

By email received on  
10/14/22 at 11:56 AM

Breanna Higgins  
17 Storeybrooke Dr  
Newburyport, MA 01950

Newburyport City Hall  
60 Pleasant St  
Newburyport, MA 01950

To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to express interest in the vacant seat on the Newburyport School Committee. I grew up in this community and have made a home here with my own family. This is a special community and I'm eager to give back by offering my time and experience to ensuring all children in our school system receive an excellent education.

Newburyport children, along with the rest of the country, have experienced tremendous disruption over the last two years. The impact on learning cannot be overlooked as evidenced by the district's ten percentage point drop in ELA and math MCAS scores since 2019. However, I understand that the impact on students is not uniform. It has been differentiated between various student groups. A critical lens for me is to deeply understand the impact of the past two years on our students, especially the most vulnerable students. Newburyport schools has an increasing number of students with disabilities and those who are economically disadvantaged. I'd like to support the school system in advancing initiatives aimed to address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on the academic and social emotional learning on these students. In addition, recent MCAS data indicates that students in the early grades struggled with remote and distanced learning. These children will need accelerated learning supports to address skill gaps at the same time as advancing their learning in grade-level content.

My professional experience has been dedicated to the advancement of educational opportunities for all students. I have the experience to act as a key thought-partner for the district in a wide range of areas named in the District Strategic Initiatives and would be honored to serve in this role.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Breanna Higgins

# Breanna Higgins

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<b>Doctor of Education, <i>Educational Administration and Policy</i></b> , The George Washington University	<b>2022</b>
<b>Master of Education, <i>Curriculum and Instruction</i></b> , University of Massachusetts at Boston	<b>2011</b>
<b>Bachelor of Arts, <i>History &amp; International Studies</i></b> , Stonehill College	<b>2010</b>

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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<b>Massachusetts Department of Elementary &amp; Secondary Education</b>	<b>2021-present</b>
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*Targeted Assistance Manager*

- Provide direct technical assistance to schools and districts under state receivership and alternative governance models
- Facilitate professional learning for principals and support the development and monitoring of annual school improvement plans with a specific focus on classroom pedagogy and the creation of systems for improvement
- Manage grant funding from the Office of Strategic Transformation
- Manage the development of a novel program to certify individuals as interpreters in the school setting to expand language access to all families

<b>Empower Schools</b>	<b>2018-2020</b>
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*Manager*

- Cultivated and managed district partnerships to drive the implementation of educator-driven school improvement; secured and strengthened key relationships enabling the advancement of mission-aligned systems in districts
- Researched and analyzed performance frameworks in order to design systems to monitor and evaluate school performance and network operations, adopted by three districts
- Supported the launch of an autonomous school network in South Bend, IN including developing a strategic plan, and crafting accountability goals and appropriate targets driven by achievement data
- Analyzed district financial data to drive recommendations toward student-based budgeting
- Contributed to multiple high-quality pitches for district partnership
- Created content to promote and advocate for autonomous schools, including a recently published case study
- Developed and enhanced internal processes for organizational effectiveness and sustainability

<b>The George Washington University</b>	<b>2015 - 2018</b>
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*Graduate Research Assistant*

- Conducted literature reviews on various topics including charter school enrollment and policies and state turnaround efforts
- Coded and analyzed qualitative and quantitative data in support of department research projects

<b>Consultant for Delaware Department of Education (<i>Program Evaluation Course</i>)</b>	<b>Spring 2016</b>
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- Evaluated a new teacher induction program in two districts to assess goal alignment and outcomes

<b>National School Boards Association Center for Public Education</b>	<b>Spring 2016</b>
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*Education Policy Intern*

- Contributed to the writing of reports, policy briefs, and blog posts
- Supported the organization's knowledge of relevant education policies in research and media coverage

<b>City on a Hill Charter Public School, Roxbury, MA</b>	<b>2012-2015</b>
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*History Department Head*

- Supervised department members, facilitated team meetings, coordinated curriculum and assessments, contributed to creation of school policies, built relationships amongst department staff
- Managed teachers-in-training through weekly supervisory and evaluative meetings

*Response to Intervention Coordinator*

- Implemented a multi-tiered student intervention program; assessed at-risk students' needs to provide appropriate support, monitored student progress, and communicated on-going strategies with teacher teams

## PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

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<b>Jeremiah E. Burke High School, Dorchester, MA</b>	<b>2011- 2012</b>
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*History Teacher*

<b>Community Academy of Science and Health, Hyde Park, MA</b>	<b>2010- 2011</b>
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*Teacher Resident*