

Durham 3 Year Position:

Jeffrey Fortin



My name is Jeffrey Fortin and I grew up in the Seacoast area, earning a HS diploma from Berwick Academy in '91, BA from Boston University '96 and an MA and PhD from The University of New Hampshire '04, '06. I am a tenured Associate Professor of History at Emmanuel College in Boston where I am department chair. I have received multiple research fellowships and curriculum development grants, including The Davis Educational Foundation Grant, Designing and Implementing Innovative Shared Academic Programming in 2019. Serving on the Vice President's Faculty Advisory Committee and Budget Committee positioned me to work with administration and faculty to develop reopening plans for the College which resulted in bringing our students back to campus in late January. Our Board of Trustees gave administration, faculty, and staff the ability to develop plans that reflect their professional expertise and concern for student centered educational alternatives during the pandemic.

I am running for School Board because I believe we need more educational experience and expertise on the board. Increasing the amount of members with a background in education is critical in a pandemic world where the board is making decisions about educational models that include loss of instructional time, loss of social engagement time, and other challenges. There are numerous long-term goals on which we need to remain focused, such as equity and inclusion, anti-racism, multi-tiered systems of academic and emotional and social support for students and families, among others. I look forward to addressing these issues as part of Board appointed committees where all members of the District can collaborate to solve problems and create actionable items.

Finally, in recognition that education and educational methods are evolving and will continual to evolve, it is critical for the Board to support faculty, staff, and administrators in thinking creatively while fostering innovation. As someone forced to unexpectedly pivot online last March and remain online until January, new classroom pedagogy has resulted, and educators everywhere know that some of these instructional practices and innovation are here to stay. We need members on the School Board who best support the District in recognizing how to evolve and change with a post-pandemic world.

Erik Mason



I am the father of a “targeted learner” student, which for all intent and purpose this vulnerable and significant population truly exemplifies what it means to be the canary in the coal mine so to speak. This has afforded me the opportunity to dive into the inner workings of the district’s policies and operational apparatus since moving to Durham in 2010.

- **Career** – Being a professional ideator, creativity and innovation are just some of the prized attributes I exemplify when it comes to addressing complex business and operational challenges as I have over my 20+ year career. I am the founder and CEO of a boutique marketing and communications consultancy after spending a decade and a half in global leadership roles spanning technology, management consulting, medical device and financial services industries. This has lead me to build a long-standing client base spanning companies such as IBM and AVEVA to small businesses within retail and resort industries. In these roles I have developed strategic integrated marketing and communications programs in support of multi-million capital raises for startup companies totaling over \$100 million to enable corporate growth initiatives. Additionally, I’ve overseen all corporate communications and global brand relaunches for IPOs and mergers & acquisitions exceeding \$4 billion.
- **Education** – University of Utah, BSc Mass Communications & Marketing

My Reasons for Running for ORCSD Board:

- **Every student has the right to meet their full potential.** How each student gets there is a significant delta to cross. The school board policies that have resulted in many concerns across the district - a number of which haven’t been updated in many years - are in dire need of being enhanced.
- **Communities are the intersect of passions and perspectives.** I hold accountability and mindful action as my guiding principles. This is essential to formulate a safe, sound and scalable school re-opening while navigating the pandemic, which too shall pass.
- **Transparency and trust are non-negotiable.** The independence of the school board must be regained. School board members must operate as an active fiduciary – just like corporate board members for a company – while also ensuring the vitality of the organization.

Yusi Turell



Since filling Dr. Rotner’s seat in October, I have worked tirelessly to develop the systems needed to help us navigate COVID’s uncharted waters. I advocated for hybrid models that allow a choice to return to school, pushed for guidance from medical experts and a COVID-19 Dashboard, and sought survey input from families on their satisfaction with their child’s school experiences. I co-chaired the Concurrent Teaching Working Group and serve on the Equity and Antiracism Committee.

It has been a hard year, but we now have turned a corner with hybrid models for all students and clear health indicators to guide decisions. I will continue to advocate for hybrid models that serve in-person and remote students equitably.

Once beyond COVID, we must prepare thoughtfully for Dr. Morse’s 2024 retirement and the next era of district leadership. In order to pair our strong fundamentals with innovation and growth, I prioritize:

- Experiential education that develops the “Four Cs” of 21st Century Learning: Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity
- Focus on antiracism and environmental sustainability
- Continued strengths in special education and other support services
- Improved communication with families
- A responsible budget that maintains our district’s strong reputation and property values

BACKGROUND & EXPERIENCE:

I served as a national program manager for Citizen Schools, an education reform nonprofit. Citizen Schools engages professional volunteers to teach hands-on apprenticeships after school – building students' critical 21st century skills, reinforcing basic academic skills, and fueling their college/career aspirations. After my husband and I moved to Durham in 2007, I became the founding director of UNH’s Center for Social Innovation and Finance, engaging students in experiential learning opportunities at organizations focused on People, Planet, and Profit.

In 2021, I am writing my Ph.D. dissertation, working part-time for UNH in solar finance, and parenting our two boys, 11 and 13.

Other community service: Superintendent screening committee (2011); Durham Economic Development Committee; Oyster River Chinese Program and world languages expansion; ORYA Coach in Ultimate frisbee. I hold degrees in civil engineering from Princeton University and in technology and innovation management as a Marshall Scholar.

www.yusi.squarespace.com

Lee 3 Year Position:

Nicolas Alcocer



Thank you for considering me to represent the Town of Lee.

I grew up in Western New York, to a first-generation American and a schoolteacher. I graduated from the US Air Force Academy and with my supportive wife, we raise four children. In 2014, we came to New Hampshire. I have made my living as a family man, team leader, and risk-manager.

I STAND FOR

Preparation and improvement: Let's move FORWARD, TOGETHER. We are all focused on making the world a better place. Let's help the children be life-long learners, contributing citizens, self-aware and determined to be the best version of themselves.

I STAND AGAINST

Disrespect: Refusing to listen to new ideas is the enemy of progress; embrace opportunity. We must respect ourselves and each other enough to provide support without any sacrifice to moral beliefs and shared values.

I SUPPORT

Courage and curiosity: Together, we demonstrate courage to succeed and to fail-forward so our children and community prosper. We must instill a fearless curiosity. We must manage risk if we hope to improve. Let's give ourselves to this endeavor cooperatively.

The school board must provide leadership to ensure student success. Increasing the diversity in education is a priority. Our students and community are global citizens, best served by continued exposure and deeper understanding of culture differences in and out of the classroom. Strength and resilience comes from debate and embracing new ideas. This learning starts at home; directed reinforcement efforts are made in the classroom.

Our community deserves clear and focused communication to allow understanding. The board must be advocates for data integrity and respectful, substantive debate. District leadership must be accountable for timely decision and action.

The world is a place to learn and grow; our youth yearn for the structure of in-person education. To freely express ideas and seek new experiences cannot be replaced. It is fundamental that those who serve as educators are given every opportunity to propel students. Let's focus efforts to protect resources while investing in the future. I appreciate your time and look forward to continued conversation.

Brian Cisneros



I have served on the Oyster River School Board as the Lee representative since 2017.

I support working towards the goal of getting the most amount of students in the school as conditions allow. I have been working with administration and the board to move this process along as quickly as possible. I have also met recently with the Teacher's Guild to discuss what we can do together to reach that goal. I firmly believe that when two groups sit down at a table together, any problem can be solved with an acceptable result. This issue is no different.

For the last 2.5 years I have been deeply involved in the new middle school project. I not only assisted in the financing plan for the bond purchase, but I was also involved in the design phase from the beginning. I then added to my responsibilities the Go Vote ORMS group where I helped get the bond passed on the first attempt. We did this by hosting house parties, public meetings, meet and greets, and speaking with small groups all over the district. We ended up passing the bond with 76% of the vote. It's one of my proudest accomplishments from my time on the school board. Today, I am on the middle school construction committee as well as the oversight committee. This allows me to make sure the project is on time and on budget.

I believe that the children of this district truly are our future. But I also believe that this can be done while maintaining fiscal responsibility. This was why I was appointed to the finance/budget committee. This committee oversees the finances of the district and helps develop the annual budget.

I currently work as the Business Administrator for the Farmington School District where I oversee Finance & Budgeting, Operations, Food Service, Human Resources, and Grant Management. I have an MBA in Finance and I have worked in the Finance field for over 20 years. In addition, I am an adjunct instructor of Finance at Great Bay Community College, where I helped start the risk management program.

Madbury 3 Year Position:

Kevin Abbott



First, I am a resident of Madbury and have been for the last 15 years. Actually, come to think of it, there has been an Abbott in the Towns of Madbury or Durham for the last 100 years! I am married and have three wonderful kids in every level of the ORCSD system, from Moharimet to the Middle School, and one in the High School too. I am a graduate of Somersworth High School and received my degree in Science from NHCTC in Nashua.

For the last 12 years I have been employed in the field of Law Enforcement, spending the majority of the last 5 years as a Police Officer for the Town of Durham. Prior to my Law Enforcement career, I was employed in many areas surrounding customer service, and as a loan officer for a mortgage company.

Through sports, boards and other various activities, I have always been connected to my community. Starting in high school, I was a member of the Accreditation Committee for the Vocational Center where I was directly responsible for curriculum, budget, and work study programs for the Automotive Department. I have coached sports teams, and organized community events and fundraisers. I have also led organizations whether as a board member or President of a local Union, even organized a new chapter for some of my fellow brothers and sisters in Strafford County through teamwork and with a lot of elbow grease.

I hope I can earn your vote!

Michelle Dunbar



Hi, I'm Michelle Dunbar and I'm running for the Oyster River school board. My husband, children (ages 10, 12, 14, 16) and I moved to Madbury nearly 7 years ago. Originally from the Midwest, I hold degrees in Human Development/Family Studies and Psychology, in addition to a Masters of Occupational Therapy. I have over ten years of experience as a pediatric occupational therapist in both clinical and educational settings. Currently, I dedicate my time to parenting, furthering my education, and serving my community.

I believe children are our future and their well-being is of the utmost importance. I value a positive parent and teacher alliance of mutual support and respect. Ultimately, I believe that parents have the natural right to advocate for the educational culture of their children.

When I was new to the area, I began volunteering for the PTO at Moharimet. I was excited to be a part of a vibrant community of parents, teachers, and staff who truly love children and want to see them thrive.

Recognizing a need for additional support, I then served as PTO Co-Chair for four years at Moharimet. In this leadership role, no challenge was too big! Our accomplishments were numerous, from creating the "traveling Box Top trophy" to traditional fundraising campaigns like "40k over 4 years." We even added additional events to build school spirit between Mast Way and Moharimet families, like the "Sweetheart Dance" and "Step up day" activities.

During my last two years of leadership, we completed a total restructuring of the Moharimet PTO. It was an arduous yet necessary undertaking. We transitioned from a two-person leadership model, with little guidance or structure, to an entire PTO Board, organized on one digital platform to optimize efficiency and collaboration.

I have demonstrated my dedication and leadership to our community through my PTO involvement. I have shared my innovative ideas, taken initiative, and consistently followed through. With my educational background, my proven leadership qualities, and my ambition to put our children first, I will be a valuable addition to the school board for our community. I kindly ask for your vote in March. Thank you!

Daniel Klein



- Resident of Madbury since 2011
- BA Political Science/Environmental Earth Science
- Service on Oyster River School Board since 2015
- Board Committees: Sustainability, Policy, Negotiations
- Board Representative to NHSBA Delegate Assembly
- Member of Middle School Facility Taskforce
- Middle School Facility Final Report – Co-author

It has been an honor to serve on the Oyster River School Board as Madbury Representative since 2015. I am running for a third term because I am deeply invested in the ongoing work of leading our District through this difficult time. My experience on the Board and knowledge of both ongoing and past initiatives make me uniquely qualified to contribute to the future success of our District.

During my tenure I am proud to have supported and contributed to:

- The ongoing culture of collaboration between our teachers, support staff and administration
- Developing budgets that support academic achievement and mitigate tax impact
- Crafting a middle school building plan that did not result in a tax spike
- One-to-one program which provides laptops to students
- Negotiating guild/union contracts that meet market standards and achieve Board goals
- Adoption of the first anti-discrimination policy for transgender students in New Hampshire
- Efforts aimed at confronting racism including the formation of an anti-racism taskforce
- Shifting school start times to align with American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations

The past year has been the most challenging time of my tenure on the Board. I am troubled by the many sacrifices our community has made as a result of our District's efforts to mitigate the risks related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The models developed by our administration and adopted by the Board during the pandemic have made a priority of following CDC guidance for schools which I continue to support. While I am pleased with recent progress we have made in adopting hybrid models for in-person learning at our middle and high schools, I acknowledge that we were very slow to deliver on these goals earlier in the school year. I will continue to advocate for changes in our Board policy and process to ensure that we do not repeat the missteps that led to these delays.

I can be reached at DanKleinORboard@gmail.com

AT-Large Position – 1 Year:

Matt Durkee



My name is Matt Durkee and I am resident of Lee along with my wife, Meghan, and our two sons. Born and raised in New Hampshire by parents who were public school teachers for 40+ years, I graduated from UNH and later obtained my MBA from SNHU's online program. My professional life has been dedicated to sales management including the past 11 years as the Director of Sales for a small family owned footwear distributor. Service within the community has played an important role in my life. I was a member of the Somersworth Planning Board for 2 years, ran for City Council twice and was honored to be elected as Councilor serving for a year.

I will be a strong advocate for working families on matters of policy and budget. I support the immediate creation of full time in-person learning models that preserve existing remote learning options. Too many children are falling behind. Many parents are overwhelmed balancing full time work and the time/resource demands of their children to make remote and hybrid learning successful. These stressful environments compound problems students already have with feelings of isolation. We simply cannot afford to keep the status quo in the hopes that policy will change to allow in-person learning at some point.

I will also be a reliable steward of our tax dollars, respecting the burden of high property taxes on the community while making common sense investments where needed. You can count on me to be transparent and informative with proactive engagement about the matters we discuss in meetings. For many, watching a 3+ hour school board meeting after a long day is simply not that interesting- until you find out a major decision impacting your children was made that you had no clue was being considered.

I hope my platform informs you of how I would make decisions to help chart a new course. I kindly ask for your vote on Tuesday, March 9th.

Allan Howland



Education: B.S. Biology Hobart College, M.S. Ed Northern Illinois University

Past Teaching Experience: Biology and Earth Science Teacher, Alan B. Shepard High School

Local Boards: Oyster River School Board 2012-Present, Durham Town Council 2016-Present

Committee Work: Oyster River Negotiations Committee, Oyster River Budget Committee, Oyster River Wellness Committee, Oyster River Sustainability Committee, Durham Economic Development Committee, Durham Integrated Waste Management Committee, Durham Parks and Recreation Committee, Celebrate Durham

The appearance of COVID-19 last year has been a remarkably disruptive event. It has been painful for students, parents, teachers, and school staff, as well as the general public. It has also forced the School Board to wrestle with some extraordinarily tough choices. Despite the recent promise of vaccines, the next year will continue to be challenging. It will require Board members to have the ability to respectfully listen to multiple opinions, have a clear understanding of School Board roles and responsibilities, and to collaborate with school staff. These are traits that have defined my time on the Oyster River School Board and the Durham Town Council. As I approach the end of my third term, I feel the one year, at-large position provides a good opportunity to use my nine years of experience to help the district chart a course past the pandemic. The following items need to occur over the next year:

- Use the district health team's recommendations when developing school opening plans.
- Implement and support recommendations for improving instruction during asynchronous learning periods.
- Address instructional loss in development of plans for the upcoming summer and fall sessions.
- Use COVID contingency funds for staff professional development to help them prepare for school opening in the fall.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the multi-tiered social/emotional support system that has been a central element of the current strategic plan.
- Evaluate the Middle School competency reporting system and ensure it is integrated with the one at the high school.
- Continue to use the capital Improvement plan to incorporate the second half of the new Middle School bond, helping to prevent a spike in community tax rates.

Jill Piparo



Our family was attracted to the strong reputation of the school system here in Oyster River from across the country. Upon relocating to Durham, we enrolled our children in the PEP program at the high school. When the time came, they began kindergarten at Mast Way. There, I immediately joined the playground fundraising committee and became an active member of the PTO. I continued to serve on the PTO, eventually as the president of the organization, increasing collaboration with UNH by organizing football game and hockey nights for families to attend. Additionally, I truly loved the experience of organizing the Staff Appreciation gifts and luncheons for the educators and staff at Mast Way. It was very easy to see why the district was so highly regarded. The teachers and staff exceeded our expectations in so many ways and allowed us to contribute in meaningful ways to our children's experience. Most recently, I served on the principal selection committee for Mast Way School, which was a very special honor, and a responsibility that I did not take lightly.

I have thought about running for the Oyster River School Board for quite some time. I know friends that have served on the board, and I have admired the type of commitment to service that this act of volunteerism entails. I want to be on the Oyster River School Board, because I am proud of this board and what they have accomplished. I want to be a part of such a positive force for our school system. I have loved every teacher that we have had in Oyster River, and want to continue the positive relationship that the board has with the teachers. I see myself as a champion of collaboration. Going forward, I would make sure that every student has the choices that they need to be engaged by our school system. I want to work together to ENGAGE EVERY LEARNER! Thank you for your consideration.