has to offer. We moved to town for the schools, like so many of the residents here. Our town deserves to have someone on the board who believes in public education and wants to improve student achievement and support student growth.

As an experienced educator, I will bring a perspective and voice to the board that is not currently represented. I have years of experience listening and responding to the various viewpoints and priorities of parents, students, administrators, specialists, and community members. One of my strengths is being able to respectfully listen to all invested parties, without arrogance and with a true intent to understand. It is important during these divisive times for school board members to be willing to work with parents, with the district, and with each other. I will bring a measured voice to the board.

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

The school board serves as one branch of the public school system, mainly charged with setting policy and working with administrators to improve student performance. All decisions the school board makes should be guided by the fundamental question, "How will our decisions support the education and performance of our students?" As an experienced educator, I would continually refocus the conversation back to how our decisions affect students and their families. There are a few ways we can prioritize this: by continuing to support and build on the school board's goal of addressing and supporting mental health; by continuing to update and evolve our plans regarding public health and safety in conjunction with sound, research-based decision making; and by addressing the learning loss that has taken place over the last two to three years. The only way for us to make lasting change within these critical areas is to find common ground and collaborate on addressing the real issues that our students, staff, teachers, nurses, librarians, and the families we serve are facing right now.

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

As a lifelong educator, mentor, and educational leader, I bring unique skills to the Board. I have a Masters of Education in elementary education, and I currently work in the field of higher education in teacher preparation. I also hold dual certifications in elementary education and general special education. Most importantly, I am a parent of two children attending Bedford public schools, so I'm intensely dedicated to maintaining the quality of our schools. Not only am I staying current in the field of education, I also understand the constantly shifting challenges that our educators are facing each day. As we enter a new phase of this pandemic, I understand the deep effects that the pandemic has had on students' mental health, learning loss, and overall well being, as well as the unique challenges these impacts have had on teachers who are trying to best serve the students in their classrooms. My experience as an educator will help guide the Board through addressing these issues using policy, collaboration, and compassion. I believe in high-quality public education, and I believe in the potential of this town.

## CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL BOARD

### Sean Monroe

**Contact:** [www.voteseanmonroe.com](http://www.voteseanmonroe.com)

**Education:** BS from UNH, 1998

**Profession:** Executive Leadership; Industrial Control Valves - multiple companies



**Political Experience:** N/A

**Incumbent?** No

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

My wife Sarah and I have been Bedford residents since 2004, and we are currently raising two young boys in town, a first grader at Memorial and a fifth grader at McKelvie.

I've always been active in the community, coaching youth sports in Bedford for over 15 years (football primarily, but basketball and soccer as well). I was also on the Bedford Jaguars Youth Football Board of Directors for 10 years, and was the President from 2009-2014.

Over the past several years, I believe the District has progressively overstepped its role with our children, not only with personal health decisions but as it relates to our curriculum and how children are being taught.

I'm 100% in favor of Parental Choice in ALL circumstances.

In my view the schools are responsible for teaching our children Math, Science, English and History - the rest is the purview of the parents.

Health decisions, politics, identity politics and other ideological teachings are for parents to decide and impart to their children at home...the schools should not be involved.

If you're a parent or taxpayer in town and you're tired of not having a voice – now you do... I'm your voice.

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

My platform boils down to the following:

- Parental Rights in ALL circumstances.
- 100% Normal School, with no infringement upon each child's right to normalcy and having their pre-Covid lives back.
- Prioritizing Academics...I'm not interested in the SAU pushing their particular views (whatever they may be) on morality, ideology and group think; their focus should singularly be on math, science, English and history; the rest is the domain of parents and families at home.
- Academic Transparency - along the lines of prioritizing academics is the notion that parents have an unequivocal right to know precisely what, and how, their children are being taught....not putting parents behind the eight ball by retroactively trying to pursue topics for reversal after they've been introduced. Our children are NOT wards of the State or the SAU.
- Any attempt to incorporate the principles of identity politics (the favoring of any one individual or group on the basis of anything other than merit/qualifications), CRT/DEI or any other "woke" platform should not be tolerated in our tax-funded SAU. These topics not only hurt the very concepts they pretend to support (unity and inclusion), they also actively hurt this effort.

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

I have spent my entire adult life in positions of leadership, working to find a path forward for all concerned....both professionally and within our Bedford community here. My positions are consistent, clear and have appeal to a great many like-minded parents who currently feel that they have no effective voice speaking on their behalf. The seat that I'm running for will not belong to me, but in fact to these parents.

## CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL MODERATOR

### Bill Klein

**Contact:** bklein52@comcast.net

**Education:** UNH BS 1974, Penn State MS 1976,  
American College Chartered Financial Consultant 1984

**Profession:** Financial Planner, Photographer



**Organizations/Affiliations:** Special Olympics, National Ski Patrol,  
Family Heart Foundation

**Political Experience:** Bedford and former Merrimack, NH Moderator -  
registered party "Undeclared"

**Incumbent?** Yes

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

Bedford has the largest single polling place in the country. The NH Secretary of State has often recommended International Government representatives and news media visit our polls to see and learn how an American election is conducted. At the last February Presidential Primary we had over 20 TV stations and other media spending the day with us (including European and Canadian).

Running elections and budgetary meeting has become very challenging. Many people do not comprehend all the work that goes into elections. Moderators must keep up-to-date on dynamic changes in State and Federal Election Laws and procedures. Organizing all the varied aspects of election planning, especially recruiting and training the staff, requires many hours and insight as to what the needs are.

Since running my first meeting in the early eighty's (with about 5000 voters present!) I have enjoyed serving the state and towns in a capacity that I find fulfilling. I have organized an outstanding team that will remain dedicated to providing our Bedford voters the best election experience possible, even during the most challenging times.

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

Along with our other election officials, I will focus on doing all we can to eliminate any and all potential mistakes that might possibly occur. Some of our procedures that have worked exceptionally well for years, need to be modified to help insure the highest level of accuracy of our election procedures. This effort actually started over a year ago as our team put together new procedures based on our experiences handling unprecedented numbers of voters and ballots, while dealing with all the impacts of Covid.

I will also put even more effort than I previously had, into helping voters better understand our election and budgetary meeting processes. Especially new Bedford voters, tend to have questions about the differing Town and School forms of government. Another area I would like to pursue is speaking to our high school students who will soon be registered voters. Encouraging them to register, learn about elections, and how they can get involved in local, state and federal elections and politics in general.

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

I was recruited by a group of concerned voters, to run for moderator forty years ago. They believed I would make a great moderator based on my respect in the community and recognized skills as a sports official ... capable of making quick decisions and managing people under pressure. Since, I have "officiated", or assisted hundreds of meetings and elections. I've been called on many times to provide guidance to other election officials.

My favorite came from former Secretary of State William Gardner. Bill called me on a Thursday evening in 2020 as pressure was building prior to our September Primary. Towns needed guidance to deal with the first state election during Covid. Gardner said he and AG MacDonald could not agree on critical issues that election officials needed guidance on. Bill convinced the AG to agree to meet with me and one other moderator to "moderate" and offer insight helping them arrive at a compromise. It was successful, and subsequently I was asked to help draft a document providing the guidance they needed to disseminate.

I firmly believe I can continue to serve the Bedford voters as one of our key election officials and ask for your continued support.

## CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK

### **Russan Chester**

**Contact:** Russan4Bedford

**Education:** BA in Psychology UNH

**Profession:** retired

**Organizations/Affiliations:** Bedford Sewing Battalion; Pop Warner; NH Odyssey of the Mind; various volunteer positions within performing arts

**Political Experience:** none

**Incumbent?** No

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

I want the residents and children to be able to join with the elected officials and together develop solutions that we can be proud of.

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

Continue with our rights of  
Liberty; Transparency; Integrity

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

As a former tax specialist I am very specific and fine detail focused, and as a former social services professional I understand and appreciate how the human condition interacts.

## CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK

### Maggie Wachs

**Contact:** <https://www.facebook.com/Maggie-Wachs-for-Bedford-School-District-Clerk-113875834538609>

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Human Development, Cornell University, 1998

**Profession:** Web developer, writer



**Organizations/Affiliations:** Bedford Conservation Commission, 2017-2021

**Political Experience:** I've volunteered for several campaigns, but this is my first time running for office!

**Incumbent?** No

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

One of the rules I live by is that the best way to be fully informed is to get involved. Shortly after moving to Bedford, I did just that. In the 8 years that my husband, Michael, and our 2 kids have spent in Bedford:

- I volunteered for and served on the Conservation Commission for 4.5 years, the last year as chair. I learned so much about zoning, permits, and wetland setbacks, but what I treasure most was getting to know the commission members – fellow parents, Town Councilors, active and involved retirees, bakers, engineers, and teachers. We shared common goals to protect Bedford's green space and, though we disagreed at times, we fostered and shared mutual respect and camaraderie.

- I volunteered as a ballot clerk in our local elections to learn about the process and support our residents as they exercise their Constitutional right to vote.

- I currently volunteer to care for the animals at the Educational Farm at Joppa Hill.

Now, as the mom of two fantastic kids who've benefited so much from Bedford schools, I'm eager to give back to our district and work toward rebuilding consensus and trust.

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

Like many others in Bedford, I'm deeply committed to making sure my kids have all the opportunities in life that we can afford them. I want to continue working to make Bedford a place where families can thrive. We may have different ideas about how to make that happen, but I think it's important to focus on the common commitment we all share – that we all want the best for our kids.

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

Bedford's School District Clerk is responsible for documenting the deliberative session and overseeing votes on school matters, which require clear communication, and a commitment to fairness and transparency.

In my 20-year career as a web developer and writer for clients like Frito Lay, Lego, and Vineyard Vines, I've honed the skills and demeanor to ensure that:

- Any questions or issues are identified and addressed right away,
- Tasks are prioritized and scheduled accurately, and
- Every Bedford voter has an opportunity to weigh in on issues impacting our schools.

I'm committed to supporting the Bedford school board, ensuring that the ballot is accurate, and most importantly, maintaining a process that is open and transparent to Bedford residents. Everyone who has a vote has the right to know how the school board elections are conducted and that their vote will count.

## CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT TREASURER

### Tina Kozak

**Contact:** tinakozakforsbtreasurer@gmail.com

**Education:** BS Business and Economics, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA (1997)

**Profession:** Stay-at-home-parent; Former financial analyst



**Organizations/Affiliations:** VP of former Moms Club of Bedford, Member of Bedford Bluffs Pool and Tennis Club, Destination Imagination Team Manager for Kindergarten/First Grade Team

**Political Experience:** None

**Incumbent?** No

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

I am running for School District Treasurer because I want to get involved and help out in my local community. My family and I moved here in September of 2018, and as my children have grown and been able to spend more time in school, I have been looking to get more involved in the community. We love the town--- how it balances beautiful open spaces and parks with all the conveniences of a well-appointed suburb, and of course we love the excellent schools. The role of Treasurer is of particular interest to me because before I had my children, I spent about 15 years working in a few different Finance roles in Corporate America. I am running for this position because I feel that my education and years of work experience would be a great asset to the team that runs the Bedford School District's day-to-day financial operations.

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

The role of School District Treasurer is a non-partisan position. I believe the role is not so much about addressing policy issues in the community, but more about being part of a professional team that makes sure the School District operates smoothly every day. I plan to approach the role with the attitude of a professional accountant or financial analyst, with the primary concern about helping make sure all financial transactions are following established procedures and legal guidelines. I am approaching this endeavor under the assumption that the financial operations side of our school district is already a well-oiled machine, with solid and trust-worthy internal controls which follow Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. I have the experience and background to help the team at the School District Office maintain operational excellence.

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

I think I am an excellent choice for School Board Treasurer because of my work experience and educational background. I have a BS in Business and Economics from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA. While at Lehigh, I took three semesters of accounting, and two semesters of finance. I worked in Corporate America for 15 years in several types of finance roles, but the overarching pattern is one of data management. I started out in energy commodity market data collection and reporting, which was essentially a business journalism role. I then moved into commodity trading operations for a large energy company in Texas, then worked as a commodity trader, then finally transitioned into Risk Analysis and Management roles at companies that owned power plants. As a Risk Analyst, I was constantly verifying financial data, running reports, reviewing internal controls, and performing End of Month financial reconciliations. Although the venue is very different than where I worked before, my experience and proficiency in financial analysis makes me an excellent fit for the role of School District Treasurer.





**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 8

7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Bedford High School

47 Nashua Road

Budgetary Town Meeting

Wednesday, March 9 at 7:00 PM

Bedford High School Theater

47 Nashua Road

The Town Meeting Handout is available at:

<https://www.bedfordnh.org/DocumentCenter/View/5630/2022-Town-Meeting-Handout?bidId=>