

Fall River Educators Association----Guiding Principles

1. I am a retired career educator. I will never forget when I received pink slips for several consecutive years and was eventually laid off only to be recalled at the end of summer break. The anxiety I felt as a professional and family man was terrible. The response to these weak budgetary measures was low morale throughout the ranks. We should never have to face this any longer in the future. I am in favor of funding above the Net School Spending obligation. This will create great energy and consistent sustainability of staff and programming. The budget should reflect the genuine needs of the schools by cutting fat and properly appropriating funds where they truly need to be.
2. My experiences as a classroom teacher and school adjustment counselor helped me to understand the values of a diverse student population. I became the advisor to the United Cultures Club at Durfee and worked collaboratively with the community to create—One Earth, One People, Under the Sun. The theme is based off of a song I wrote to create more awareness and tolerance on campus and the greater community. Respecting and understanding our cultural diversity is necessary to moving Fall River forward. I do support the \$15/hour minimum wage to help families cope with their financial demands.
3. I agree wholeheartedly with less testing. The classroom must become free of the imposition of State derived Standards. I support the platform you give for hands-on, student-centered learning and teacher-designed assessments.
4. The work I did with Peaceful Coalition was recognized by the Fall River Community and The Police Department. We built connections to the students, especially those who were gang

involved and in trouble at home and in school. The program helped students to develop a stronger self-concept of themselves. Consequently, instead of dropping out, they accepted the challenge of their education and most were able to graduate. Restorative justice works when it is guided by the work of caring adults acting as proper role models. Funding has always been less of a priority in this area as compared to MCAS derived subject areas.

5. Professional Development is wholly necessary to the growth of new ideas and best practices. The demands of technological change and social demographics bring with them the opportunity to enrich the modern learning experience. My issue with professional development has been in its execution. Many sessions that I attended were not effective for a host of reasons, be it they were time limited, crowded and distracted, not completely relevant to each educator for use in their subject area, etc. With proper oversight, PD can be exciting. I am in support of proper oversight and best practices.

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Fall River Educators Association

Guiding Principles

Quality public education is the cornerstone of a just and democratic society. In the interest of the schools our community deserves, we believe in:

1. **Fully funded public schools in every neighborhood.** We can't work with what we don't have. Greater funding in our district means modern, safer school buildings with smaller class sizes, better technology, and more social-emotional supports. It means competitive salaries that retain talented teachers. In short, it means better teaching and learning. To make all of this possible, we support funding the district above the net school spending requirement. We support the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission, which account for rising transportation and special education costs. We support the Fair Share Amendment, which will invest in public education and transportation by taxing millionaires at a 4% higher rate. And we oppose all efforts to privatize education—from expanding charter schools to weakening unions.
2. **Educating all of our students.** We understand our district's diversity as an asset, and we welcome our students regardless of race, class, gender, sexuality, ability, language, or citizenship status. Because our students' lives at home determine their success in our classrooms, we support an economic agenda that lifts families up—from a \$15/hour living wage to paid family and medical leave.
3. **Less testing, more learning.** High-stakes testing hurts us and our students. Tying test scores to student graduation and teacher evaluations turns our schools into pressure-cookers. We support a holistic curriculum with plenty of room for the arts and recess. We support hands-on, student-centered learning and authentic, teacher-designed assessments.
4. **Restorative justice practices.** Punitive discipline doesn't work, and it doesn't respect our students. We see the children in our classrooms as young people deserving of love. We strive to work with them in ways that hold them accountable, repair harm, and transform behavior over the long term. We support adoption of these practices in every school and training in restorative justice practices for every educator.
5. **Professional development.** Our population of high-needs students is growing. We need ongoing high-quality professional development to meet those needs.