

candidate for:
**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**



LAURA KOSTIN

Party: Democrat

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

A: I am a current Board of Education member. I serve on the BOE Budget Committee, the CMS Building Committee, the Distinguished Teacher Awards Committee and as the BOE Liaison to PTA Council. My two youngest children currently attend the Greenwich Public Schools. My two older children have gone through our public schools and have since graduated from GHS. This dual-role has helped me understand our curriculum at every level of learning. My family and I have called Greenwich home for over 20 years. Professionally, I am a journalist who has worked at CNN, CNBC & MSNBC.

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

A: My two favorite things about Greenwich are that: 1. It is a home for everyone and I'm proud to call it home for my family. We love our schools and our parks! 2. And we all can help shape Greenwich's success. The great thing about this Town, is that if you have time to help, there's more than likely a place for you in our volunteer government or with an organization that does great work for residents.

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

A: I am a particularly proud member of the Central Middle School Building Committee. It is our Town's largest capital project ever and I am thrilled that thanks to our hard work, a beautiful, new school is rising up where there was none. This vital school building project is progressing on time and in budget. Our job was to build this school for the students, and we are delivering.

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

A: First as a member of the Board of Education, it is vital that we continue to move our Strategic Plan forward and remain focused on the many complex facets of it. It is what guides our Administration and our educators to help our students achieve in the classroom. Second, making sure that the recommendations from our Special Education audit are being implemented with fidelity is also primary focus. Making sure all our students are the best learners they can be is the most important job at hand.

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 am and always have been a Board Member focused on what's best for students. This past year, the Republican-led BET did not support our school funding needs. I can't change their decision-making or the terrible impacts of it. But I remain committed to providing for what's best for our students and their learning, undaunted.

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 Republican BET has inflicted much harm with this reduction. While my fellow Board of Education members and I did our best to protect the classroom experience for students, other aspects of the educational experience will suffer because of this decision. For example, to reduce transportation costs, some elementary schools will be starting at 9am, which presents a hardship for working families in the district. Meanwhile, students at Greenwich High School will begin their academic day earlier, even though scientific research shows that older students learn better with a later start time. Headcount reductions were also necessary, and that too impacts the overall education experience for students.