

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# DePrizio for Lynnfield School Committee

To the editor:

First and foremost, I want to acknowledge and thank our school superintendent, School Committee, town administrators, school leaders and educators for how hard they have worked to keep our children engaged and excited to learn, and for the many hours they continue to put in to ensure the safety of each and every student, teacher, and employee working in our schools.

I do not envy the difficult circumstances they have found themselves in during the past year. They have had to make some very tough decisions, that at times weren't very popular. However, I believe our elected officials have done the very best job they could with the information and resources that were available to them.

It is now our turn as the registered voters of Lynnfield to make a difficult decision. We have the opportunity to select two of three excellent candi-

dates to represent our community on the School Committee.

Each of them has unique skills, experiences and perspectives, but one in particular exemplifies the strong competencies I would want in a leader. In addition to being caring, patient and kind, Kate DePrizio has the courage to ask hard questions, the capacity to understand complex issues, and the ability to seek and understand her constituents' worries, fears and needs with an open heart and mind.

Kate's fierce determination, dedication and commitment to this town has never been more apparent than by her tenacious leadership as president of Together We Grow. She and her team of volunteers mobilized residents to vote in favor of a large budget increase that will provide funding for the much needed expansion of our two elementary schools.

In her current roles as co-vice president of the Huckleberry Hill School (HHS) Parent Teacher Organization and pres-

ident of the Tower Day School Parents' Forum, Kate has worked collaboratively to bring various events and programs to fruition, to allow children the opportunity to connect safely with one another and have a positive impact on the world around them.

For example, as a Brownie troop leader, Kate is helping to organize the third annual spring clean-up with the Girl Scout troops and Boy Scout troops, while inviting and encouraging all neighbors to participate. She is co-directing this year's Variety Show at HHS, taking into consideration all safety guidelines and protocols.

She recently helped coordinate the Bare Necessities "hygiene drive" in collaboration with HHS, Summer Street School (SSS), Lynnfield Preschool, Tower Day School, and The Bethlehem School, which delivered four completely packed carloads of donations to benefit Peabody's Citizens Inn.

She is also a cheer coach and proud full-time mom to four young children. So to say that Kate cares deeply about the future of our schools and the betterment of this community would be an understatement.

Kate is passionate about the safety and education of our students with disabilities, and will work to serve the needs of all children. She recognizes the importance of expanding our social and emotional learning (SEL) curriculum, especially in the aftermath of the pandemic. She is eager to join the diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) conversations, and has some great ideas for how we can work to build a more inclusive school system, as well as promote a more equitable community.

Kate is an attentive listener who respects opinions that differ from her own. She seeks to understand, without judgement; she is straightforward and impartial. She thinks about the big picture, not just how to get there.

A big responsibility of the School Committee is to approve the annual budget for the school department, which makes up nearly half of the overall town budget. This requires balancing the needs of many programs and the ability to prioritize and maximize the use of tax dollars. As an informed decision-maker and natural problem solver, Kate is someone I want on board helping to make these difficult choices, while meeting the needs of both our children and our community at large.

Kate DePrizio is a candidate who demonstrates an innate leadership style that incites enthusiasm and respect. She is compassionate and empathetic, and would be a positive addition to our School Committee. It is for these reasons and more that I ask you to please join me in voting for Kate DePrizio for School Committee on April 13..

*Kimberlee Kossover Hansen  
Lynnfield*

## Saluting a groundbreaking woman in our small town

To the editor:

I am writing in response to the article titled "Don't tell Lilakos firefighting's a man's job," published in your newspaper (Item, March 18). I am currently a student enrolled in a sociology class at James Madison University and am completing an assignment.

I feel strongly towards this article and the message behind it. I think it is valuable for women and young girls to see women break gender norms. Being from a small town like Lynnfield, it is very normal to see women in the teaching profession and see males in law enforcement and public safety.

This article is a small step in providing examples for women to feel as though they can follow their heart and their passions. And not only women but even for young males to see that just because you are a certain gender does not mean you have to fit some kind of mold for an occupation in the future.

Hearing quotes come directly from Suzie Lilakos and her experiences really opened my eyes to how far the world has

come, but with the older generations there is still more work to do.

Although Lynnfield is a particularly small town, I hope that with this type of representation and attention from this article more women in male-dominated work forces will feel appreciated.

*Thank you,  
Julia Van Sicklin*

To the editor:

As president of the Lynnfield Historical Society and with the full acknowledgement of the Society Executive Board, I would take this opportunity to make a brief statement regarding a recent article about us (see Page 1).

The Society will not be lured into a war of words. After several attempts to schedule a time to meet with town officials, we have yet to be given that courtesy. Now local newspapers are writing one-sided articles with misleading facts provided by

town officials, yet no input was requested from the Society.

This dispute goes way beyond our lapsing 501c3. This is a retaliatory vendetta waged by a particular town official.

We have faithfully and responsibly supported the Meeting House for more than 61 years as well as the Historical Centre for 17 years. The Society contributed untold hours of selfless volunteerism and financial support, which saved the town hundreds of thousands of dollars. Yet we have been summarily stripped of access to our artifacts and

the care and maintenance of the Meeting House as well as the Historical Centre.

The Society as a whole, as well as individual members, have been the victims of character assassination, their reputations attacked with lies and distorted facts. The Lynnfield Historical Society is proud of their many contributions to the town of Lynnfield. We have nothing to hide and will not be deterred or sidetracked from our mission.

*Linda Gillon  
Lynnfield*

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**LYNNFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



**KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT INFORMATION**  
2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Lynnfield Public Schools is pleased to announce the beginning of kindergarten enrollment for the 2021-2022 School Year. A child must have reached the age of **5 years old by September 1, 2021** to meet school entrance requirements for admission. Eligible families in the community should visit the Lynnfield Public Schools website under the **Kindergarten Enrollment Page** to access the **Enrollment Forms, Kindergarten Orientation Video, and Welcome Video from the Kindergarten Teachers.**

Enrollment forms may be submitted online beginning March 8 through April 26, 2021. Once the enrollment forms have been submitted the prospective school secretary will contact families for Kindergarten Screening appointments. Kindergarten Screenings will be scheduled during the month of May. All information must be brought in *paper form* to the Kindergarten Screening appointment.

Please contact the Lynnfield Public Schools Superintendent's Office if you have any questions at (781) 334-9202 or email [mccormickan@lynnfield.k12.ma.us](mailto:mccormickan@lynnfield.k12.ma.us).