

candidate for:
**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**



PAUL CAPPIALI

Party: Republican

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Q: Please provide a brief biography of yourself for the voters.

A: Paul Cappiali is an experienced leader in finance, executive management, and community service. He serves as Connecticut Harbor Master, manages Greenwich's harbors, and has held executive roles at UFCW Local 2D and Empire Merchants. A Harvard Law executive education graduate, Paul is active in local boards, the RTM, and RTC leadership. He lives in Byram with his wife and two children and is committed to thoughtful, collaborative public service for Greenwich.

Q: What are two of your favorite things about Greenwich?

A: Two of my favorite things about Greenwich are its strong sense of community and its beautiful natural surroundings. I love how residents come together to support local schools, nonprofits, and civic initiatives, creating a town where neighbors look out for one another. I also appreciate our waterfront, parks, and open spaces, which make Greenwich a vibrant, welcoming place to live and raise a family.

Q: What professional, volunteer, or public service accomplishment in the last 12 months are you most proud of and why?

A: In the past 12 months, after retiring from a 31 year career, I'm most proud of founding my own business and leading a local 501(c)(3), through which I helped raise over \$1 million for charities supporting our community. I also continued my public service as a Republican member of the Greenwich Board of Education, working with fellow Republicans to ensure our schools meet the needs of all students. These accomplishments reflect my commitment to both civic engagement and supporting local organizations that make a real difference.

Q: What are one or two pressing challenges of the upcoming term and how would you approach them?

A: One pressing challenge in Greenwich public schools is balancing high-quality education with rising costs. Another is ensuring that all students have access to the resources they need to succeed academically and socially. I plan on approaching these challenges by promoting fiscal responsibility while advocating for programs that support teachers, students, and families. I will work collaboratively with educators, parents, and the community to make thoughtful, data-driven decisions that maintain excellence in our schools.

Q: How do you plan to serve your constituents who didn't support you in decisions that affect our town and their lives?

A: I plan to serve all constituents by listening carefully, communicating openly, and seeking common ground. Even when people disagree with my decisions, I will engage respectfully, explain the reasoning behind policies, and consider feedback to ensure their perspectives are heard. My goal is to make decisions that are fair, transparent, and in the best interest of the entire Greenwich community, while remaining accessible and responsive to every resident.

Q: In April, the Board of Estimate and Taxation (BET) voted to reduce the Greenwich Public Schools budget by approximately \$4 million. This reduction allowed GPS to increase its budget year over year by 3% (vs 5%). [Minutes of the FY 2025-2026 Budget Decision Day Three (3) Meeting of the BET held April 4, 2025]. What is your position on this decision?

A: The BET did not cut \$4M from the school budget; it increased it by \$8M which was deliberately spun as a \$4M "cut/reduction." Republicans even offered an additional \$2M, but Democrats rejected it. Subsequently \$2.5M rolled over from the prior year, making the true increase \$10.5M. At the 11th hour, I negotiated a \$1.9M supplemental, but a Democratic board member blocked it on a technicality. I was sidelined from key BOE meetings, yet I remained committed to transparency and accountability. As a seated member, I will ensure the BOE bases decisions on facts, fiscal responsibility, and what is best for Greenwich schools, teachers, and families—not political talking points.