

**Kimberly Russo**  
**BOE Statement**

**Family:**

I have been married to my husband, David Russo, since 2001, and we made our home in Clinton in 2002. David grew up in Clinton and his parents, grandmother, and sister still live in town. We have one son, Nicolas, who is 12 years old and is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Eliot.

**Education:**

I graduated with a BA in history and a minor in Secondary Education from Trinity College in 1995. I graduated with a MS in Special Education from Southern Connecticut State University in 1996. I also hold two teacher certifications from the state of Connecticut, one in History and Social Studies, 7 – 12 and one in Special Education, PK – 12.

**Civic Involvement:**

I have been a member of the United Church of Christ, Clinton since 2013. While at the United Church of Christ, I have been a Sunday School teacher, a member of the Diaconate Board and a volunteer at the Summer Fair.

**Qualifications:**

I have 20 years of teaching experience in both regular education and special education. My experience has given me the opportunity to work with students from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Most recently I have been a member of several committees including a curriculum committee which wrote the new 8<sup>th</sup> grade U.S. history curriculum, a Superintendent-initiated enrichment committee which examined a variety of curriculum options to meet the needs of all learners, a policy committee which crafted our school building's Mobile Learning Devise Policy, and a Superintendent-initiated committee which researched the use of student performance data in teacher evaluation.

I am also thoughtful, open-minded, hard-working, professional, and a team player.

**Why I am running:**

I feel strongly that a school system should meet the needs of all learners with diverse needs and interests. With planning, an open mind, and a commitment to this goal from all stakeholders, I truly believe this is possible. I want to be an advocate for the diverse group of kids who walk through the doors of our town's public schools and their families.

Having an open mind brings me to another reason I am running. In an economic environment where every dollar counts, I believe it is important for our school system to think creatively about how it can best serve its diverse learners. My son has had a number

of amazing teachers who have been willing to “think outside of the box” when it comes to meeting the needs of all their students and much of that thinking did not require spending any additional financial resources. Instead, it took teachers and administrators who were willing to work with the parents of their students, try something new, and take a chance. I believe it is important for a school system, and the town that supports it, to work collaboratively in order to make its public school system a success.

Goals:

- 1.) Ensure that our schools do their best at educating and meeting the needs of all students. That includes meeting the academic needs of all learners, providing opportunities to students to pursue their interests outside of the core academic subjects, and making connections with kids.
- 2.) Making sure that our teachers have the appropriate training, resources, and opportunities to reach and teach all of our kids. This includes not just what they teach but how they teach.
- 3.) Given that the Board of Education is responsible for connecting the will of the community to the actions of the school system, I want to make sure that the public feels heard. Connected to this, I feel it is important for the school system to make sure that its actions are transparent and are explained and executed in a clear and concise way.