



BARBARA E. O'NEILL

Party: RTM has no party affiliation

Mailing Address: 26 Center Drive, Old Greenwich, CT, 06870

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

A: For 42 years, my husband and I have proudly called OG home. I spent 36 years in Greenwich schools as a teacher and administrator; 8 years on the BOE, two as Chair. These roles demonstrated to me that strong schools provide a quality education and also raise property values and boost our economy. I also spent 8 years with the Friends of Greenwich Point. I now serve on the OGS Building Committee, working responsibly to upgrade an aging school structure. I am running for RTM to bring experience and a willingness to listen, while supporting strong schools, open space, and transparent government.

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

A: Strategic plan. Our town lacks a long-term capital spending plan, putting us at risk of financial instability and higher taxes. A legislative priority should be to encourage the BET to adopt a long-term capital plan. Small group discussions among the RTM, BET, and BOS members using the LWV Capital Study Plan as a guide could help build consensus and yield actionable steps. 2. Transparency Poor communication and limited cooperation among parties and departments impede effective governance. To facilitate dialogue, a process should be established to ensure the timely sharing of information. Meeting materials must be shared 48 hours before meetings with all officials and the public and must be posted per FOIA. Voters deserve transparency.

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 recent \$4M school budget cut was a disastrous decision made without a proper process or bipartisan discussion. Slashing school funds undermines our community's foundation: strong schools sustain property values, attract families, and prepare our children for the future. Hasty cuts are costly and harm students, especially at GHS and the middle schools. What Greenwich needs now is a clear path forward: a strategic plan that sets long-term priorities, builds consensus, and guides responsible spending. With such a plan, the BET working transparently can draft budgets that support modern school buildings, an excellent education, and a strong financial foundation. Our town's future is too important not to have a strategic plan and student support, particularly for extracurriculars. As a member of the GHS wind and jazz ensembles and pep band, I know how essential these opportunities are for students, alongside sports and academics. We must ensure our funding decisions truly support the full educational experience our students deserve.

Q: Number of Terms on RTM (Incumbents only)

A: 2

Q: Current Committee Assignments (Incumbents only)

A: Alternate for the Education Committee.