Helen Schiff - Candidate for 3 year Term Pittsfield District School Board School

220 Eaton Road, Pittsfield, NH 03263

603.340.8181 [helen.schiff@gmail.com](mailto:helen.schiff@gmail.com)

**“Common Sense Leadership”**

Why the School Board, why now…because I have the skills & experience needed to serve in the position I am seeking.

I was born in Brooklyn, New York. I am a first generation American. My interest in serving on the school board stems from my family instilled love of education. I come from a long line of Russian (now Ukrainian) farmers! educated in the New York City school system. At 16 I started attending Fashion Institute of Technology, SUNY. I owned a garment import agency from 1985-1999 during which time I made over 80 trips to the far east to negotiate prices, quota, contracts, and letters of credit with the China National Import / Export Corporation. In 1999 I started selling in the FinTech industry. I was widowed in 2001. In 2003, I was offered a management position in New Hampshire to work with Citizens Financial Group which I did until 2012. I continue to sell Fintech services covering Northern New England.

I bought my home in Pittsfield in 2005. I’ve been involved with town boards and committees since 2006. I’ve served on Budget Committee 2007 – 2023. While on the Budget Committee. a big part of our time is spent reviewing the school budget line by line. Over the years, I have had many questions for the SAU Superintendent. If you have attended any of those meetings, you know I am VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT THE QUALITY of education the students at Pittsfield schools are offered, the class size, *the ratio of SAU and Administrative personnel to number of students.* I have voted against the school budget numerous times as a protest regarding the percentage of raises for SAU personnel versus lower percentage raises for teachers. I have expressed my views many times supporting boys & girls school sports. I have had many children stay with me at different times and I know life is not so easy for many of our students – as in many other towns in 2023 America. We need to promote Parent / Teacher / Student communication. Talk, listen, action, follow up.

I believe I can bring a fresh perspective to the school board. If elected, I would work with the other board members to focus on getting the district operating to ***REBUILD COMMUNITY TRUST!***

Our schools should offer jobs that provide compensation that will attract & keep the best, brightest and most qualified educators in New Hampshire. These educators are with your children every day, every hour of school. Other than the students, who at the school is more important than the teachers? To accomplish that, we’ll need to consider eliminating ***redundant positions***. Let’s look at unnecessary expenses in the SAU. We need to evaluate what purpose these expenses serve for the betterment of your child’s education.

Let’s design Capital plans and strategic goals within specific time frames. I would ask our town Capital Improvement Planning committee to help the school board set a path to our future. We owe the taxpayers of Pittsfield student performance scores worthy of their investment. In business, the term ROI “Return on Investment” is used to measure success or failure. Let’s do the same for our SAU. \*\*\* Apartment / Home Renters – you also pay property tax, 2/3 of which funds the school. How? Your landlord bases a portion of your rent on the property tax they are assessed and include that in your monthly rent. You have an equal vote as any homeowner.

I have experience being a member of a union, MEBA (Marine Engineers Benevolent Association), and a shop steward. I would love the opportunity to negotiate the next teacher’s contract. I would be an impartial participant. This is a key to attracting and keeping highly qualified educators.

Volunteer experience: President Par–Troy Chapter of Cancer Care, Inc. Fundraising Chair Tri-State Chapters of Cancer Care, Inc.

\*\* shout out to the Panthers for their win over Mount Royal – WMUR coverage last week!